

GETTING MARRIED AT



Registered Buildings and Authorised People

Cranleigh Baptist Church is what's known as a "Registered Building" meaning that it has been authorised by the Guildford Registrar as a place where marriages can take place. To save the Registrar having to be present at all weddings held in all Registered Buildings in Surrey, each Registered Building has an Authorised Person that attends the wedding, completes the marriage certificate and submits all the necessary paperwork to the Registrar. Currently Cranleigh Baptist's Authorised Person is..... Please let the Authorised Person know as soon as possible when the wedding is to take place, so that they can put it in their diary!

Marriage By Certificate

Getting married in a Registered Building is different to getting married in a Church of England, where banns are read out for 3 weeks, in the 3 months leading up to the wedding, giving notice that the wedding is taking place. For a marriage to take place in a Registered Building, the relevant Registrar(s) must issue a certificate for each party.

Both parties need to give notice to their local Registrar, (if you are resident in Cranleigh, your local Registrar is in Guildford). As Certificates cannot be issued until 21 days after giving notice to the Registrar, **you must give notice to the relevant registrars more than 21 clear days before the ceremony** (Marriage certificates CAN be issued up to a year in advance) Once the certificates have been issued, you will need to collect them both from the Registrar's office.

Cranleigh Baptist Church will need to be specified as the Registered Building when you give notice to the Registrar along with your personal details. Please confirm with the registrar what items of identification you need to take with you, when you book your appointment with them.

Once you have obtained your certificate, it just needs to be kept in a safe place until the wedding rehearsal (or another arranged time close to the wedding day), where the certificate can be given to the Authorised Person and where they must ask you a few questions to confirm the details on the certificate.

The Legal Bit!

To be legally married in a Registered Building, there are two phrases that the Authorised Person must hear from BOTH parties during the ceremony. The two witnesses must also be present at the time. These are:

1) The Solemn Declaration

"I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, (name), may not be joined in matrimony to (name)."

OR

"I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, (name), may not be joined in marriage to (name)."

OR

By replying "I am" to the question "Are you, (name), free lawfully to marry (name)."

2) Contracting words

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, (name), do take thee, (name), to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband)."

OR

"I, (name), take you, (or thee) (name), to be my wedded wife (or husband)."

On the day

The Authorised person will be in the congregation to listen to the two phrases you have chosen from the above, and will then leave to write the entries into the duplicate registers, for yours and your witnesses signatures during the part commonly known as "the signing of the register"