



# WEDDING OFFICIANT ENQUIRIES

---

THE REVEREND OLIVER KNIGHT





# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT!

Thank you for enquiring about your wedding ceremony, which will undoubtedly be one of the most momentous and joyful occasions for both of you and your loved ones.

Christians recognise marriage as a holy covenant and a gift from God. Your wedding day will be a celebration of love, in which the marital vows and declarations are to be made in the presence of your family, friends, and the community of God's people.

You may wish to have a church wedding, including the legal solemnisation. Alternatively, there are options for the solemnisation to take place separately, either at church or a register office, followed by a blessing service which may take place at another venue.

I would be delighted to discuss which option may best suit your needs, and to advise you on the next steps to take in preparation for your special day. Please look at the frequently asked questions below to give you some further information.

Blessings,  
Ollie



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

---

## Will you marry us?

I'm flattered! After reading the following info, please let me know if you would like me to officiate your legal solemnisation in one of our registered buildings, and/or a blessing service, either in church or elsewhere following the legal solemnisation.

## What services do you offer?

I'm an authorised person for the solemnisation of marriages in Camden and Hammersmith & Fulham, where our church buildings are located. I can officiate a marriage ceremony (including the legal solemnisation) on church premises, or a blessing service (without the solemnisation), which can be at church or at another venue. I am also licensed to officiate in certain states of the USA.

## Can we get married at CCIl?

By law, if a church is outside your home district, then at least one of you must be a regular worshipper to get married there. I will provide a letter to confirm this when you attend your local register office to give notice of your intent to marry. Additionally, our own policy is that both partners must be Christians and if one partner is not from CCIl then we require a minister's reference.

## What's the difference between Marriage Ceremony and Blessing Service?

The marriage ceremony is where the legal solemnisation takes place, either in church or at a civil register office. By law, a civil ceremony at a register office cannot be religious in any way. If you have a civil ceremony at a register office, this can be followed by a blessing service, which is a religious ceremony without the legal solemnisation part which has already been done, and can take place at a venue of your choice, such as a hotel or other wedding venue.

## Can we have a Blessing Service *before* our Marriage Ceremony?

Section 46 of the Marriage Act 1949 says that a religious minister may only perform a blessing service after a marriage has been legally solemnised.

## Which option should we go for?

The traditional choice would be a marriage ceremony in church, including the legal solemnisation, followed by a reception or celebration at another venue. But if you'd prefer the ceremony to take place at another venue, such as where the reception will be, it will be a blessing service, so you'll need a marriage ceremony to be legally solemnised first, either in church or at a register office.



## What will the ceremony consist of?

We will arrange a time to plan a ceremony that suits you. It will involve some key elements, such as the marital vows and declarations, and you may request to include other elements, such as worship music or a symbolic first act. You will also be asked if you would like to invite others to be involved, such as to give readings or prayers.

## How do we get the legal preliminaries in place?

After confirming your chosen date, I will provide a letter which you'll need to each 'give notice of intent to marry' in the borough where you live, between 1 to 12 months before the ceremony. After 28 days, the superintendent registrar will issue a marriage schedule to the church. Note that the process is longer for non-British nationals.

## How much do you charge?

The church does not have a set fee for pastors to officiate, so any amount received will be considered a gift. The statutory rate in 2025 for a civil registrar to solemnise at a place of worship is £104, and the cost to attend an external venue starts at £535. I ask that you kindly cover any travel and accommodation costs for external venues.

## NEXT STEPS

---

First, please check my availability for your preferred date. To hire our church premises email [booking@ccil.org.uk](mailto:booking@ccil.org.uk) and copy me in. Our admin team will confirm church availability and provide you with venue hire cost details.

Please then schedule an appointment in my calendar at [ccil.org.uk/o/olieknight](https://ccil.org.uk/o/olieknight) so we can discuss the initial details. We'll also arrange to meet once more to plan the ceremony together and prepare for your big day!

