



Your Wedding at Old St Paul's

Built in 1866, Old St Paul's is one of New Zealand's finest statements of Gothic timber architecture. Famed for its glowing wooden interior and illuminated stained glass windows, this makes the perfect ambient setting for a traditional wedding with a twist of modern elegance.

We are located in the historic setting of Thorndon almost in the heart of Wellington city.

Old St Paul's is non-denominational, but still consecrated, which means you can design your own ceremony, whether it is a religious or civil service, a same sex wedding or renewal of vows.

Old St Paul's is a breath-taking venue awaiting the opportunity to host your own memorable day in the classic wedding tradition of *something old, something new*.



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Old St Paul's History

Old St Paul's served as an Anglican parish church from 1866 until in the 1960s, when plans were made to build a new and larger cathedral. This threw the future of Old St Paul's into doubt and the building was facing demolition. Thanks to enormous public protest, Old St Paul's was saved, extensively restored and is now proudly cared for by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

Let your history begin here....



Your Ceremony at Old St Paul's

Exclusive use of Old St Paul's for 1.5 hours for your ceremony only.

Summer Season Venue Hire:

NZD 1,150 (incl GST): 1 September – 31 April

Winter Season Venue Hire

NZD 950 (incl GST): 01 May – 31 August

Venue hire includes:

- Old St Paul's in-house Wedding Coordinator, who will make sure your day is relaxed and stress-free
- Exclusive use of Old St Paul's for 1.5 hours
- Microphones and lectern
- Facility to play music from almost any electronic device
- A choice between traditional and modern pew decorations

Consider an additional hour

NZD 250 (incl GST) – Allows time for a longer ceremony, or photographs on site.

Traditional extra

NZD 250 (incl GST) – Old St Paul's Musician playing your choice of music on the organ or grand piano. Special requests can be accommodated.

NZD 300 (incl GST) - The Old St Paul's Guild of Bellringers ring the bells to signal the arrival of the bride, and as the couple leaves the church. *Subject to availability*





Your Ceremony at Old St Paul's

FAQ: Ceremony

Who can get married at Old St Paul's?

Everyone!

Old St Paul's is not a parish church so you may celebrate a religious or a civil service, or a same- sex wedding here.

We are welcoming of all people and embrace a variety of faiths, cultural traditions, and backgrounds.



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When are weddings held?

Weddings may be held on any day of the week, at 11.30am, 1.30pm or 3.30pm and all year round.

What about the celebrant or minister?

You may arrange your own civil celebrant or minister of religion. If you don't know anyone personally, our Wedding Coordinator can help you with suggestions, and choosing the right one for your service.

What about the ceremony?

You may have a religious or civil service. Secular or religious readings are frequently used during the ceremony.



Your choice of music and readings are key ways to personalise your service. Typically, a wedding ceremony takes between 30-40 minutes depending on how you personalise it.

How much time do we have for the ceremony?

You are allocated 90 minutes in total for your ceremony at Old St Paul's. The church will be closed to the public 30 minutes before your ceremony and for an hour for your ceremony and any photographs (e.g. for a ceremony at 11.30am, your hire time is from 11am – 12.30pm).

Please note that both the church and grounds must be cleared after your allocated time. If you need more time (subject to availability), please discuss this with our Wedding Coordinator.

Should we book an additional hour after the ceremony?

Book an additional hour if you are planning to have a longer service or need more photography time in or around the church. The church makes a beautiful backdrop for group photographs with your guests.

How many guests can attend our wedding?

Old St Paul's can seat 400 people.

Is Old St Paul's suited for small weddings?

Yes, certainly. The timbers make the place feel warm and welcoming even with very few people attending. You may choose to hold a lovely intimate ceremony up in the chancel area and seat your guests in the choir stalls. This is well-suited for a small wedding of less than 40 guests.

What wedding decorations does Old St Paul's provide?

We have a range of pew decorations for you to choose from. Please ask our Wedding Coordinator to show you the options.

Can we bring in our own decorations?

You are welcome to bring in your own ribbons or flowers to tie to the ends of the pews. Please note that items must not be glued, pinned or nailed to the timbers or the furnishings.



Can confetti be used?

We do not allow confetti (rice, paper bombs, etc.) of any type inside or outside of the church. Fresh or dried rose petals outside the church are an acceptable alternative for confetti. Bubbles are also a nice option for outside.

Are we allowed to use candles?

Due to Old St Paul's being a historic wooden church, we do not allow any candles within the church. The policy is to reduce any risk of fire, and this includes the altar candles.

Can we have the bells at our wedding?

For almost 150 years, Old St Paul's has had a Guild of Bellringers who can add tradition beautifully to your service. They are rung to signal the arrival of the bride to the church and as the married couple leaves the church to signal their new life together.

The cost for the Bellringers is NZD 300 (incl GST). *Subject to availability*

What about the music?

Our Musician is available to play your choice of music at additional costs. During a music rehearsal with him, you arrange all aspects of music for your ceremony. He can assist with choosing your wedding ceremony music or you are welcome to choose your own. He can play your choice of music on the organ or the piano.

Alternatively you are welcome to use our in-house sound system, which can play music from almost any electronic device.

Please note the Musician does not attend the wedding rehearsal.

If you require more than one music rehearsal, this incurs a fee of NZD 60 per hour or part thereof.



Can we bring our own musicians?

You are most welcome to bring your own musicians. Please discuss your plans and requirements with our Wedding Coordinator.



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What about a rehearsal?

We recommend a rehearsal one or two days prior to the wedding day.

The bride should bring her shoes and practice walking in them! Please note the church remains open to the public during the rehearsal. The time allocated for rehearsal is one hour. If you require more than one hour, this incurs a fee of NZD 60 per hour or part thereof.

Who needs to be at the rehearsal?

Our Wedding Coordinator will run the rehearsal together with your minister/celebrant. It's important that you bring along everyone who will be directly involved in the ceremony including your full wedding party, any junior members such as flower girls and page boys, parent(s) or guardian(s) friends or family members who will do the readings.

Will the church be closed to the public during our wedding ceremony?

Yes. Old St Paul's will be closed to the public half an hour before your ceremony starts. Please note that we **do not** close the church to the public during your rehearsal.



How many parks are available in the church grounds?

Your bridal cars may be parked in front of the church provided the drivers remain outside the church during the ceremony. There are up to five car parks for family members available in the church grounds for your rehearsal and wedding day. Parking is available only on the left side of the church; please ask your wedding Coordinator to direct you. Do keep in mind that the more cars are parked in the church grounds, the harder it gets for the photographer to take lovely photos outside the building. There is off-street parking in the area.

What are the Wedding Coordinator's responsibilities?

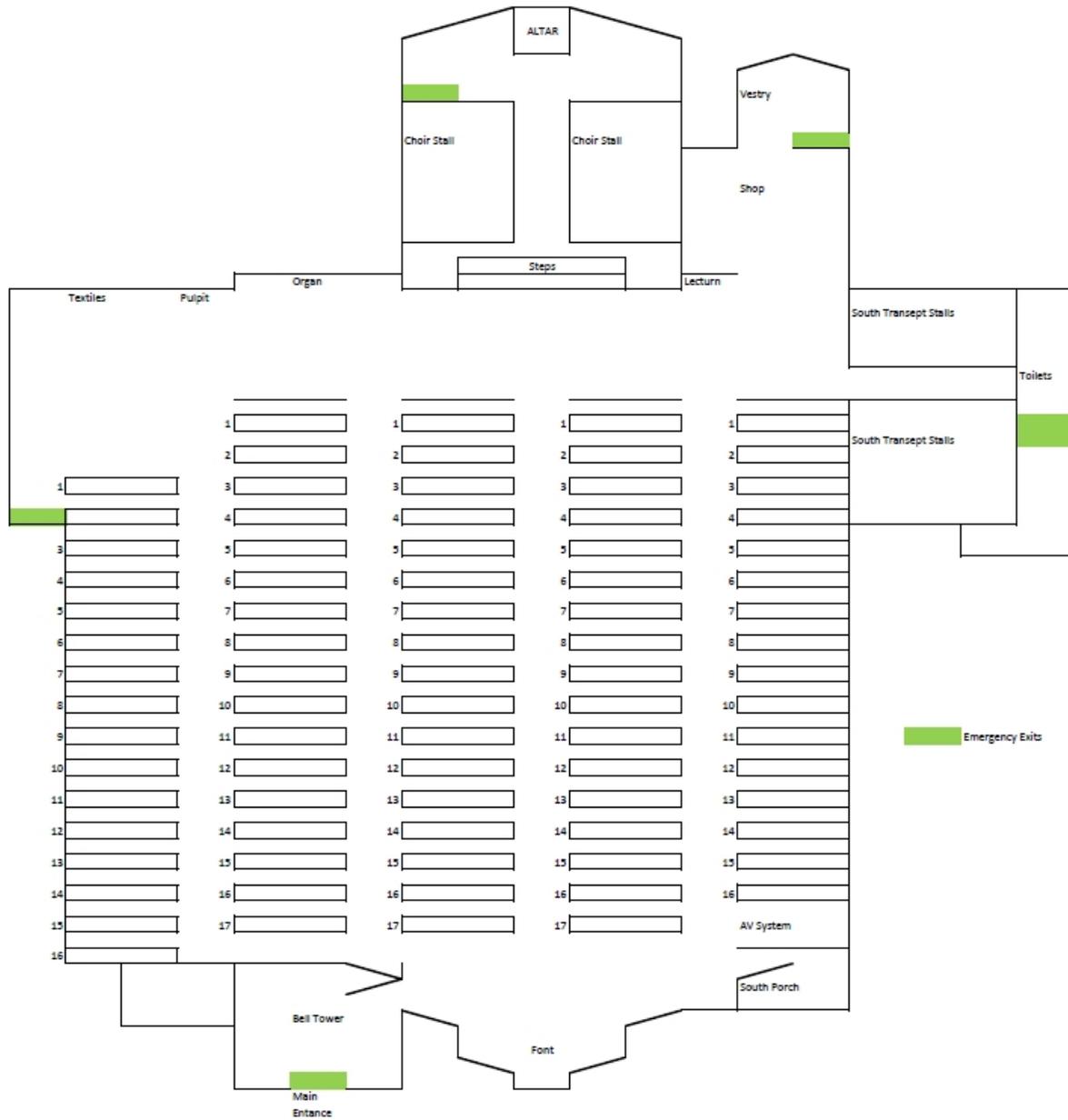
Our Wedding Coordinator will ensure your time at Old St Paul's is relaxed and stress-free. Leading up to your wedding day, she may assist you with ideas and recommendations – the details that make the difference.

On your wedding day, our Wedding Coordinator cues in the bridal party, sorts the bride's train if required, gives cues to celebrant/minister and musicians, controls the volume of the microphones... and simply ensures everything will happen just as you've planned.





FLOOR PLAN





Old St Paul's
34 Mulgrave Street
Thorndon

Wellington 6011

Tel: +64 4 473 6722

oldstpauls@heritage.org.nz

 oldstpauls » oldstpauls.co.nz