Weddings at All Saints' Chapel, Wardour –Guidance Sheet 2025

1. Weddings are joyous occasions requiring a lot of planning, both from the Religious requirements being met in full and the practical aspects of a Wardour wedding being addressed. This guidance sheet is designed to help the couple being married navigate all these hurdles successfully. All contact details are given at the end of this guidance sheet.

2. The Canon Law of the Catholic Church requires that a marriage normally takes place in the Parish Church of either party, if both are Catholic, or in the Parish Church of the Catholic party, if it is a 'mixed' marriage. As All Saints' Chapel, Wardour, is not a parish church, it follows that for a marriage at Wardour two permissions may be required – one from the Parish Priest of either the bride or groom, or both, and one from the Parish Priest who is responsible for all the liturgical arrangements at Wardour.

3. At the very beginning of the journey a couple wishing to be married at Wardour should make an appointment with the Resident Priest in Tisbury, Fr Tomas to meet in person and explain their reasons for wishing to be married there. Please also contact the Parish Secretary in the Tisbury Parish Office. Some connection to Wardour is essential – merely wishing to be married in a beautiful Chapel in lovely countryside will not suffice. No date can be set until the Parish Priest is satisfied that the couple are free to marry and that they are available to celebrate the wedding. If necessary the couple must have obtained permission to be married outside their own parish – this must come from the Parish Priest of either party, if both are Catholic, or from the Parish Priest of the Catholic party, if it is a 'mixed' marriage. If the couple wish to invite a visiting priest, such as a family friend, to marry them this no problem but as a courtesy the Parish Priest must give his approval.

4. Before any marriage can take place the couple must be in contact with a priest who will
   a) prepare their marriage documents and
   b) arrange marriage preparation for them. The latter he will either do himself or he will ask the couple to attend a course of preparation. This priest will normally be the Parish Priest from whom permission to be married at Wardour was obtained.

5. Documents like baptismal certificates (which for a Catholic also serves as a Freedom to Marry certificate) may have to be obtained from afar, so the couple should be in contact with their priest at least six months before their intended marriage. A non-Catholic will be required to produce a statement that s/he has not previously been married. The marriage documents should be forwarded to the Parish Priest in good time before the wedding. If they are prepared outside Clifton Diocese, they will have to be approved by at least two Diocesan authorities. If they have not been received the Parish Priest cannot allow the wedding to proceed.

6. Registrar. The normal requirements of Civil Law must also be fulfilled. Wardour Chapel is not licensed for weddings. This means that each party must give notice in their local Register Office and in due course collect the appropriate Certificate. The physical presence of a Registrar, normally based in Salisbury, will be necessary on the wedding date to witness the signing of the Registers, so the couple must contact the Salisbury Register Office in good time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note the Registrars get very booked up in the summer so early contact is essential. When the marriage has taken place, this will be entered in both Church and Civil Registers, and the Registrar will issue a Civil certificate.

7. Music. There is no regular choir so the couple should arrange their own choir or soloist if so wished. The official Chapel organist is appointed by the Chapel Trustees. The Organist's fee is £175. If an alternative organist is requested, or some other source of music is used, the Chapel organist attracts a fee of £100 as required by their contract with the Chapel.

8. The couple must consult the Priest conducting the Ceremony about planning the Marriage and the Order of Service. Rehearsals in the Chapel must be arranged with the Parish Priest so that the Chapel may be opened and closed at appropriate times.

9. Flowers. The couple may of course have a friend to do the flowers which is perfectly acceptable. The rule is always less rather than more as the Chapel is itself very ornate. Only one free-standing arrangement may be placed in the sanctuary, on the left-hand side, near but not obstructing the lectern (which must not be moved). The other side of the sanctuary must be kept clear for the registration. Other flower arrangements may be placed in the Chapel porch. Nick Wright can advise on a professional florist if necessary

10. The grounds outside the Chapel are private. They do not belong to Wardour Chapel Trust. Confetti or the like are therefore not allowed – save this for the reception!

11. Parking is very limited in the immediate vicinity of the Chapel, and because the grounds are private all parking arrangements are coordinated by Nick Wright. On the day the majority of the cars will turn right to the lower car park. This will leave space in front of the main building for residents, the disabled, and the bridal party. Please nominate 3 people at the rehearsal who will be briefed by Nick on their duties. The rehearsal normally takes place about 1700 the day before the wedding. Little things like incorrect parking can upset the residents so it is important to get it right.

12. As Wardour Chapel is owned by a Charitable Trust Chapel and receives no Diocesan assistance as such, you are requested to consider inserting the following text at the end of your Order of Service – many thanks.

    *As Wardour Chapel is owned by a Charitable Trust and receives no Diocesan assistance as such, there will be a retiring collection at the end of the Service. Collection plates are on the tables at the rear of the Chapel and there is a Tap and Donate machine in the Vestibule. Thank you very much for your support for this beautiful Chapel*

13. Summary of Fees which must all be paid in advance.

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| Wardour Chapel Fee | Charge of £800 |
| Registrar Fee | To be advised |
| Organist | £175 or a fee of £100 is payable if couple bring their own organist |
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| Contribution to Parish Expenses. | £300 |
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| If a visiting Priest such as a family friend is officiating then the Parish expenses are reduced, but the couple must obviously agree his expenses with him | £100 |
| | |
| Priest for instruction | As agreed by instructing priest |

14. Contact details.

Parish Priest. Fr Tomas. Through the Parish Office.

Tisbury Parish Office. tisburyparish@cliftondiocese.com

Chapel Trustee. Nick Wright. Nick is the Chapel Trustee responsible for coordinating all practical aspects of a Wardour wedding including confirming the Chapel is available. He is your first point of contact after approval in principle for the wedding has been granted by the Parish Priest. He can answer most of your practical, as opposed to Religious queries, so please do get in touch, however trivial your query. Nickwright029@gmail.com

Approved by the Parish Priest and Trustees. 15 October 2025