

you. Most of the fees can be waived for those living solely on state benefits or equivalent, and for Church Members.

Flowers

The church cannot provide special flowers for weddings. If you don't want to make any other arrangements, and are prepared to take pot luck on colours etc., there will normally be a pedestal arrangement in church for the Sunday service.

If you want to organise some more special flowers, you will need to make your own arrangements and remove any extra decorations (e.g. pew ends) the same day. We do not provide containers, oasis etc. The pedestal itself must not be removed from the church. Any additional flower arrangements should not be stuck to pillars etc.

The Flower Arranging Coordinator can provide further information if needed, and in any event we would like to know what your plans are for flowers.

What's the procedure?

You should expect three meetings with the Minister, after initial enquiry. First to gather some details and to confirm that everyone knows what's going on; second to plan the service in some detail, and finally a rehearsal. The first meeting will be as soon as practicable after an initial enquiry, the second meeting about three months before the wedding, and the rehearsal, involving all the major participants, a day or two before the wedding.

Please make appointments with the Registrar as soon as your chosen wedding date is confirmed, and set in motion the process for obtaining authority to marry.

Worship at Farnham United Reformed Church

Sunday Services are a good way to get a feel for the Church, and to meet the Minister.

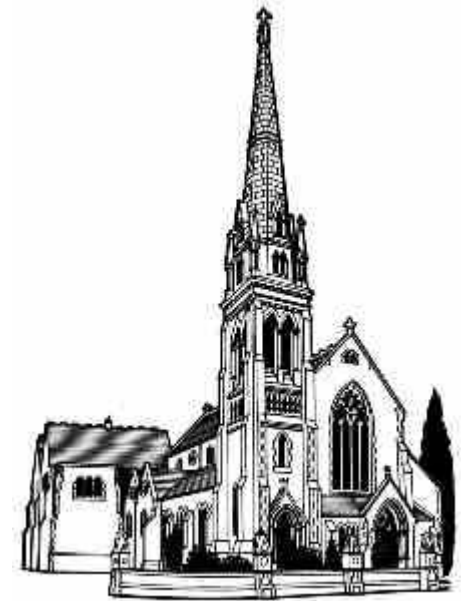
10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship

To take it further, please contact the Minister:
The Revd. Michael Hopkins
23 Hillary Road, Farnham, GU9 8QX
01252 711359
0771 640 9350
minister@farnhamurc.org.uk

or visit:

www.farnhamurc.org.uk



Getting married?
Information about
holding your wedding
at Farnham
United Reformed Church



Introduction

Every marriage is slightly different because each couple is different. At Farnham United Reformed Church you are welcome to shape the Wedding Service to suit you, under the guidance of the Minister.

The most important thing to remember is that planning a wedding takes time – at the outset you need to book the church and begin to make arrangements for the service.

Is it a problem if I've been divorced?

Probably not. We believe Christianity is about forgiveness and second chances. We may make some enquiries about the circumstances where neither bride or groom is known to us, but in most cases we will be happy to offer a church wedding.

Is it a problem if we're already living together?

No. Many couples are these days. Please don't be embarrassed about it.

Geographical restrictions

This section will seem complicated at first reading: please read it carefully, and it should become clear.

Unfortunately, the law does not currently give anyone an automatic entitlement to be married anywhere in country, however most situations can be accommodated within reasonable interpretations of the law.

To be married in Farnham United Reformed Church, the law requires that one of the following applies:

- i) You live in the local area.
- ii) You have a particular connection with the area or the church.
- iii) This is your usual place of worship.

In practice, most couples outside the local area can be married here by categories (ii) and (iii). However you will need to convince the Registrar that this is the case! We cannot supply any supporting evidence to that effect if you have never attended a service.

The Church

The church has a seating capacity of 280, although it cleverly designed so that a congregation of 50 do not rattle around. There are two side aisles, but no centre aisle. Most couples come in on the left-hand side, and out on the right-hand side. There is a fine pipe organ and a grand piano.

Provision for Disabled People

There is ramped access to the building for wheelchair users and toilet facilities for people with disabilities. There is a loop system for people with impaired hearing.

Photography

During the service it is possible to take photographs, but not flash photography. It is also possible to video record your wedding. We would advise your photographer/video operator to arrive at last 45 minutes before the start of the service to negotiate their arrangements.

Confetti

Confetti is allowed outside only, and should not blow inside the building.

Car Parking

There is no parking on the premises, but there is ample parking nearby in either the Sainsburys or Central car parks. Drop-off space is available for the bridal car and any disabled guests.

Legal Stuff

To be married in Farnham United Reformed Church you each need to apply to the local authority Registrar in the Registration district where you live. If you live in separate Registration districts, you will need to apply at each Register Office.

The certificate that the Registrar issues is valid for one calendar year from that date on which you give notice (e.g. if you give notice on 4th October 2008, the certificate will be valid until 3rd October 2009). It takes up to a month for a certificate to be issued, so you must apply at least six weeks before the wedding date.

The Registrar's certificate is only valid for a wedding in a particular building. Therefore, you must tell the Registrar that you intend to marry at "The United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham, Surrey" and give the registered number of the building, which is no. 8000.

Wedding Fees for 2008-9

Authorised person	£55
Minister	£110
Organist	£55
Use of church	£110
<i>Total</i>	<i>£330</i>

Possible extras:

Heating Supplement	£35 (<i>Oct-Apr inc.</i>)
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*If the church Coffee Shop needs to be closed, then there is an additional charge towards loss of income, although we prefer not to close if at all possible. These charges are:

Monday-Friday weddings before 1.30 pm	£200
Monday-Friday weddings before 3.30 pm	£150
Saturday weddings before 1.30 pm	£75

Once a date has been fixed, a non-returnable deposit of £150 should be paid. Until a deposit is paid, any booking will be regarded as provisional. All other fees should be paid in full a month before the wedding. We are happy to agree payment in instalments if this is easier for