

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. “*

*1Corinthians 13 4-7*

*Love has no other desire but to fulfil itself. But if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires:  
To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night.*

*Khalil Gibran*

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being an Ideal Grace.*

*Elizabeth Barrett Browning*



*The Parish Church of  
St. Mary, Penwortham*

*Church Avenue  
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*Vicar*

*The Reverend Christopher J. Nelson  
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**THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST MARY, PENWORTHAM**

*Your Special  
Day*

*A Guide to Your Wedding  
at St. Mary's*



We are very pleased that you are considering having your wedding at St. Mary's Penwortham.

***For such a special day, we offer a special place.***

St Mary's is an ancient church dating from the 14th century and is in a beautiful setting with well-kept grounds, ideal for your wedding photographs.

Inside, the church is a balance of the old and the new with a lovely open space in which to conduct your wedding.



***A church wedding will add a spiritual dimension to your marriage.*** The ceremony includes God and looks to him for help and guidance. God's blessing is the main attraction for many couples, whatever their beliefs.

***You can make amazing vows, or promises, in a church.*** You can only make vows this big in a church. These vows, made in public, will help you to stay together and grow together. God and your church are there for you to help you keep your vows.

***The Vicar has a very particular role to play in your wedding*** by blending ancient tradition and modern experience to reflect your story. Because of the relationship with the Vicar, your wedding can be made personal, memorable, meaningful and beautiful.

### ***Music***

Weddings over the centuries have included everything from classical soloists to rock bands. Your Vicar will be able to advise you, whether you want a traditional wedding or something with a bit of a difference.

St. Mary's does not have a choir.

### ***Flowers***

We recommend that you discuss with the Vicar your thoughts about flowers and their arrangements—large floral arrangements should not get in the way of the service. You are free to use a florist of your choice.

### ***Bells***

We have a team of bell-ringers who will be delighted to ring the bells in celebration of your marriage as you leave church.

### ***Photographs***

You will naturally want your special day captured by a photographer. Talk with the Vicar about where photographs can be taken in church.

### ***DVD Recordings.***

DVD recordings are a wonderful way to capture your wedding but you should talk with the Vicar about this as there may be music copyright and performing rights to be considered.

### ***Arrival at Church***

Traditionally, it is the bride's prerogative to arrive a few minutes late but please ensure that this is no more than 5 minutes. It may be that there are other weddings that the Vicar, organist and bell ringers have to attend after your wedding.

### ***First steps***

If you think that St. Mary's is the place for you, please arrange to speak with either the Vicar or Curate who will be happy to advise you. We like couples to come to a Sunday service to see the church for themselves. Please speak to the clergy well in advance so that you are able to book and plan the wedding, the photographer and your reception.

### ***Banns***

Banns are read in church at the 10.15 service on three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. They are an ancient legal tradition, are an announcement of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place. The reading of the banns is an exciting and happy time and you are most welcome to come with family and friends.

### ***Rehearsal***

Naturally, you want everything to be just right on the day and the Vicar will invite you and the wedding party (best man, bridesmaids and family) to a rehearsal in the week before the wedding so that you know what to expect and are happy with the arrangements. This is also the time to make a final check on your arrangements with cars, photographers, florist and your reception host.

The Church of England has a great website with more information to help you plan your special day.

[www.yourchurchwedding.org](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org)