



The Parish of Horndon, Orsett and Bulphan

Flowers and Decoration Policy

Flowers in church

Flowers in church are encouraged to indicate the importance of particular occasions and seasons.

Artificial flowers and plants should be used sparingly. Dried flowers, ferns and sprays may be used, particularly in winter months.

The PCC have agreed that flowers are acceptable during both Lent and Advent.

Wedding flowers

When a couple decide to have a wedding in one of our churches, they are sent a document which relates to their chosen church; these are included in this policy as appendices 1 to 3.

Christmas

- Christmas trees can be put up at the beginning of December (the actual date will depend on when the tree is donated).
- Christmas trees should remain in place until Epiphany.
- Advent candles and the crib remain in place until just before Candlemas.

This policy was reviewed and agreed at a PCC meeting on 22nd July 2025

This policy will be reviewed every five years or earlier if any of the guidance is changed.

Next review date is July 2030

APPENDIX 1

Wedding flowers at St Peter and St Paul Church, Horndon on the Hill

At St Peter and St Paul Church, we regret that we are unable to provide a flower arranging service for weddings. Flowers need to be supplied and arranged by your own florist, or a friend or relative of the bride and groom.

Additional arrangements may be put in the following areas:

- Pew ends – posies of flowers and/or ribbon bows attached to the ends of the pews.
- Pedestal/pedestals of flowers at one or both sides of the chancel steps, where the wedding ceremony takes place.
- Arrangement/arrangements in the porch.
- Any special requests for flowers at other places inside the church will be given sympathetic consideration by the Churchwardens.
- **No decorations are permitted on the Lych-gate or outside the porch.**

Please note

- **nails and drawing pins may not be used to attach decorations**
- **great care should be taken when fixing items not to damage the woodwork in any way, white-tak may be used**
- **White-tac or blu-tak must not be used to fix anything to the walls**
- **Please remember that water can also damage the woodwork.**

Confetti

- The throwing of confetti made up of real flower petals is permitted anywhere outside. The throwing of flower petals inside the church is not permitted.
- No paper confetti, of any kind, is permitted in the church or churchyard.

If two or more weddings are to take place at St Peter & St Paul on the same weekend, all couples involved must agree on the flowers to put in the church, this can be discussed at the preparation day. If couples are unable to agree, the final decision will be made by the Rector, in consultation with those involved.

Arrangements are to be regarded as gifts to the church and may only be removed after the service by prior arrangement. Pedestals, containers, baskets etc belonging to the church must not be removed from the building. Couples intending/not intending to put flowers in the church should inform the Churchwardens no later than two months before the wedding. **Nothing may be put in the church without prior permission.**

Decoration of the church may normally take place on the day prior to your wedding. As we keep the church locked outside of service times, you will need to arrange with the Churchwarden, at least one month in advance, a time when flower arrangers may gain access to the church. The churchwarden to contact is Mrs Sonia Ward on 01375 674212.

APPENDIX 2

Wedding flowers at St Giles and All Saints Church, Orsett

At St Giles and All Saints Church, we regret that we are unable to provide a flower arranging service for weddings. Any flowers have to be supplied and arranged by your own florist, or a friend or relative of the bride and groom.

Additional arrangements may be put in the following areas:

- Pew ends – posies of flowers and/or ribbon bows attached to the ends of the pews.
- A pedestal of flowers can be arranged in front of the wooden screen arch, to the left of where the bride and groom stand during the wedding ceremony.
- An arrangement can be placed on the steps of the Font, which greets everyone as they enter the church.
- Any special requests for flowers at other places inside the church will be given sympathetic consideration by the Churchwardens.
- **No other decorations are permitted.**

Please note

- **nails and drawing pins may not be used to attach decorations**
- **great care should be taken when fixing items not to damage the woodwork in any way, white-tak may be used**
- **White-tac or blu-tak must not be used to fix anything to the walls**
- **Please remember that water can also damage the woodwork.**

Confetti

- The throwing of confetti made up of real flower petals is permitted anywhere outside. The throwing of flower petals inside the church is not permitted.
- No paper confetti, of any kind, is permitted in the church or churchyard.

If two or more weddings are to take place at St Giles and All Saints Church on the same weekend, all couples involved must agree on the flowers to put in the church, this can be discussed at the preparation day. If couples are unable to agree, the final decision will be made by the Rector, in consultation with those involved.

All pew ends should be removed immediately after the service. All other arrangements will be regarded as gifts to the church if not removed immediately after the service. Pedestals, containers, baskets etc belonging to the church must not be removed from the building. Couples intending/not intending to put flowers in the church should inform the Churchwardens no later than two months before the wedding.

Nothing may be put in the church without prior permission.

Decoration of the church normally takes place the day before your wedding. As we keep the church locked outside of service times, you will need to arrange with the Churchwarden, at least one month in advance, a time when flower arrangers may gain access to the church. The churchwarden to contact is Mrs Christine Mortimer on 01375 641485 or email c.mortimer@hobnob.org.uk

APPENDIX 3

Wedding flowers at St Mary the Virgin Church, Bulphan

At St Mary the Virgin Church we regret that we are unable to provide a flower arranging service for weddings. Any flowers have to be supplied and arranged by your own florist, or a friend or relative of the bride and groom.

Additional arrangements may be put in the following areas:

- Pew ends – posies of flowers and/or ribbon bows attached to the ends of the pews.
- A pedestal of flowers in the chancel, to the right of the altar.
- An arrangement on the steps of the Font.
- An arrangement in the porch.
- Arrangements on the window ledges
- Any special requests for flowers at other places inside the church will be given sympathetic consideration by the Churchwardens.
- The only decorations permitted on the Lychgate are ribbon bows, which should be tied on.
- **No other decorations are permitted.**

Please note

- **nails and drawing pins may not be used to attach decorations**
- **great care should be taken when fixing items not to damage the woodwork in any way, white-tak may be used**
- **White-tac or blu-tak must not be used to fix anything to the walls**
- **Please remember that water can also damage the woodwork.**

Confetti

- The throwing of confetti made up of real flower petals is permitted anywhere outside. The throwing of flower petals inside the church is not permitted.
- No paper confetti, of any kind, is permitted in the church or churchyard.

If two or more weddings are to take place at St Mary the Virgin on the same weekend, all couples involved must agree on the flowers to put in the church, this can be discussed at the preparation day. If couples are unable to agree, the final decision will be made by the Rector, in consultation with those involved.

All pew ends should be removed immediately after the service. All other arrangements will be regarded as gifts to the church if not removed immediately after the service. Pedestals, containers, baskets etc belonging to the church must not be removed from the building. Couples intending to put flowers in the church should inform Mrs Iris Aedy no later than one month before the wedding. **Nothing may be put in the church without prior permission.**

Decoration of the church normally takes place the day before your wedding. As we keep the church locked outside of service times, you will need to arrange with Lynda Robertson, at least one month in advance, a time when flower arrangers may gain access to the church. Lynda's phone number is 07974 803471