



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
wedding  
faith · hope · love



ST JAMES'  
WEYBRIDGE

WELCOME TO

WEDDING PREPARATION 2026

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
wedding  
faith · hope · love 

**Congratulations!**



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St James' Church, Weybridge  
Church Lane, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8DN



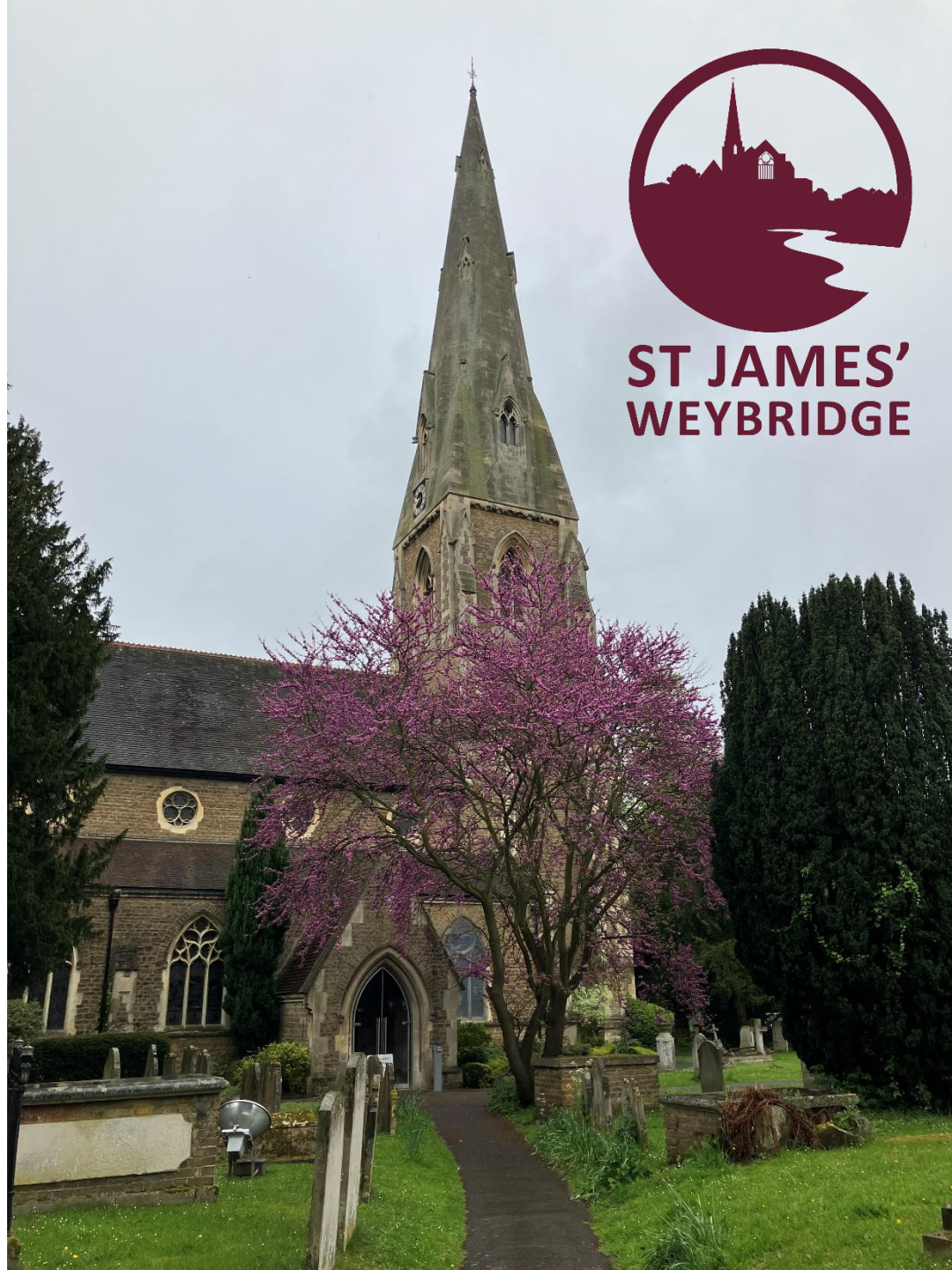
[www.stjamesweybridge.org.uk](http://www.stjamesweybridge.org.uk)

## YOUR WEDDING EXPLAINED 2025

Rector: The Revd Damian Stewart Harrison-Miles, BTh  
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# Meet the St James' Weddings team!

<b>Rector:</b>	<b>Damian Harrison-Miles</b>
<b>Curate:</b>	<b>Tom Musson</b>
<b>Verger:</b>	<b>Phillip Barnes</b>
<b>Director of Music:</b>	<b>Lindsay Bridgwater</b>
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	<b>Jill Wilson &amp; Steve Mason</b>
<b>Flower Team</b>	<b>Lesley Behrendt</b>



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# Why get married?

A Cambridge University Study suggested the impact of marriage on health and life expectancy was almost equivalent to giving up smoking!\*

Comparing a variety of other academic papers, it concluded:

- ❖ Marriage makes people healthier and happier
- ❖ Marriage makes people far less likely to suffer mental health problems
- ❖ Marriage makes people live much longer
- ❖ Both men and women benefit

*\* How does marriage affect physical and psychological health? Cambridge, 2015*



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# Why get married in church?

Churches are special places and there are some things about a church wedding that you just can't get anywhere else.

Christians believe that marriage is a gift from God and is not to be taken for granted.

Churches offer a sound basis for building family life and community.

Getting married in a church means making promises before God.

Getting married in church involves a public declaration of love and commitment.

St James' offers nearly 1000 years of continuity and spirituality.



# Your wedding ceremony explained...

Some elements of the service in church are set by law and are not optional:

- ❖ **Set vows & legal declarations**
- ❖ **Set prayers and the Lord's Prayer**
- ❖ **Two witnesses are required**
- ❖ **At least one bible reading**



You choose your music and hymns, poem and bible reading(s).



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Your draft service sheet must be approved by the Rector and Director of Music **BEFORE** you have it printed.



# What is marriage all about?

Love      Compatibility      God      Unity

Overcoming anything together      Companionship      Listening

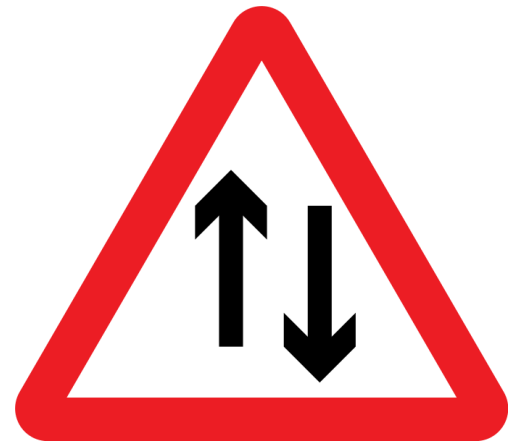
Faithfulness      Trust      Struggle

Family      Fun      Children

Sex      Tolerance      Commitment

Hope





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## Being prepared for marriage...

### The three C's of Marriage!

- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Constructive Conflict
- ❖ Commitment



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**'Marriage is like a garden...'  
and the Vicar's wife would smile  
as she saw the bridal party  
marching down the aisle.  
For while he praised the gardener's  
work, the Vicar quite forgot,  
that in the Vicarage garden  
his wife did all the lot.**



## How well do you know your partner? **Happy ever after!**

Complete the questionnaire independently of each other – rating your answers for yourself and your partner!

**1 = Highest priority**

**3 = Neither a high nor low priority**

**5 = Lowest priority**



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*Then, if you dare... compare your results!*