

Weddings



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

KINGS NORTON BIRMINGHAM

THE PERFECT SETTING FOR YOUR WEDDING OR CIVIL CEREMONY



Romantic...

THE PLACE FOR WEDDINGS



Your Wedding Day at Saint Nicolas Place

A wedding at Saint Nicolas Place will provide memories to last a lifetime, not just for the bride and groom, but for family and friends too.

Picture your big day within our magnificent Tudor rooms. Your guests will wonder at the stunning timber-framed architecture inside and out, enjoying exclusive use of rooms that have stood for over half a millennium. Coupled with our modern facilities, the unique ambience generated by centuries of history will ensure the most special day of your life is also the most memorable.

Whether you decide to marry or conduct your civil partnership ceremony within our listed walls, or to simply celebrate your reception after a ceremony elsewhere,

Saint Nicolas Place offers the perfect combination of stunning backdrop and ultimate professionalism. Our friendly and experienced staff will be happy to guide you through your big decisions, from table decorations to toastmasters and from chair covers to champagne, from the moment you enquire through to 'carriages' on the day itself.

This brochure explains everything you need to know about holding or celebrating your wedding at Saint Nicolas Place. It includes a brief history of the site, our booking procedure, a guide to our civil wedding services, suggested timetables, options for room layouts, delicious menus and much more. All you need to do is decide what you would like, then relax and leave the rest to us!



SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

Historic...



OVER 900 YEARS OF HISTORY

A Brief History of Saint Nicolas Place

The buildings that sit either side of the Medieval origin Saint Nicolas Church have always stood out from the crowd. Now united as Saint Nicolas Place, their individual histories are as exciting as their recent high-profile restoration.

The Tudor Merchant's House

The Tudor Merchant's House building was erected by Humphrey Rotsey in the winter of 1491/2 to serve the dual function of family home and business premises. Rotsey, a successful wool merchant, was making a point when he selected his plot of land – the construction, nearest to the church and occupying the highest point on The Green, told everyone he had 'made it'.

What is now the North Range was built with two entrances: one for his family, the other for his clients. Business must have been booming as he built the East Range (the public face of the current building, facing The Green) the following year, probably extending it as far as today's Bulls Head public house. Two further wings likely followed in short succession, creating a 'courtyard', part of which still exists today. Further generations of Rotseys occupied the building before it was divided into several individual dwellings and small businesses. It is rumoured one notable overnight resident was Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of King Charles I, who was supposedly housed in the finest room of the building (now named the Queen's Room) during a stay in Kings Norton in 1643 amid the Civil War.

The most long-lived use of the building in more recent history has been that of coaching inn, when part of the East and South Ranges became known as The Saracen's Head. Visitors to Saint Nicolas Place today can still sit in what was one of the inn's bay windows, only now The Saracen's Head Café serves delicious refreshments of a non-alcoholic nature! The most recent use of the Tudor Merchant's House building was that of parish office and base for many local community groups. Indeed the parish owned and maintained the buildings from 1930, and was behind their major restoration from 2004 to 2008, updating them to the splendid facilities we see today.

The Old Grammar School

Less is known about the early history of the Old Grammar School. One mystery is that the upper floor is older than the lower! Recent evidence has shown that the timber-framed top of the building dates from 1434-1460 whilst the brickwork on the lower level probably dates from somewhere between the late sixteenth to mid seventeenth century. It is therefore likely the top was taken from elsewhere and reassembled and the lower floor made to fit. It was probably built to house Thomas Hall's library and to also act as a school. Thomas Hall is the name most commonly associated with the building, as he taught in Kings Norton from 1629 to 1662 and gave the school an excellent reputation, often sending pupils away to university in Oxford. Not only was Thomas Hall a teacher but also the founder of a library, a collection of approximately 1300 of his books now being housed in Birmingham Central Library.

In the Victorian period husband and wife Mr. and Mrs. Simpson worked as school master and school mistress with girls being taught upstairs and boys downstairs. In 1876 a new school for boys was opened and this marked the end of centuries of teaching at the site. The Old Grammar School was sold in 1912, the purchaser Theodore Pritchett giving the building to the Parish.

The building survived a fire in 1916 and an aborted arson attack by Suffragettes in 1913! It continued to be used for community and church purposes. The sensitive restoration of the building took place between 2004 and 2008 and it is now opened to be hired and admired.



Personal....



A STUNNING EXPERIENCE



Why Our Weddings Work

From enquiry to 'carriages' you are assured of our highest standards throughout your booking, planning and celebrating stages! So why do we think your wedding day at Saint Nicolas Place will be so perfect?

For a start, we are blessed with something very rare – an idyllic 'village green' setting but in a modern city location. Sited within ten minutes' drive of the M42 and M5 motorways, and with public transport options on our doorstep, Saint Nicolas Place is within easy reach of Birmingham city centre, the West Midlands conurbation and surrounding counties. But look around and you could be mistaken for assuming you were in a country village, complete with green, church and local shops. So before

you even step over the threshold, you have the best of both worlds, with wedding photo opportunities to match!

If the picturesque exteriors with their uneven timber frames have heightened your expectations of the interior, you will not be disappointed when you enter Saint Nicolas Place. Your senses will be treated to a building that exudes history while unashamedly shouting 'modern' at the same time. With four licensed rooms to choose from for civil ceremonies and more available for receptions, we can be flexible to your needs.



FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION...



Ashford Hall

Our large modern hall stands proudly amid the timber frames of the original building. Light and airy, the room's steel and glass architecture celebrates, and is linked to via a glass walkway, the Tudor construction across the courtyard with which it contrasts. The largest of our rooms, you may choose the Ashford Hall as the venue for your civil ceremony, or perhaps as a flexible space for your evening celebrations.

North Hall

Part of Rotsey's original construction, the North Hall overlooks Saint Nicolas churchyard through ancient windows. This 'wow factor' room still contains a wooden pulley in the roof space, used to winch goods through the floor in times gone by, as well as sections of re-constructed wattle and daub walling in line with the original construction. Naturally cool in summer it provides the perfect place in which to relax and wind down with a celebratory glass of champagne, and can accommodate civil ceremonies or banquets with up to 60 guests.



...FOR EVERY CEREMONY

Queen's Room

For a more intimate ceremony (up to 40) or a small champagne reception, the Queen's Room is the perfect venue. Steeped in history, Queen Henrietta Maria is believed to have stayed in this room overnight during the Civil War. Today it still commands views over both Saint Nicolas' churchyard and The Green.

The Old Grammar School

The last of our spaces licensed for Civil Ceremonies, the beautiful first floor of the Old Grammar School will take your breath away. Its timber-framed construction must have witnessed countless 'vows' to be better behaved by generations of schoolchildren, but yours will be the centre of attention in this most peaceful of locations. The room's quirky architecture (including a re-used church window and old cabinet-door wall panelling added over the centuries) will ensure your guests are as awe-struck with the surroundings as they are with the happy couple! Unusually, the ground floor room is newer than the first floor, and is also for your use to complete your dream intimate wedding (up to 40 ceremony guests).

Courtyard

In addition to our interiors, it will often be possible to use our small courtyard for wedding guests to relax outside in good weather. Hours of use may be restricted, but we will always endeavour to meet your requirements.

Couples enjoying a civil ceremony will have the use of two further rooms for interview purposes prior to the ceremony, in line with registry proceedings.

For more detail about each of our rooms, please consult the table below. We would be delighted to answer any further questions you may have about our rooms.

Room	Style	Floor Space (m ²)	Capacity	Civil ceremony License	Wheelchair access
Ashford Hall	Modern	164	Seated 80 Standing 110	Yes	Yes
North Hall	Tudor	91	60	Yes	Yes
Queen's Room	Tudor	33	40	Yes	Yes
Old Grammar School (First Floor)	Tudor	59	40	Yes	No (access via external stone steps)
Old Grammar School (Ground Floor)	Tudor	50	40	No	Yes

WHICH SERVICE?



Saint Nicolas Place is the perfect venue for all types of wedding celebrations. As well as being able to enjoy your whole wedding within our walls, from civil ceremony through reception and evening party, we also offer ceremony-only or reception-only packages. Our intimate rooms serve well if you would simply like a small champagne reception with close friends and family as a 'breathing space' in an otherwise hectic day! All options are priced so that you can blow champagne corks, not your wallet!

An Intimate Ceremony

If you would simply like a beautiful space in which to exchange vows, our variety of licensed rooms enjoy capacities of between 40 and 80 guests. For details of our civil ceremony procedure, please refer to the Civil Ceremonies section in this pack.

A Champagne Reception

Perhaps you'd like to keep your celebrations low key, or take time to relax for a couple of hours following your ceremony in Saint Nicolas Church? Couples choosing this

option have found it can provide the perfect interval before meeting further guests for their full reception or evening party.

An Evening Celebration

If you are exchanging vows elsewhere, we can provide the ideal venue for celebrating your big day. With a variety of different sized rooms, and options to hire an entire floor of the Tudor Merchant's House, we are experienced in hosting afternoon receptions that meld seamlessly into evening parties. Catering options are also numerous, from buffets to banquets, and we are happy to recommend entertainers and musicians to make your celebrations complete.

A Full Wedding Package

Allow us to take charge of the whole day when you book your civil ceremony and reception at Saint Nicolas Place. All you need to do is relax and enjoy yourselves!

Whatever you decide, we can advise you every step of the way to make sure you can concentrate on celebrating.



GUIDING YOU THROUGH

Planning your wedding may seem daunting at first, but our experienced staff and flexible approach means that we can cater to your needs and advise you in the finer details that will make the big day perfect.

Food and Drink

Our catering team comes with years of experience and a 'can do' approach to your requirements. Whether you would like a full banquet or light buffet we are able to tailor our high quality culinary packages accordingly, offering a mix-and-match attitude during personal consultations with the team. Saint Nicolas Place does not have an alcohol license, freeing you to select your own choice of alcoholic drinks without paying premium rates added by other venues. Of course, we will be delighted to serve your beverages and can provide bar staff for evening functions and receptions upon request. Classic crockery, cutlery, glasses and white linen is provided within our packages, although you may have a specific colour scheme of your own you wish to use. To gain an idea of what we can provide and costings, please refer to the Sample Menus section.

Flowers

Floral arrangements add the finishing touch to any civil ceremony or wedding reception. We would be delighted to provide details of local florists experienced in providing beautiful and tasteful splashes of colour to your proceedings.

Cake

Your wedding cake can provide a beautiful focus to a room. We can help you to choose which styles or fillings would suit you, as well as providing local contacts we trust with this most important of touches.

Photographs

There are several beautiful backdrops around Saint Nicolas Place for your wedding photographs. Allow us to share them with you and advise you of local contacts.

Music

Whether it's jazz, classical, disco or even a Tudor musician with a hurdy-gurdy you want, we can help put you in touch with reliable musicians and entertainers.

Car Hire

You'll want to arrive in style, and we know just the people to help you! Whether it's a classic Rolls Royce, vintage car or horse-drawn-carriage, allow us to assist in choosing what will work best for your day.

The Final Touches

We have come to learn that every wedding is unique, so there is nothing we won't try our utmost to provide when helping to plan your big day. Rest assured that our staff will be close by on the day itself should you require assistance.

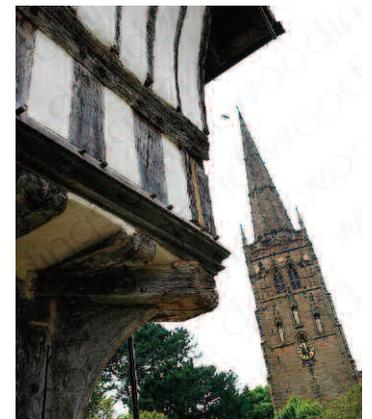
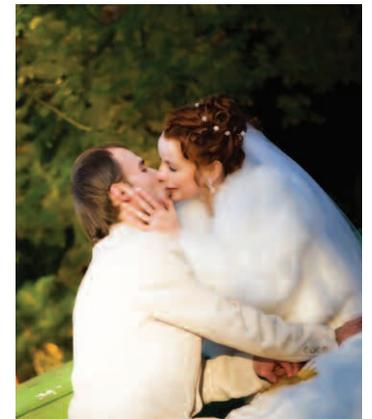


CHURCH WEDDING CEREMONIES

Saint Nicolas Church has been Kings Norton's parish church for over nine hundred years. It is one of Birmingham's most popular venues for church weddings. Set within a beautiful churchyard, we are perfectly located for a complete wedding day, for church blessings after civil marriages and for thanksgivings on special anniversaries. Our experienced parish team ensures that every ceremony in Saint Nicolas is memorable.

Booking Church Ceremonies

As with every other Church of England parish church, there are some restrictions about who may be married in Saint Nicolas. If you live in the parish or worship here regularly or can show some kind of qualifying connection, do ask about your wedding being in Saint Nicolas Church. If you are not sure that you are able to be married here, we are very happy to help you find out. For more information about marriage ceremonies in Saint Nicolas Church, please see the weddings section on www.kingsnorton.org.uk, telephone the Parish Office on 0121 458 3289 or come and see us in church on any Thursday evening between 6.30pm and 8.00pm.



CIVIL CEREMONIES

Since July 2009, Saint Nicolas Place has been registered for Civil Weddings and Civil Partnership Ceremonies. We are proud that spaces which have seen so many human stories unfold over the last 500 years will continue to play a magical part in people's lives for the future.

Booking Civil Ceremonies

If you think Saint Nicolas Place is the right venue for your Civil Ceremony and Reception, we will provisionally hold the date for you while we confirm the availability of a Registrar. Once they have confirmed your date and time the Register Office will invite you to an interview. You will need to present them with a signed form from Saint Nicolas Place to demonstrate our availability. If the ceremony is less than 12 months ahead, you will need to take along your Birth Certificates with photographs and other forms of identity. (We can help you with the list of approved forms of identity.) The Register Office will issue you with a form, sending a copy to Saint Nicolas Place too.

Registrar

The Registrar will interview you at the Register Office in advance of your wedding to discuss the finer details with you. For example you can discuss any formalities, reading or music styles you would wish to include. Law also requires a fifteen minute interview with each of you separately (or together if you wish) immediately prior to your wedding ceremony, in order to ensure everything runs smoothly through your service.

Charges

There is a fee to be paid to Saint Nicolas Place for the hire of the various licensed rooms for your service. The fee varies with the size and capacity of the room. We also offer a discount for weddings that do not take place on a Saturday. The fee covers the use of your requested rooms at Saint Nicolas Place for three hours, including the ceremony. The Register Office will also charge a standard fee for the services of a Registrar.

Room Layout

Birmingham Register Office has certain requirements we must adhere to regarding the general layout of the room and we are happy to discuss these with you, as well as any individual touches you may request.

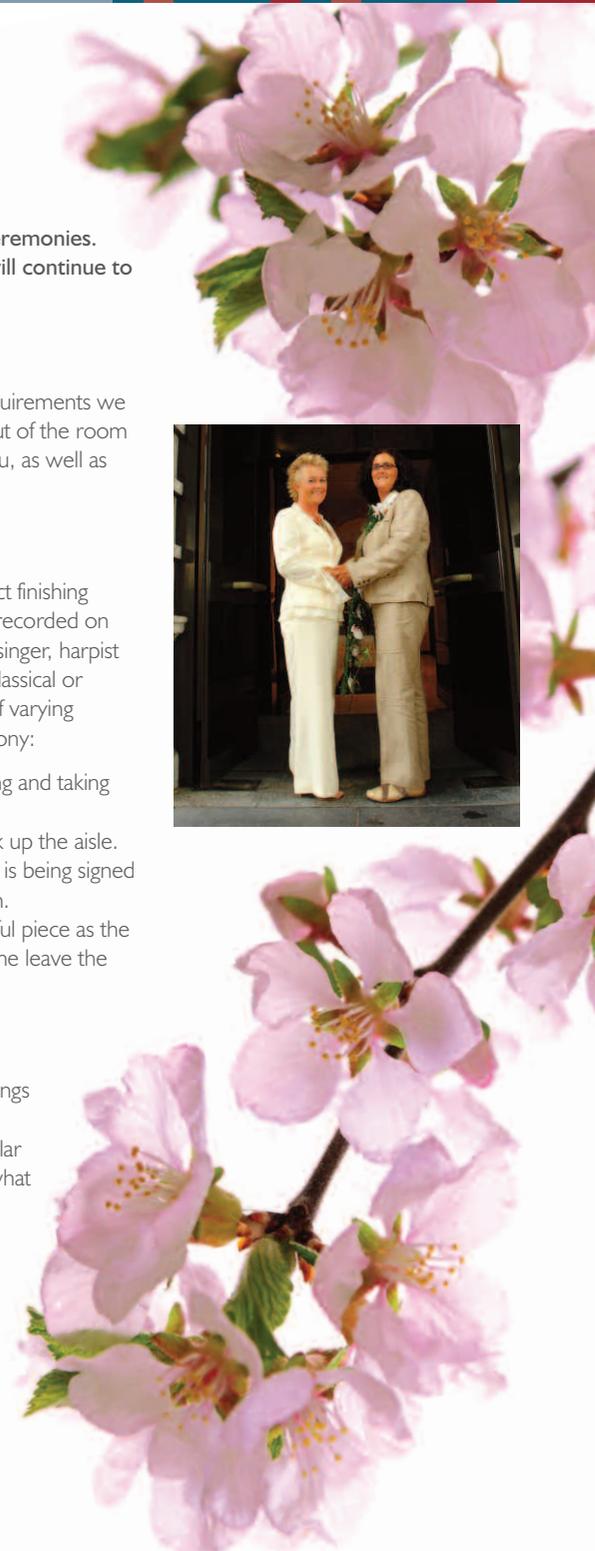
Music

Music for the ceremony can add the perfect finishing touch to the proceedings. It could be pre-recorded on tape or CD, or live using the services of a singer, harpist or ensemble etc. Whatever you choose, classical or contemporary, you will need four pieces of varying lengths for the key moments in the ceremony:

- Assemble: While your guests are arriving and taking their places before your entrance.
- Entrance: A powerful piece for the walk up the aisle.
- Signing the Register: While the Register is being signed and while official guest photos are taken.
- Retreat of the Couple: Another powerful piece as the couple and members of the receiving line leave the ceremony.

Readings

It is customary to include one or two readings in the ceremony, although you may prefer music. As the ceremony must remain secular in nature, the Registrar will advise you of what type of material can be included.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Who can use Saint Nicolas Place?

A. The facilities are available for use by anyone for weddings and partnership ceremonies, seven days a week. The more notice you can give us of your intended ceremony date, the more likely we are to be able to host your big day.

Q. How do I book?

A. The easiest way to make a provisional booking is to contact us on 0121 458 1223. That will enable us to check the availability of your intended date immediately and answer any initial questions you may have. Alternatively, simply email us on info@saintrnicolasplace.co.uk with your intended date and estimate of guest numbers, and we will contact you.

Q. What happens next?

A. We strongly recommend that you visit Saint Nicolas Place in person if you have not done so before finalising your booking. As well as showing you our magnificent rooms, it will allow us to gauge your requirements and discuss any queries you may have in person. You are welcome to discuss catering options with our catering team at this stage, although this is usually arranged following the finalising of your booking. (Rest assured that throughout the process we are only ever a phone call away.)

Q. Is a deposit required?

A. Once we have discussed your requirements and you would like to finalise your booking, we will require a deposit equaling 25% of your room hire charge to secure the booking. This deposit is strictly non-refundable or transferable.

Q. When will we need to pay the balance?

A. We request that final payment is made 14 days in advance of your event.

Q. Who will provide the Catering?

A. We use local caterers with decades of experience in weddings and special event functions. We advocate their flexible approach, professionalism and attention to detail. We are also able to provide bar staff for your function, if requested, for an additional hourly cost.

Q. Can car parking be arranged?

A. Saint Nicolas Place does not have a dedicated car park. However, free-of-charge on-street parking is available around The Green and other streets in the vicinity.

Q. Is Saint Nicolas place accessible to those with mobility difficulties?

A. The Tudor Merchant's House is fully wheelchair accessible, including a lift directly or indirectly to all rooms and three disabled lavatories. The Old Grammar School is not wheelchair accessible and reaching the first floor requires ascending a flight of external stone steps.

Q. What if guests have special dietary requirements?

A. Our catering staff would be delighted to discuss options with you to ensure that all of your guests enjoy memorable cuisine.

Q. Are there any Terms and Conditions of hiring?

A. We request that our Terms and Conditions documentation is read, signed and returned to us before your function date. We will discuss the Terms and Conditions with you before you confirm your booking. In addition, certain types of entertainments may require further discussion and our written agreement in advance.







SAINT NICOLAS PLACE

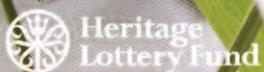
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KINGS NORTON PARISH CHURCH



ENGLISH HERITAGE

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