

31. If using a hotel (or other licensed premises), arrange that the first drink is free and thereafter guests should buy their own drinks.
32. if you have sufficient space, hold the reception at home or in a friend's home or garden.
33. Scout/Guide Groups may hire out a marquee for the garden.
34. Use a local caterer who will bring crockery, cutlery, glasses etc.
35. Do your own catering. Buffets are cheaper than sit down meals. Food can be prepared well in advance and frozen. Friends may be willing to help and it is less tiring than for one person to do the catering.
36. Invite smaller numbers and have a party at some other time to which you can invite those who will not be at the Reception.
37. Have a small 'family only' Formal Reception followed by an evening buffet/ barn dance/ disco for friends.
38. Ask around for groups willing to play at parties and receptions.
39. Balloons make an effective decoration for a Wedding Reception and are quick and easy to prepare.
40. Make you own cake or ask a relative or friend to make it.
41. Ask someone gifted in cake decorating to ice and decorate the cake.
42. A professional cake decorator might be willing to decorate a ready-made cake for less than the complete task.
43. Buy a shop-made flat iced cake and decorate it yourself.
44. A local Pub may provide a finger-buffet for a reasonable cost.
45. A good quality home-made Punch drink can be very refreshing and will go a long way at an evening party.

GENERAL

46. Is it necessary to have large numbers of bridesmaids? Limiting the number will save on dress costs, gifts, flowers etc.
47. A honeymoon can be just as enjoyable in a local setting and much cheaper.
48. Arrange the Wedding Service for morning or early afternoon and avoid having an evening party/ disco.
49. Say that you want a 'simple' wedding and mean it!
50. Don't try to make your day more expensive, showy and elaborate than others. An inexpensive wedding can still be a happy one.

50 ways to save money on your Wedding



A wedding is one day - a marriage is a lifetime!

Everyone wants their wedding to be a day to remember. Over recent years, there has been a tendency to make weddings bigger and better than those of others, and for this reason, wedding costs have risen dramatically. Remember, it is not essential to spend lavishly to have a memorable wedding. The enjoyment of all concerned is far more important than elaborate outfits and exotic venues. There are a number of ways to stick to a budget whilst still having a special day.

This leaflet includes some tried and tested ideas:

CHURCH

Banns and Marriage ceremony. There is a fixed fee in most churches but it does vary and does not include the organ, choir, bells, flowers etc

Music. The organist's fee is fixed and depends on the particular church.

However, there are ways in which you can economise on the service:

1. There is a charge for the choir - but do you really need it?
2. Bells are another expense. Do you really need them?
3. Use flowers from your own garden or find a florist with reasonable prices.
4. Arrange your own floral displays or ask a friend who is good at flower arranging. Displays don't have to be large & elaborate but attractive.
5. If your wedding follows a festival like Christmas, Easter or Harvest, the church may already be decorated and save you the cost of flowers!
6. If there are several weddings on the same day, get together and plan a mutually acceptable colour scheme and share the costs.
7. Some churches will do the displays for a fee.
8. Rely on the floral arrangements which will be in the church ready for the Sunday services.

TRANSPORT

9. Cut down on the number of official cars you hire. How many do you REALLY need? Maybe just one for the Bride to church and for the Bride and Groom to the Reception.
10. Use family cars instead of hired ones and decorate them with ribbons.
11. Ask a friend with a larger car to loan it for the occasion and maybe act as chauffeur.

DRESS

12. Make your dresses (bride and bridesmaids) or ask a skilled friend/ relative .
13. Hire the dresses.
14. Buy them from a charity shop. Oxfam has bridal departments in 7 shops, throughout the country.
15. Borrow from a friend or relative who is the same size.
16. Buy a dress that can be altered for evening wear; it does not have to be white.
17. A veil is not essential. What about wearing fresh or silk flowers?
18. Button-holes can be made from silk flowers and supplied only to the immediate party
19. Use garden or supermarket flowers to make your own sprays / corsages.
20. Bridal bouquets and bridesmaids posies can be "home-made" by an artistic friend or relation.
21. Use a single flower and prayer book as an alternative to a bouquet.
22. Smart lounge suits for men instead of hired morning dress. The suits can be used afterwards.

STATIONERY

23. Print your own stationery, using your computer and printer.
24. Buy paper/ card and inexpensive craft materials to make your stationery.
25. Ask someone with appropriate skills to design your invitations and service sheets etc
26. Dispense with an order of service, if the hymns are in the church hymn book but check this out with your Vicar
27. Do your printing at a local school or church as it will be cheaper than commercial printing.

PHOTOGRAPHY

28. Ask 2 RELIABLE friends or family members to take your photographs. Agree a list of necessary shots beforehand.
29. Do you need a Video of the event as there will be a fee payable to the church.

RECEPTION

30. Hire a Church, Village or School Hall, which is much cheaper than a hotel but book early to avoid disappointment.