



WEDDINGS AT BLACKFRIARS

Blackfriars was established in 1239 as a Dominican friary and remains one of the jewels in Newcastle's medieval crown. Whilst its horseshoe of stone buildings surround a sheltered courtyard, its peaceful and tranquil location belies its hidden location right in the heart of the city. As an inner-city former friary still in commercial use today, Blackfriars is truly unique and provides the perfect picturesque backdrop for a beautiful wedding or civil partnership.

WHY BLACKFRIARS

Housed within a Grade 1 Listed Building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Blackfriars Restaurant opened in 2001 and has been in the same ownership ever since. The restaurant has held an AA Rosette for almost two decades and is recommended by the Michelin Guide and Good Food Guide. The restaurant has also won many awards including Taste of the North East and is now one of the most recognised and reputed restaurants in Newcastle.

The ground floor comprises the main restaurant, a stunning self-contained Banquet Hall and an ornate Parlour Bar for early arrivals and drinks receptions as well as a sheltered courtyard. On the first floor the Tasting Room is housed within one of the former guild meeting rooms, as is the state-of-the-art Cookery School and other meeting rooms. The former friary, courtyard and gardens provide the perfect picture-postcard setting for your photographs.

Blackfriars is approved by Newcastle City Council for marriages and civil partnerships so you can enjoy both your ceremony and reception in one place. We have dedicated wedding coordinators to help you plan your day and take care of all your wants and needs so you don't have to worry.

Blackfriars is able to accommodate most wedding formats. Just imagine the ceremony of your dreams in our ornate Banquet Hall or unique Tasting Room, followed a relaxed Champagne reception in the sheltered courtyard or historic Parlour Bar before heading back into the Banquet Hall for a delicious and memorable wedding breakfast and evening party. Blackfriars really does have it all and is the perfect venue for your big day!



BLACKFRIARS
RESTAURANT & BANQUET HALL

Blackfriars Restaurant, Friars Street, Newcastle, NE1 4XN.
t: 0191 261 5945 w: blackfriarsrestaurant.co.uk

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OUR SPACES

Blackfriars has a number of spaces available for marriages and civil ceremonies.

✦ BANQUET HALL

Blackfriars medieval Banquet Hall which once played host to various visiting monarchs has now been brought back to life following years of meticulous research and restoration, boasting authentic and bespoke banners, distinctive antler chandeliers, stained glass windows and large oak dining tables and chairs designed and created by local craftsmen.

The Banquet Hall remains our most popular space in which to get married. Located on the ground floor, it has a capacity for 50 seated diners or 65 standing. There are a number of table arrangement options including two long tables of 25 or a top table for 6 plus two long tables of 20. The Banquet Hall has its own bar and satellite kitchen servery as well as its own set of bathrooms next door.

✦ TASTING ROOM

Housed within a former meeting room for one of the city's guilds, the first floor Tasting Room is also registered for marriages and civil partnerships. It boasts a large fixed table with room for 25 attendees seated in two concentric circles of seats. It is a beautiful space that really has to be seen to be believed.

✦ OUTSIDE COURTYARD

Blackfriars benefits from a sheltered courtyard available for reception drinks throughout the day until 7pm for up to 50 guests. Please note although this is in theory a public space, visitors to the area have always respected private parties, even if they admire from afar.

✦ PARLOUR BAR

It seems fitting that the room where the Dominicans used to welcome visitors to the friary is now Blackfriars ornate medieval public Parlour Bar available for reception drinks and gatherings for up to 50 guests.

OUR PEOPLE

Blackfriars has a dedicated team of experienced wedding coordinators and event managers at your disposal and ready to take care of your every need and want to make sure your big day runs smoothly.

Our team of specialists will help you carefully plan your big day ensuring every detail is covered including liaising with your registrars and the organisation of your flowers, musicians, table decorations, white linens, table plans, name cards and taxis. And of course all of these can all be sourced and delivered in advance through your own wedding planner if preferred.





SO HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

You may be surprised how little it costs to get married at Blackfriars. The following provides a brief description of the items we charge for. You have a basic choice of one of our all-inclusive Packages or creating your own bespoke one. The costs are all published on our current Price List.

❖ WEDDING PACKAGES

Blackfriars offers a number of wedding packages with options including reception drinks and canapés, three, four or five course wedding breakfasts, wine, toasts and coffee. Our most popular all-inclusive Packages A and B also includes room hire and ceremony fees as detailed below. This can provide a very cost-effective solution for your wedding budget.

❖ BESPOKE PACKAGES

For those preferring to build their own personal and unique packages, the following options are available with prices on our current Price List.

❖ MENUS

Blackfriars offers a number of menus from our most popular five course gastronomic experience to simpler four and three course options.

❖ ROOM HIRE

Our room hire charges provides you with full and unfettered access to your hired room as well as complimentary use of our red carpet, table furniture, hurricane lamps, candles, music system, card box, signage, chair hangings, fairy lights, cake stand and cake knife as well as your own wedding coordinator to liaise with you throughout and a Master of Ceremonies to preside over the proceedings. If you don't choose either Package A or B, you'll need to include room hire in your budget.

❖ CEREMONY FEE

In addition to our room hire charges, our ceremony fee allows you full access to hold your marriage or civil partnership in the format of your choice in your chosen space. Your wedding coordinator will help put you in contact with the registrars. If you don't choose either

package A or B, you'll need to include our ceremony fee in your budget. You won't need to include this if you're getting married elsewhere and then coming to Blackfriars.

❖ MENU TASTING

We are always happy to present you with a selection of dishes in advance before deciding on your final menu. You just need to agree a time and date with your wedding coordinator. We'll need around two weeks' notice so we can ensure we have everything ready for you. We'll then present whatever dishes you want to taste - usually four courses - starter, intermediate course, main and dessert as required. We'll simply charge you our normal restaurant prices for what you've had - that is unless you're on Package A in which case two of you can enjoy a four course meal each on the house! Available at lunchtimes Monday to Saturday.

❖ WINE TASTING

Our sommeliers are always on hand to help you choose your selection of wines and drinks for your big day. We have the option of our house fizz, Prosecco and the ever-traditional Champagne as well as adding a delicious historic cocktail. Our sommelier can also present a selection of wines for you to taste to help with your decision.

❖ BRIDAL SUITE

We are always happy to transform our meeting room into a bridal suite for storing items as well as preparation and relaxing together before your ceremony and during the day and we'll also be on hand to ply you with prosecco and canapés as required.

❖ MINIMUM SPENDS

Blackfriars operates a minimum spend policy as detailed in our Price List.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following offers a bit more detail and hopefully answers some of those questions you have regarding your big day. And if you have any other worries, just get in touch with us as we're always here to help.

Blackfriars benefits from two licences - firstly we are approved by Newcastle City Council for marriages and civil partnerships in our Banquet Hall and Tasting Room.

Blackfriars premises licence allows us to serve food and alcohol until midnight (though last orders at the bar are 23:30), and also to host live and recorded music as long as it can't be heard beyond our boundaries. Live acoustic music works well in our Banquet Hall, as does recorded music through our in-house system, though we are situated in a residential area and therefore can not allow loud amplified music, live or recorded. And out of courtesy you must ask your guests to leave quietly.

We can also serve drink in our outside courtyard until 7pm though again must abide by strict rules about keeping any noise down and being good neighbours.

You can bring your own wine but corkage fees will apply.

Blackfriars aims to provide access to people of all abilities as far as is practicable and possible; please see our online Access Statement on our website.

We are always delighted to set-aside a table for presents and gifts. Confetti is a must - but only if biodegradable!

We are always happy to organise taxis for your guests.

Blackfriars maintains Public Liability Insurance Cover up to £5 million.

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