



Weddings at



Please contact us with questions or to arrange a booking.

Postal Address:

St Margaret's Anglican Church, Eltham
79-81 Pitt Street
ELTHAM VIC 3095

Parish Office:

Hours: 10am-2pm (Tues, Wed & Fri).
Located in Dendy House (rear of St.
Margaret's Church)

Tel: (03) 9439 9238

Fax: (03) 9439 5123

Email: parishoffice@stmargaretseltham.org.au

or visit our web site at: www.stmargaretseltham.org.au

St Margaret's Anglican Church,

Eltham

Special Requirements

Church Requirements

1. Christian marriage requires that at least one partner is **baptised**.
2. Special permission from the bishop is needed for the wedding of a person who has been **divorced**. Please discuss this with the priest on your first appointment.

Government Requirements

1. Regulations of the Commonwealth Marriage Act require the completion of the “**Notice of Intended Marriage**” form which must be completed no later than a calendar month before the wedding and is valid for 18 months from the date on the document.
2. Proof of **Age and Identity** is required in the form of full birth certificates (not extracts) for Australian citizens or current passport for those from overseas. These must be sighted by the priest, preferably at the first interview.
- 3 **Witnesses** to sign the register at the ceremony must be at least 18 years of age and may be male or female, relatives or friends. Two are required.

Wedding Fee

There is a all-inclusive non-negotiable **composite charge** of \$870.00 for weddings at St Margarets which covers what we consider to be integral to a religious wedding service. There is no GST on religious services.

The wedding includes:

Use of the church: (30 minutes before service, 30 minutes after = 1 ½ hours)

Planning and leading the service by the priest.

The Organist (plays before service, signing of register, after service, hymns if required).

The Verger (who oversees the preparation and tidying of the building and rings the bell).

The initial booking fee of the non-refundable deposit.

Payment should be made through the parish office, as soon as possible. Please pay by cheque made out to: **St. Margaret’s Anglican Church**. If necessary, payments may be spread out, being posted or delivered to the office. Payment must be completely finalised one week before the actual wedding, so you can relax on the day.

The Future

The priest and people of St. Margaret’s Anglican Church wish God’s blessings for you throughout your life together. We value your contact with us, would like to be able to continue supporting you through prayer and in any other way that we can. Please provide contact details for after the wedding.

On the Day

It is important for the peace of mind of all involved to **be on time**. As there may be other services on the same day, it works well if each wedding group respects the time constraints involved.

Encourage your **guests to be seated** inside the church ready for you. Ushers should be arranged to help get people seated. The Verger will ensure that all guests are inside the church and the doors are closed so that the Bride can compose herself.

Please ask your photographer to speak with the priest upon arrival as **flash photography** is discouraged during the service so as not to distract participants from the ceremony. The signing of the register is a good photographic opportunity to be encouraged with your guests. The gardens and church are available for photos after the service.

Please advise your guests **not to bring confetti**, rice or metallic “scatters” for environmental reasons. However we do encourage the use of fresh or dried rose petals.

If you have time to wait before the reception, you may consider offering your guests **refreshments** on site, in our Mud Brick Hall (pictured below). The Hall is booked separately by ringing the Parish Office on 9439 9238.



Welcome

We welcome your inquiry about a wedding at St Margaret's Anglican Church, in Eltham. This brochure is aimed at helping you to think about both the meaning of marriage and some of the practicalities involved in preparing for the wedding ceremony.

A wedding ceremony is a formal and public announcement that a man and woman have chosen to live together in a loving, exclusive and permanent relationship. In choosing that the wedding ceremony takes place in a church, the couple acknowledge that marriage is a gift from God and they seek God's blessing on their marriage, their vows and their intentions.

We encourage and expect the couple to participate in “Prepare” a marriage preparation course which is explained in this brochure. The priest will work together with the couple to plan a relaxed and dignified service in the Anglican style which honours the life long commitment you are undertaking.



Setting the Date.

An arrangement for a wedding is settled after the couple has been interviewed and the Priest has considered the application. **Date and time must be agreed with the Priest.** It is best to settle the date as early as possible, at least three months in advance.

A NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT of \$50.00 is paid to secure the date and the enclosed form must be returned with the payment.

Note that the six weeks prior to Easter and the first week after Easter weddings are not celebrated at St Margaret's as these are times when the church's own activities demand full attention. Weddings are usually held on Saturday afternoons but not Easter Saturday.

Marriage Preparation

With all the organisation of a wedding it is easy to forget each other in this busy time. At St Margaret's we place great importance on the couples relationship and encourage the growth of the relationship and enjoyment of each other. After all, it is your love that brought you together and is the reason for the wedding.

All couples who choose to be married at St Margaret's are required to undertake personal preparation for this most significant step by **participation in a "Prepare" course.** Led by a qualified "Prepare" educator, the course involves a questionnaire in the first session with follow up sessions for the couple to discuss aspects of their relationship. Couples find "Prepare" strengthens their relationship and understanding of each other. Payment for "Prepare" is made direct to the educator whose contact details you will be given at your first interview with the priest.



Planning the Ceremony

The couple plans the service details with the priest from St Margaret's. Other clergy may participate in the service as well and this must be discussed and agreed before the date is set.

The Anglican service offers plenty of scope **to personalise the service** with choice of music, readings from Scripture and other sources and prayers. Also there is the opportunity to involve friends and family in the service. A **rehearsal** is scheduled, often on the Thursday evening, before the wedding so that all main participants understand their role and are relaxed on the day.

Inside the Church

As is, St Margarets **seats 102 people**, including the Bridal party. By turning two small pews and adding four chairs we can seat up to 110. The couple will need to appoint a person to help the Verger set up and tidy up the church, if pews need moving.

There is ample opportunity for **decorating the church.** We have a range of flower pedestals and there is room to locate up to three big bowls if desired. The church is six pews deep, so twelve pew ends can be decorated to good effect. There are 15 windows with deep sills, which can carry small candles or small flowers/ivy etc. The sanctuary/altar and font area is to be left untouched.

