

The Church In Wales
The Diocese of Llandaff

A Useful Guide to the Sacrament of Marriage



Introduction

Marriages in Church in Wales churches are governed by the Marriage Act 1949, which means that many of the rules and regulations regarding weddings in a church derive from the Law of the land.

The following is intended to offer the answers to some of the questions that often arise in the preparation of a Church Wedding.

Right to a church wedding

In general a British citizen over the age of 18 years has the right to be married in the parish church or in a church licensed for Anglican weddings in the parish in which the person lives, unless one of the parties is divorced and has a surviving former spouse.

(However, note that a church's parish boundaries rarely coincide exactly with civic boundaries, and it must not be assumed that one's parish church is the church nearest to the place of dwelling.)

Please check that your address is in the parish of St. Paul's Grangetown—which is basically anything south of Penarth Road

At least one of the parties must live within the parish or be on the electoral roll.

Divorce and Remarriage

The Church teaches that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman, and is dissolved only by the death of either party.

This is clearly stated in the Book of Common Prayer and this teaching is adhered to in our parish

Mixed Marriages

There is normally no impediment to a member of the Church in Wales marrying a Christian of another denomination (e.g. Roman Catholic, Methodist, etc.) - whether or not the wedding takes place in an Anglican church or elsewhere. If the marriage takes place in an Anglican (i.e. Church in Wales) church, the non-Anglican partner will have his/her banns published in the Anglican church of the (Anglican) parish where he/she lives, except in cases where the marriage will be by licence. This is a matter to be discussed with the particular minister of the parish.

In the case of an Anglican marrying a Roman Catholic in the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic partner may require permission (i.e. a 'dispensation') from his or her bishop before being considered free to marry, though this is not something the Church in Wales requires him or her to obtain. Subject to the provisions of the Marriage Act the marriage can still take place whether or not it is granted.

Persons of other faiths or of no faith at all are permitted by the Marriage Act to be married in an Anglican church. The Minister would first explain the nature of the promises that are made in the marriage service.

Except where one of the parties is resident in Scotland, or a foreign national, the usual legal preliminary to a marriage is for banns to be published. This will need to be done in the parish churches of both parties. Again, there are exceptions and alternatives that can be discussed with the parish priest.

Arrangements for the Marriage

A marriage has to take place between 8 am and 6 pm. It can take place on any day of the week, but not during Lent (the six weeks before Easter) and Advent (four weeks leading up to Christmas).

As far as the details of the service are concerned, before deciding on the hymns and other music at the service, you should consult with the priest. Legally, he has the right to decide which hymns and music are to be used.

You will need to firstly arrange to see the priest to make initial arrangements and begin to sort out some of the practical details, date, time etc.

You will then receive a letter of confirmation and be told to contact the priest at least six months before the wedding to talk through the service in more detail and arrange the calling of banns. Advice can be given over the choice of hymns, music and readings.

Banns

If you are going to be married by Banns these are called on three Sundays before your Wedding in the parishes you live in. If one of you lives outside the parish you are getting married in you will have to contact that parish Priest and arrange for the publication of Banns there and arrange to collect and pay for your Banns certificate which you must then bring to the rehearsal.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal will be arranged before the wedding to run through the service and any practical details. Those present need to be the bride, groom, best man, bridesmaids,

the person escorting the bride into church. **Flowers** are allowed and arrangements should be checked with the Priest. With regard to **confetti**, this can be used outside the Church grounds.

Photographs can be taken by the official photographer before the service, as the bride comes into church, after the signing of the register and as the couple leave Church, but not during the service itself. The congregation are asked not to take photos or use video cameras during the service.

Video

You may video your wedding using an official person but they must stay in one place for the service.

Fees

The fees charged for a wedding are broken down into different types: those charged by the incumbent and parish church for their time and services; those charged if the marriage is by licence and not by banns; and additional fees for other elements that may be incorporated into the service as a whole; the latter might typically include the services of an organist, bell-ringers, choir, heating, etc.

The Fees are set each year in January and you will be informed of them as soon as possible after they are issued. The Fees are to be paid in cash at the rehearsal.

In summary, remember that your parish priest is as interested in making your day as special as you are. If you have any queries then please get in touch, we want your wedding day to be a special day that you will enjoy and remember.

Some Suggested Wedding Music:

The Wedding March
The Bridal March
Trumpet Voluntary
Widor Toccata

The arrival of the Queen of Sheba



Some Suggested Hymns:

Come down o Love divine
Give me Joy in my heart
Guide me o thou great Redeemer
Love divine
Lord of the dance
Lord of all hopefulness
Make me a channel of your peace
O perfect love
Praise my soul the king of heaven
Shine Jesus shine

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