

GETTING MARRIED AT THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE

Congratulations on your engagement! We're delighted that you're considering getting married at the college.

Once you have read the notes on this page, please fill in the form on the other side and return to the Chaplain, the Revd. Katherine Price (katherine.price@queens.ox.ac.uk). The current Chaplain will be the person who takes the service, but there is scope for other people to be involved – please do not approach other ministers until you have confirmed with the Chaplain. On receiving your form, Katherine will contact you to talk through the next steps.

The college chapel is a private chapel, which means that the marriage laws apply differently from in a parish church. Rather than having your banns read in church, you will need to apply for a 'special licence'. Don't worry - this is routine for weddings in the chapel, and the Chaplain will be able to guide you through it. There is a statutory fee for a special licence (currently £315) plus a payment to a local parish church for the use of their marriage registers. We usually use those of the University Church, but this is of course dependent on whether there are other weddings happening on the same day.

In order to obtain a special licence, the Chaplain needs to confirm:

- that you have a genuine connection with the college (e.g. one of you is an Old Member);
- if either of you is not a British national, that you are eligible to marry in the UK;
- that you are eligible to marry in the Church of England – including, if either of you has been divorced, that the 'exceptional circumstances' laid down by the Bishops apply;
- that your families are aware of your plans (see below);
- that you have been in touch with your local parish church (which you can find on www.achurchnearyou.com);
- that you will be receiving marriage preparation, whether from the chaplain, local church or elsewhere; and,
- that marriage registers are available.

The requirement about families may well come as a surprise! In most cases it is as simple as getting your parents to email or write to the Chaplain. If there is likely to be any difficulty about this, please raise it with the Chaplain up front.

Civil marriages

It is not legal in England for civil marriages to take place in religious buildings. The College is not licensed for civil marriages or civil partnerships, as it would not be possible as a licensed wedding venue to restrict availability to Old Members only. It is therefore unfortunately not possible to hold a civil wedding or civil partnership ceremony in the College. The College does however welcome Old Members getting married elsewhere to hold their reception in the College.

Weddings in other traditions

Weddings in chapel can only legally take place according to the rites of the Church of England. The chapel can be used (with permission) for services in other Christian traditions, but the legally binding wedding ceremony would need to be held elsewhere. Please contact the Chaplain to discuss.

Blessings after civil marriage

If you have already been married in a civil ceremony, but would have been eligible to marry in the chapel, you may wish to have a service of blessing. This is particularly appropriate if you have been married some time and are seeking to renew your vows, or to reflect a renewed Christian faith. If you are not already married, in most cases it is likely to be just as easy to seek a special licence and marry in the chapel, rather than having two separate ceremonies.

The Revd. Katherine Price
College Chaplain
The Queen's College, Oxford OX1 4AW
(01865) 279143



THE CHAPEL OF THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE

WEDDING APPLICATION FORM

Please fill this form in as fully as possible. We can book the wedding with only the essential information (marked *) but this form contains everything which will be needed for the marriage registers, so if you are able to fill it in now then it will save you being asked the same questions again later.

	Bride	Groom
*Full name		
Date of birth		
*Current address		
Will this be your address at the date of the wedding?		
Telephone number		
Email address		
Occupation		
*Nationality		
Father's full name		
Father's occupation†		
Have you been baptised? If so, where?		
*Have you been married before?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
*If so, is any former spouse still living?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
*What is your connection with the college / chapel?		
*Preferred date of wedding		
Alternative dates		
Will you want an organist?		
Will you want singers?		
Will you want to video the service?		
Witnesses (two)		

† Please state if your father is retired, or if he has died, *as well as* his main or most recent occupation.