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GETTING MARRIED AT ALCESTER BAPTIST CHURCH.

Alcester Baptist Church

Congratulations on your forthcoming Marriage



Thank you for choosing to married in Alcester Baptist Church, our minister Rev Alison Mackay is here to serve you on your special and is happy to assist with to ensure your wedding service is all that you require. Alcester Baptist Church has been a place Christian worship since 1640, and over those many years has

celebrated hundreds of marriages services. By

choosing to be married in a Church, you are seeking God's blessing on your union. It would be our prayer that Jesus will have an ongoing place in your marriage and continuing lives, and that this church will become a place where you can continue to find spiritual support and friendship.

The church is much more than a building; it is a group of people who love Jesus, and find ways to express God's love in their day to day lives. Support networks are helpful, particularly at times of new beginnings. Our church seeks to be the family of God, reaching out to each other in prayer and faith, sharing the joys and sorrows as we journey together through life.

Our prayer for you is that our church will not only be part of your special day, but throughout your married life, you will come to know and value the privilege of being part of a caring Christian community, sharing God's love with you and your family.

Once you have booked the church and confirmed the date this will be reserved for you within the church diary. Should you, for any reason, need to rearrange this, please contact us immediately, and we can work with you on fixing an alternative date.

Registering your intent to marry:

One of the first things you need do is to officially register the forthcoming marriage. You do this at The Registrar's Office for the district, or districts, in which you live. For this area it is:

2 Henley Street, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6PZ
Opening times Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm
Tel: 01926 413724 - Ceremonies and Copy Certificates
Stratford Registry Office:
e-mail: warwickro@warwickshire.gov.uk
Website: [Giving notice – Ceremonies in Warwickshire](#)

Worcester Register Office,
County Hall, Spetchley Rd, Worcester WR5 2NP

Opening times – Check with the venue
Phone: 01905 768181
Email: registeroffice@worcestershire.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ceremonies>

If you live in different districts, you will need to register in both areas where you currently abide.

Alcester Baptist Church is a Religious Building registered for the solemnisation of marriages. Once a date has been agreed with the Church Minister, each couple is then required to give notice of their intent to marry at the



Registry Office. They will issue a document to be brought to the minister, which states that this marriage can go ahead. Mrs Catherine Tomlinson serves as the Alcester Baptist Church appointed authorised person and will register your marriage on the day.

Booking your notice with Warwickshire County Council.

For marriage ceremonies in Alcester Baptist Church, following arranging a ceremony with the Minister, you will both need to book an appointment at the Registry Office to give legal notice.

What is legal notice?

A notice of marriage is a legal declaration given in person by each of you, at the registration office in the district where each person lives. It is venue specific and valid for 12 months from the date it is given.

Legal Notices are publicly displayed within the registry office for 28 days before a marriage schedule can be issued. (This may be extended to 70 days, by the Home Office, for couples subject to immigration control.)

A marriage in Alcester Baptist Church cannot take place if these legal preliminaries are not completed in sufficient time.

Registry Office fees

These are payable at the time of booking your appointment and may not be refunded if you fail to attend or you do not present the required documents.

Warwickshire County Council Fees (April 24)

Certificate of Marriage or Civil Partnership	£11 per copy
Legal notice	£35 per person

Please remember to take the following documents with you to the Registry Office:

- Proof of your name, your age, and your nationality.
- Valid passport Birth certificate
- Any divorce/dissolution papers
- The required fees. (Where couples live in separate parishes other fees may apply)
 - The date and venue of your marriage ceremony.



What if I've been married before?

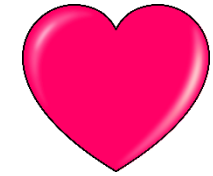
- You will need to declare this with the Registrar on registering your intent to marry. When they say you are free and able to marry, your marriage can take place at Alcester Baptist Church.

If you are not a British citizen:

- Home Office permission must be granted where applicable.
- You will need to provide your national identity card from the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland Certificate of registration Certificate of naturalisation Biometric residence card or permit ● Where there are issues of immigration, other council fees may apply.

Your ceremony booking will be accepted by the Registry office on the basis that no legal impediment to your marriage exists, and all legal preliminaries are completed with your local registration district within the specified deadlines.

Alcester Baptist Church cannot legally host your wedding ceremony until you handover the legal notice to marry issued by Warwickshire County Council. The minister performing the marriage service requires to see this at least two months before to the ceremony, if possible.



Church Wedding Fees.

Alcester Baptist Church have decided to offer the church for services of Christian marriage free of charge, as an act of kindness to couples within our community. Some couples have given a donation to express their appreciation. This includes no ministers' fees, or church hire costs (for the ceremony or rehearsal), no costs for videoing the ceremony or playing music.

You will however be responsible for the cost of flowers for the church, decorating the church in anyway, an organist or keyboard player (although all music can be played through the PA system, with no extra fees).

Confetti is allowed, but please could you encourage your guest to use biodegradable confetti.

The Baptist Church does not have bells.

I am sorry to inform you that Alcester Baptist Church is not registered for Same Sex Marriages. We can however offer a blessing on your marriage or civil partnerships, praying that God will bless your union together.

The Wedding Service - *A Sample order of service, supplied as a guide to help you plan your own service.*

Entrance of the Bride to chosen music

Welcome to the Happy Couple

Hymn

Prayer and/or Lord's Prayer

The Declaration of Purpose (Explanation of what marriage is all about)

The Vows and promises

Prayers

Hymn

Reading of Scripture

Short thought from the minister

Hymn/solo during which the couple Sign the Register

The blessing

The couple leave (To chosen music)

The marriage service usually lasts between 40 mins to an hour, depending on how many hymns, readings you wish to include. It is usual for the couple to choose appropriate music for the entry of the bride and the departure of the newly married couple.

We are happy for a Video Camera to be set up within the church, as long as this is not too intrusive. The balcony at the church offers an excellent viewpoint of the whole church. Flash photography during the ceremony can be intrusive and is not helpful. It is possible to livestream the service, but there may be a charge for this service.

Parking at Alcester Baptist Church is extremely limited. We can reserve the outside space for the wedding car. There is parking around the town. The council car park (beyond Waitrose Car Park), and the car park at the end



of School Road often have spaces. There is on street parking, but please be aware – many are limited to one hour only.

The Marriage Preparation Course

We recognise that a wedding is just one amazing day, yet we want to do all we can so enable your happy marriage to last a lifetime. Marriage is a big step, and we offer a free marriage preparation course to each couple. This course allows you an opportunity to get to know our minister, and to speak openly with each other, exploring principal issues, as well as to plan the ceremony together. This is usually a four-week course in an evening, and done with other couples intending to marry at the Baptist Church if that works for all concerned.

If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact our minister, in person at Sunday worship or by email on: am.alcesterbaptist@gmail.com.

Or phone Rev Alison Mackay on 07808194044 / 01789 766376

Our Prayer for you: *Lord Jesus, guide and bless may this happy couple in all their preparations. May they know your blessing on all their plans and may their future*

together be filled with joy. Open their hearts to experience your amazing love



throughout their lives together. Amen.