

FRIARS COURT

LICENSED CEREMONY VENUE



Friars Court is a mid-17th-century Cotswold stone house located in West Oxfordshire and has been a popular venue for civil ceremonies since 2002.

Situated within three acres of moated grounds, Friars Court has been the home of the Willmer family for over a century and as a privately-owned property it offers prospective couples an enviable degree of privacy. Operating exclusively as a 'ceremony only' venue, Friars Court allows couples the opportunity to exchange their vows and solemnize their commitment in the peace and tranquillity within its grounds before proceeding to their chosen reception venue.

In addition to the Garden Room, which provides a light and airy inside space for conducting ceremonies there are also a number of outdoor garden options available within the grounds of the house.

For more information or to arrange a viewing, please contact:

Charles Willmer

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Frequently Asked Questions

Over the years, we have been asked a range of questions. To help you, here's a list of some of the ones which crop up most often.

When can I come and view Friars Court?

Viewing is certainly the best way to get a true feel as to whether Friars Court is the right venue for you and we enjoy showing people around. However, as Friars Court is also a home, all viewings and meetings are by appointment only.

Are you open all year round?

Friars Court is open for viewings all year round but we only host ceremony's between April and September.

We would really like an outdoor ceremony, how many guests can we have, and what if it rains?

Hopefully, it won't rain but this is England after all. In licensing the outdoor ceremony locations, the registrars require a suitably-sized inside ceremony location to be available at the same time in the event of inclement weather. Our Garden Room is our largest inside area, and it can accommodate a maximum of 80 people, so our limit for any ceremony, whether outdoor or inside, is 80. *Please note:* this number includes the bridal party as well as their guests whether adult or child.

Can we have our reception after the ceremony at Friars Court?

We're afraid not, as Friars Court is a private home, we only host ceremonies. This means your guests can witness you exchanging your vows in beautiful surroundings before everyone proceeds on to the reception at another location.



Do we have exclusive use?

Absolutely! As Friars Court is privately-owned, we can assure you that you will have exclusive use of all our gardens and grounds during your time with us.

Do you marry us?

The basic answer is 'No'. While Friars Court is an approved venue where ceremonies may be conducted, the bridal couple will need to contact Oxfordshire's registrars department to check their availability and then book, and pay for, a registrar to come out and conduct the ceremony.

Which areas are licensed for civil ceremonies?

A ceremony conducted by Oxfordshire's registrars must take place within the confines of a licensed space. We have two inside areas and four outdoor:

Inside: Garden Room (80 people) or Entrance Hall (15 people)

Outdoor: Rose arbour, cherry tree, moat-side gazebo, front of house

How do we contact Oxfordshire's registrars department?

Oxfordshire's registrars department will only accept ceremony requests via a completed online form. Please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/contactus/contact-registration-service

Can we have refreshments after the ceremony?

It is possible to have refreshments after the ceremony, and if you would like to arrange this yourself, that is not a problem, or we have local caterers we can recommend. Alternatively, we can assist with serving any refreshments you provide; this would be an addition to our hire rate, and a quote can be provided on request. *Please note:* the registrars are strict with their rule that no food or drink is permitted to be present or served for the hour before, and during, the ceremony.



Do you have a bar or charge corkage?

We do not have a bar nor do we sell our own drinks. However, if you ask us to, we can assist with serving drinks that you provide. Our corkage rate is available upon request. We don't charge corkage if you provide your own glasses and serve yourself, or bring in your own caterers.

Do you have a kitchen we can use?

We have a basic preparation area you may use if you are doing your own refreshments; however, please note this does not have a fridge, oven, or hot-water washing facility. We may make an additional charge if you, or your caterers, require more space or time outside of the hire time to set up or clear away. Only our approved caterers are permitted to use our private kitchen within the house.

Do you include chairs in the hire?

We provide up to 80 garden chairs, and can seat 80, for an outdoor ceremony. We also include up to 60 banquet chairs, and can seat a maximum of 60, for an inside ceremony in the Garden Room. *Please note:* owing to the restrictive size of the Garden Room if numbers exceed 60 guests will have to stand.

Are there any private rooms which the bridal party or guests can use?

Being a family home there are no private rooms available for the bridal party or guests to use.

Do you have accommodation for guests?

Friars Court has a riverside cottage, [Radcot Bridge Cottage](#). We can also send you an accommodation list which includes nearby hotels, B&B's, and self-catering.

Do you have toilets?

We have both ladies' and gentlemen's toilets. and one with wheelchair-access, which includes a baby-changing table.



Can we have fireworks or sky lanterns?

We do not allow fireworks or sky lanterns.

Can we have confetti?

We allow confetti as long as it is biodegradable: dried or fresh petals, lavender, or made from rice paper. What we don't like is 'silly-string', streamers, or plastic 'table-confetti'... you won't like it either as we will make a clean-up charge for picking it out of the gravel or lawn afterwards.

How much does it cost to hire Friars Court for a civil ceremony?

Our grounds hire for a civil ceremony are *:

Monday to Friday	£650
Saturday to Sunday	£750
Bank holiday's / Bank holiday weekends	£850

** prices are subject to change*

How long is the ceremony hire time?

Our hire time for a ceremony is three hours. *Please note:* the hire time starts one hour before the ceremony. This is to comply with the registrars' who will need to talk to the couple prior to the ceremony, and also to allow time for guests to arrive.

How do we reserve, or book, a date?

We can place a date on reserve for 14 days but we won't accept a booking until after you have visited Friars Court and had a chat with us. After that, if you then want to secure a date, we'll just require a non-refundable deposit. The remaining balance would be due eight weeks before the date of the ceremony.

If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

