

Marriage as Christians see it!

Marriage is a gift of God. It provides the right environment for your relationship to grow, your sexuality to be fulfilled and a secure and stable place in which to bring up children.

A marriage service is a public declaration of love and commitment to your partner. When that service is held in church, Christians believe there is the added dimension, that God is involved in your relationship and that he will give you strength and encouragement throughout your married life. You will still go through the ups and downs that any other normal married couple will experience but with the assurance of God's love for you in all situations. You can also be assured of the added support of your local church family and 'The Church' as a whole.

When are weddings held?

Weddings can be held on any day of the week after discussion with the parish priest (normally between mid morning and late afternoon). Nearly all couples try to arrange for a service on a Saturday but parish clergy are becoming more flexible and will look to other days should the need arise. If you wish to marry on a Sunday you will have to be flexible because of the time of other church services.

Basic Information

The following section is a reminder of the information which was discussed with you at the booking evening, which may be of help as you begin to plan

- 1) **Your booking form** – If any of the details change between the booking and the wedding inform the minister as soon as possible.
- 2) **Divorcees** - If either of the you have been married before there is an urgent need to see the Decree Absolute so that details can be taken for our records. If you have been married before, it's vital that you be prepared to discuss this openly with the minister.
- 3) **Fees.** The wedding fees for 2018/19/20 are **£550 / £575 /£600**
 - a) A 10% non returnable deposit should be paid at the time of booking or as soon after as possible to secure the wedding booking.
 - b) Balance to be paid by cheque at the wedding rehearsal.
 - c) Fees cover everything to do with the service in church (minister, caretaker, organist, hire of building, registration etc) apart from the flowers and order of service (**which you organise**).

4) **Number of guests** – St David's, Pencoed - maximum of 100.

St Illid & Curig, Llanilid – maximum of 70.

5) **Photographer** – A professional photographer is allowed in church and only he/ she will be allowed to take photographs during the service after consultation with the minister. Guests may take photos at the end of the service as you process down the aisle.

6) **Videographer** – A Professional Videographer is allowed in the service but will need to consult with the minister about when and where. Or, one guest may take a video from the pews, again after consultation with the minister.

7) **Bridesmaids** – A suggested number is 4 (but this can be negotiated.)

8) **Ushers** – Suggested 2-4 depending on the church venue and number of guests.

The Service

The service format is set by the Church in Wales but within that there is opportunity for input from you both.

1) **Music** – You need to choose 2 hymns, preferably well known so that guests will sing them.

Also Entrance and Exit Music – Most couples choose the traditional Bridal and Wedding March, but both parish organists, given notice, are prepared to play your choice of other classical pieces.

Special requests - If you wish to hire in musicians to play before the service and/or during the signing of the register, you are quite free to do so, as long as you discuss it with the minister. Otherwise the organist will play during these times.

2) **Service Readings** – During the service there are 3 bible readings. The first two can be chosen by you and read by one of your family or guests. The third reading is from one of the four gospels and is traditionally read by the minister.

If there is a request for a reading other than a bible reading, to be read by a guest, this is quite acceptable after consultation and will be put at a different point in the service to the bible readings.

3) **Witnesses** – During the signing of the registers, two adult witnesses are required to sign along with you. These can be any adults who are present at the service. The choice is up to you. The minister will need to know the names of the witnesses at the rehearsal.

4) **Service duration** – The actual service last approximately 40 minutes from when the bride arrives. But allow up to 1hr 15 mins on site because of taking photographs. (This timing may be of importance to your reception venue).

5) **Banns of Marriage** – These are a legal requirement when marrying in church and have to be read in the parish of both bride and groom. They are read in the respective church, on 3 consecutive Sundays any time from 3 months before the wedding. When we contact you to let you know they will be read in this parish, you will also be reminded to arrange for them to be read in the other parish. (If necessary)

The ‘away’ parish will issue a Banns Certificate after ‘the calling’, which must be obtained and paid for by you (**around £40/ 2018**) and brought to the minister prior to the wedding service. This is a legal document and the marriage cannot take place without sight of the certificate.

(** A certificate is not required from the County Registrar as all the other legal work will be done by the minister who is the Registrar for the Parish.**)

6) **Marriage Preparation** – Between the time of reading of the banns and the actual service, you will be required to attend a marriage preparation evening, (duration approximately 2 hours). This will either be individually or with other wedding couples, at a date agreed with you and the minister.

7) **Rehearsal** – The wedding rehearsal usually takes place in the evening, a few days before the service, at the wedding venue. It lasts for about 30 minutes and as many of the bridal party as possible are required to be there.

8) **Sundries** – Orders of service are left to you to purchase or make. The minister can supply you with sample copies of orders of service if you require them. You also need to consult the minister with the draft format before going to print.

9) **Flowers** - We do not have flower arrangers in church for weddings, so the choice is left up to you after consultation with the minister. We can recommend reliable, local florists.

If you require any further information contact
Rev Ian Hodges 01656 860337
Email: revian@lphparish.org.uk

Preparing for your Wedding

