

NEW COLLEGE CHAPEL



WEDDING GUIDELINES

It is a privilege to be able to host wedding ceremonies for current and former staff, students and fellows. However, the college is a working educational institution that is busy every day of the year. We are only able to host a handful of wedding ceremonies on specific dates in late July and early August. These dates are usually booked more than a year in advance; at the time of writing all dates are booked for summer 2024. Although we will do everything we can to make your day memorable, the college is not a professional wedding venue and cannot provide the bespoke service you may experience elsewhere.

In brief, we can:

- Plan a Church of England ceremony for you taken by one of the chaplains
- Arrange for another priest to take your wedding if the chaplains are unavailable
- Arrange for musicians to play at your wedding (at your expense)
- Assist you with the planning the event, including briefing the porters, arranging access when necessary, providing a vergers to prepare the chapel and preparing the legal documentation
- Give you access to the cloisters for drinks and photographs after your wedding
- Close the college to tourists for the day

You cannot:

- Get married in the chapel if you have no affiliation with the college
- Have a non-Christian or civil wedding (see Legal Requirements below)
- Have a full reception in hall or elsewhere in college

- Have exclusive access to the college. Summer schools, conferences and graduations may all be taking place. Postgraduate students are resident all summer.
- Ask a photographer to take photographs during your wedding ceremony, except from the organ loft
- Use the chapel livestreaming system
- Throw confetti
- Throw rice or anything else
- Include your dog or another pet in the ceremony unless it is a trained assistance dog. Note that emotional support animal certification is not recognised in the UK.
- Fly a drone

We cannot:

- Promise that there will be no works in the chapel (including to the organ), the cloisters, the college or gardens at the time of your wedding
- Provide parking except for the wedding party, photographer, florist and anyone with access needs
- Provide accommodation for you or your guests, although you are welcome to email rooms@new.ox.ac.uk to check if we are offering student bedrooms as Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Chapel staff will not organise this for you.
- Print your service sheets, send out invitations, or do any other admin tasks.
- Assist you with booking a reception venue, florist, photographer, videographer or anything else not directly related to the ceremony and post-ceremony drinks.

Sometimes couples don't want all of the trappings of a wedding. If you want a simple marriage ceremony with fewer than 10 guests we may be able to make other arrangements. Please contact the Dean of Divinity to discuss this.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Only current and former students, staff and fellows of New College can be married in the chapel. The children of *current* students, staff and fellows (including emeritus and honorary fellows) are also eligible, but not the children of *former* students, staff and fellows. Former choristers (but not their children) and current chorister parents are also eligible. Former students of New College School will be considered on an individual basis. An exception is occasionally made for someone with no formal connection but a longstanding association with the chapel (not the college or school).

Only marriages conducted according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England are legal in New College Chapel; this is a matter of law which is beyond the college's control. If you wish to have a minister of another Christian Church, or a Roman Catholic priest, to officiate at your wedding they must either share the

REGISTRATION AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

From 4 May 2021 marriages are now all registered via local registry offices after the ceremony. You will need to purchase a marriage certificate from the Oxford registry office or the General Registry Office. This can be done online after your wedding and you must do it yourselves. We cannot provide advice about the

FLOWERS

The chapel is very large and many couples find that smaller flower arrangements do not have much impact. If you wish to have flowers we recommend one or two large arrangements. There are often two weddings on the same day, and it is therefore possible for couples to share flowers by arrangement.

It is your responsibility to organise flowers, and the chapel cannot provide florists' equipment. Florists may not pin arrangements to the woodwork. Please ask your florist to contact the Chapel Administrator well in advance to arrange access.

CHAPEL WORKS

We do our utmost to ensure that any work is scheduled after wedding dates, but there are sometimes emergencies, and it is therefore possible, though extremely unlikely, that there may be work in the antechapel, cloisters or quadrangles, or on the organ. Th