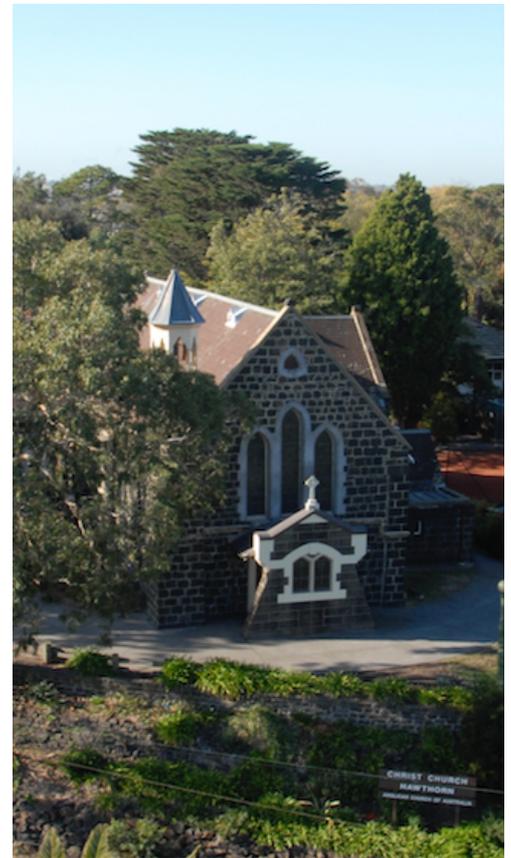


# Weddings



*'Let marriage be held in honour among all.'* (Hebrews 13:4)



**This** is a general introduction to weddings at Christ Church Hawthorn.

Every wedding is unique, and every couple's circumstances and requirements are unique. We encourage you to meet with one of the ministers at Christ Church to discuss the possibilities for your wedding.

**Christ Church Hawthorn** is a very beautiful, historic and well-located venue for weddings. It is one of the oldest churches in Melbourne, with a rich history of Christian church life dating back to 1853.

Our Memorial Hall, on the same property and immediately adjacent to the historic church, is available, either for serving refreshments immediately after the ceremony, or for your whole wedding reception.

**Your wedding** is a very important step in your life. What is even more important however is your marriage – the rest of your lives together as husband and wife. At Christ Church, we are keen not only to help couples have a good wedding, but also to have a great married life together. We therefore normally expect to spend time with you as a couple, not only talking through the details of your wedding ceremony, but also helping you prepare well for married life. We also recommend professional programmes specifically designed for couples approaching marriage.

**A wedding at Christ Church** is a Christian ceremony and is to be approached with respect and care. Weddings at Christ Church are usually conducted by one of the ministers on staff here, although, by arrangement, other church ministers may be involved. The minister will work with you in preparing the service, including considering readings, prayers, music and singing, and who will take part, so the service can be personal to you as a couple.

## **Who can marry at Christ Church?**

- In line with the requirements of the Anglican Church of Australia, and as provided for under Australian law, weddings at Christ Church are between a man and a woman.
- Couples who are not current members of our church are welcome to enquire, remembering that a wedding at Christ Church is a Christian ceremony.
- The remarriage of divorced people may sometime be permitted. While marriage is designed by God to be a life-long relationship, and husbands and wives are called to love one another unconditionally, yet, sadly, some marriages fail, and sometimes following divorce, people seek to re-marry. If you are seeking re-marriage, we invite you meet with one of our ministers to discuss your particular circumstances. Where appropriate, the Christ Church minister will write to the bishop for formal approval for the wedding.

**There are various legal requirements** in the process of getting married, and the authorized ministers at Christ Church are able to provide the paperwork and explain and lead you through all this. The 'Notice of Intended Marriage' must be completed more than one month before the day of the wedding.

### **Visiting the church**

If you are considering a wedding at Christ Church Hawthorn, you will probably want to visit to view the church building.

One way to do this is to attend one of our regular Sunday church services:

- 8:30am, a traditional service held in the historic church building;
- 10am, contemporary and most Sundays held in the Memorial Hall;
- on the first Sunday of each month, a combined service at 10am in the historic church (note there is no 8:30am service on these Sundays).

By making an appointment, you could visit the church at another time.

### **Fees**

At Christ Church Hawthorn, the standard fee for a wedding includes:

- the services of the minister, including at least two preparation interviews
- administrative costs, preparation of government documentation and certificates
- the use of the historic 1853 bluestone church building and adjacent gardens
- a rehearsal (usually a day or two before the wedding)
- the installed church sound system (including microphones, iPod facility)
- optionally, the use of the church's standard white artificial flowers, and a complete set of wedding ribbon bows for the pew-ends
- optionally, production of a standard order-of-service booklet.

In 2018 the standard fee is \$1300. This fee is discounted when another church minister is involved in the wedding and takes responsibility for the marriage preparation process. The fee might also be discounted when the couple have very limited finances and are planning their whole wedding on a small budget.

Additional fees might be charged for:

- an organist to play the historic pipe organ, if required;
- use of the adjacent Memorial Hall for refreshments after the wedding ceremony, or for the whole wedding reception.

### **To secure a booking:**

- the couple must meet with one of the church ministers to discuss their particular wedding details;
- specific arrangements, including date of the wedding, are agreed on;
- the 'Notice of Intended Marriage' must be completed;
- a deposit of \$300 must be paid.

For making payments, the church bank details are:

CBA (Commonwealth), Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn BSB: 063 138  
Account: Christ Church Hawthorn. Account no. 0090 1630

### **Wedding enquiries are warmly invited, to:**

The Rev'd Andrew Dircks.

Andrew is an experienced minister who has conducted many weddings in Australia, Britain and Thailand.

m: 0431 412 451

andrew@christchurchhawthorn.org

Christ Church Hawthorn, 2 Denham Street, Hawthorn Vic 3122