

Thinking of Marriage?



What's so special about Marriage?

Marriage is a very ancient idea which exists in practically every country and culture.

For Christians it is a gift from God and should mirror the love God has for all of us, love that endures. Christians believe that marriage goes back to Adam and Eve who were 'made for each other' (Genesis 2) and Jesus joined in a wedding reception where he turned water into wine (John 2).



In the marriage ceremony the bride and groom make a public declaration of lifelong commitment to each other so a marriage is for a lifetime. The wedding only lasts for a day and it is important that there should be preparations for the marriage as well as all the practical preparations for the 'big day'.

Why marry in church?

Churches have a 'peaceful', 'serene' atmosphere that makes marrying there a particularly **special experience**. A church wedding can be as lavish or as simple as you want.

A church wedding adds a **spiritual dimension** to your marriage. The vows, made in public, in a church will help you to stay together and grow together. The ceremony includes God and looks to him for help and guidance to keep these vows.

The church provides a **stunning venue** and may offer centuries of history. You can feel you're becoming part of history by marrying in the same church as your relatives.

The Vicar will help to make your wedding day personal, memorable, and meaningful.

You're welcome to marry in the **Church in Wales**, whether or not you are christened and regardless of whether you go to church, it's your church and we welcome you. Whether or not you get married near where you live, your local church will be there for you in the months and years to come

Legal matters

Getting married in Church is a legal matter which means you have to abide by the law of the UK and the Church.

Banns must be read out in church, within 3 months of the wedding but in some circumstances, you may need a **Licence** rather than banns.

You must be aged over 16 and if you are under 18 you will need your parents' consent.

Special guidelines apply, if you have been **divorced**. (*See leaflet "Marriage after divorce"*)

Time of wedding. The wedding must take place between the hours of 8am and 6pm.

Your Vicar will tell you more about all these matters.

Can we marry in a church away from where we live?

Lots of people marry in their local church. However, a change in the law means you may marry in a church away from where you live because it has special significance. You can do this if either of you has a personal or family connection with that church. Your Vicar will explain this.

To find your local church see www.churchinwales.org.uk

Marriage prayer

There are so many choices
Venues and menus
Dresses and tresses
Shades and bridesmaids
Cars and guitars
Houses and blouses
Speeches and preachers.

It's so easy to overspend;
to lose all sense of proportion.

Help us to plan not only for the day,
but for the rest of our life.

Help us to choose the best things;
faith
hope
love.

(Andrew Body - Pocket prayers for Marriage, Church House Publishing)

Mothers' Union is an international Christian organisation that seeks to support families worldwide with prayer and practical help.

In 81 countries, 4 million members share one heartfelt vision - to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

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Christian care for families

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