



St. Vedast alias Foster.

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*Weddings and
marriage blessings
at St Vedast-alias-Foster*

We love weddings at St Vedast. We truly enjoy seeing couples set off on a lifelong commitment together in our lovely church, and would be delighted to discuss your plans with you.

This is a beautiful place for you to start your life together. St Vedast was one of the 51 churches designed in the classical, baroque style by Christopher Wren after the 1666 Great Fire of London. Its light, airy and welcoming atmosphere is enhanced by a handsome organ and other historic accoutrements



brought together from City churches that have since vanished. An unexpected feature is St Vedast's peaceful courtyard garden, a quiet oasis away from the busy street life. Because the church is relatively small and has an unusual collegiate layout, it lends itself especially well to an intimate style of wedding – it's perfect for a gathering of up to about 150 people.



If you are interested in being married here, or having your marriage blessed, your first step will be to meet the Rector and set a date. Most of your questions will be answered then.

To help you make your day as special and memorable as possible, we have devised this short guide. This covers some of the matters you will discuss in your meeting with the Rector, as well as other details for future planning. It can't cover everyone's requirements for every type of service though, so do get in touch with the administrator or the Rector with any questions.

The legal requirements

Legally, different licences are issued for marriage under the different circumstances of qualification listed on page 3.

Because there are so few residents in the City, the most common means of qualifying here is by banns, which requires that you worship in the church for six months and are registered on the Electoral Roll. To be married by banns, one of you needs to attend church here regularly for those six months, get to know and become part of the congregation and apply to be listed on the Electoral Roll. Banns then need to be read for three weeks before the service both at your own parish church (usually the bride's if you don't live together), and at St Vedast.



We will explain the process for any of the other licences as necessary.

The Church of England annually sets various fees that must legally be paid for marriage in a church. Currently these come to just £442 for all the legal necessities for a marriage by banns. These and other charges are detailed on a separate sheet. There is no charge for the use of the church itself for weddings, but we encourage couples to make a substantial donation, in the order of £650 towards the work of St Vedast Church.



registry. It is possible to capture your entire wedding party from the organ loft, and many couples also have photos taken in the picturesque courtyard. Videos are also possible, but incur an extra charge as the wedding is then classed as a performance.

Confetti

Paper confetti is very difficult to remove, particularly if weather is damp, so it is not allowed around the church premises.



Many couples have rose petals or dried flowers thrown instead in the courtyard or in Foster Lane. These are larger and easier to pick up. An extra charge is made for removing them afterwards.

Parking and access

The City is usually fairly quiet on Saturday, making arrival by car quite straightforward for wedding party and guests. Parking is free on most metered spaces and single yellow lines after 11am on Saturday, but there are restrictions during the week. Special parking licences can be obtained from the City of London traffic department if required.

Weekends are inevitably a favourite time for various festivals, competitive events, filming projects and roadworks. We will do our best to minimise any inconvenience by liaising with you and the traffic department.

Rehearsal

Most couples have a rehearsal the day before the service. All the participants in the wedding — readers, attendants and ushers — should be present to ensure that everyone understands their role.

The formalities

Can you be married at St Vedast? You may be married in the parish church if one of you:

- has ever lived in the Parish (bounded by St Michael le Grand in the east, Cheapside in the south, Ironmonger Lane/ Basinghall Street in the west and an irregular line from London Wall to the area behind the Guildhall in the north).

- has worshipped at the church for six months or more and has their name entered on the church Electoral Roll.

- was baptised or confirmed here.
- has parents or grandparents who were married here.

- has connections to the church through working in the area or through organisations associated with the church (eg livery companies). This is the least straightforward possibility as it will probably require an Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Licence.

Those who fall into any of the above categories and have a spouse still living from a former marriage are also welcome to discuss their plans with the Rector. Foreign nationals and UK subjects living abroad who have connections to the church are also welcome.

If you are in any doubt about whether you qualify, please ask. If you do not qualify to be married in the church, then it may be possible for you to be married in a civil ceremony and to have a service of blessing here.



How do we start?

The first thing to do is to arrange to meet the Rector. He will discuss your ideas with you and how you might prepare for your marriage. If you haven't met her by then, he'll introduce you to the Administrator, who will help with your plans.

The Church of England website offers helpful information on wedding planning, services, hymns, readings and other details. See cofe.anglican.org/lifeevents/weddings and yourchurchwedding.org/.

You'll need to get a date in the diary as soon as possible. We can make a provisional booking up to two years ahead.

Facilities at St Vedast

Our small church hall and pretty courtyard can be used for photography, a glass of champagne with all your guests or for small receptions. Toilets are located in the church hall.

For catered receptions for larger groups you will need to find another venue. You might want to investigate the local livery companies, which offer some stunning reception rooms and are very skilled in catering for such events.

The nearby companies historically associated with St Vedast, all within easy walking distance, are
Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths: thegoldsmiths.co.uk/welcome/
Worshipful Company of Pewterers: pewterers.org.uk/
Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers: waxchandlers.org.uk/
Worshipful Company of Saddlers: saddlersco.co.uk/

Our attendant will be on hand before, during and after the service to help with any details. It is possible, with some planning ahead, to provide access for and to accommodate disabled guests in wheelchairs. We have non-fixed ramps for the purpose.



Music and bells

Our Director of Music, Joseph Ramadan, will meet with you a few months before the wedding to finalise the music you would like for your service. Jo will usually play the organ for you, and we can provide a solo



singer or small choir as required. We've also had chamber groups, trumpets and bagpipes at weddings, and are open to such suggestions. Jo and the rector will help you choose some appropriate hymns.

We have a fine ring of six bells in the tower, which can be rung both before and after or just after your service.

Flowers You may organise your own florist. Pedestals are available for arrangements either side of the altar area. Arrangements can also be fitted around the cross behind the altar and hanging from the lights on the front pews. Any pew arrangements need to be very lightweight and dry.



The church is normally open on Saturday between 11am and 4pm, but your attendant will open the building an hour or so before your service if it begins outside these hours. Delivery of the flowers should ideally be scheduled for Friday afternoon. Saturday morning access is possible by arrangement. It is a good idea for you to meet with the administrator and your florist to plan all the details.

Photography

Photographs may be taken during the service and the signing of the