

What about service leaflets?

The *general* outline would include the names of bride and groom on the front cover. On the inside you need to include:

- **The Entrance of the bride**
the words of the hymn you will chose to be sung
- **Welcome, Introduction and Bible Reading/s**
- **The Declarations, The Vows and The Exchange of Rings**
- **The Prayers**
the words of the second hymn (if you chose to sing again)
- **The Signing of the Marriage Register**
- **The Exit of the Bride and Groom**

You should show a copy of this service to the vicar before printing, just to make sure it is all OK— wrong words are often used in songs..

What is the cost?

Please contact us for the current price for a wedding and note that this is a higher price at St Catherine's where bells are rung. We need a non-returnable deposit of £50 at the time of booking and the balance needs to be paid 2 months before the wedding (instalments can be arranged). Any payments should be passed to the vicar or parish office staff in an envelope clearly marked with the date and year of the wedding and the names of the couple getting married.

What about banns?

Banns are the formal announcements made in church for 3 Sundays before the wedding day (within 3 months of the date). They are always made at the church where you will be married, and if one or both of you are living in another area, then you will have to approach the vicar of that local Anglican church and have them read in that church too. ***You cannot be married if this has not been done and it is your responsibility to make sure they are read.*** A vicar can advise you if you need a Common licence instead of banns because of shortness of time, residency, or nationality.

What will the vicar do to help us prepare?

- 1st meeting with the vicar or staff to sort out details.
- 2nd meeting at one of our wedding preparation nights to think about Marriage and preparing for the Big Day..
- 3rd meeting will be in church just before the wedding day.

To keep proper record of the Church's ministry, details of names and places will be kept by the parish but can be viewed by arrangement.

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Congratulations!

**We are very happy that you are
considering getting married
in one of our churches.**



A church wedding is a very positive and joyful celebration of the way a man and a woman and their families can join together to form a new, life-long stage in their commitment to each other.

Marriage needs each partner being ready to share and compromise together, this is something most of us can do with some outside help, further strengthening your marriage.

Family and friends can be there to support us, but many couples feel that the idea of a blessing from God on their wedding day is another way of finding help.

The promises that a man and woman make to each other as part of the wedding service are serious, and many couples also believe that it seems right to make these promises in the presence of God. Many people who don't call themselves religious still feel that at this special moment in life they want to recognise a greater love even than their own, and ask God's blessing on their relationship.

We are very happy to invite you to use our church buildings as we help you prepare for your wedding and marriage.

The Parish of Pontypridd covers 8 churches around Pontypridd:
*St Catherine in the town centre; Christchurch Ynysybwl;
St David Hopkinstown; St Gwynno Llanwonno;
St John the Baptist The Graig; St Luke Cilfynydd;
St Luke Rhydyfelin; St Mary Glyntaff.*

Who can get married in the church?

Getting married in your local church is open to all people who are legally allowed to be married; The Church in Wales website has full details. You just need to chat with one of the vicars and discuss with them the details of date, time and venue.

You have a legal right to get married in your local church, the church in the area where you live. For us, that means any of the eight churches on the first page can be used if you live in the area we cover. If you don't currently live in our area, but have a qualifying connection (e.g. you've lived here for 6 months, your parents/grandparents were married in our churches or you were baptised/confirmed with us) you should be able to get married with us. People who are divorced (with a decree absolute) may have a service of re-marriage in church providing the vicar is happy that the reasons for the breakdown of the previous marriage will not affect the new relationship. The law does not allow us to conduct civil partnerships or marriages of same sex couples in our churches.

You do not need to have been christened (or baptised) to get married in our churches, neither do you need to come to church. However, getting married in church is asking for God's blessing over your life, so it is natural to be a person who wants to grow in your spiritual life. We'd love to welcome to church when you can join us.

How do we book a wedding?

Get in touch with the vicars or staff and we will go through the procedure with you. We will need to check certain information about you & see documentation to prove your identity & current address. You will be advised of the costs and to book a date, you will need to pay a deposit, the balance being paid two months prior to the wedding date. We run a meeting about getting married in our churches and these are held three times a year in the evening— all couples **MUST** attend one of these. ***If wedding details need to be amended, or cancelled, please contact us as soon as you can.***

What happens in the church service?

In a wedding service, the vicar acts as a registrar on behalf of the local council. However, vicars can only take wedding services in a Church in Wales, or other Anglican church building. Sometimes a couple get married abroad and the vicar can later conduct a blessing of a marriage back home. Contact us for details of this.

There are variations, but a church wedding typically lasts 30 minutes:

- ♥ the bride enters the church and walks down the aisle with someone. This person often 'gives her away' and is usually her father. Bridesmaids (and flower girls and page boys) follow her.
- ♥ the best man, the groom, the bride and the person giving her away now stand at the front of the church, facing away from the congregation. The vicar begins the service.
- ♥ A hymn is sung at the start and short Bible passages are read on how Christians can think about marriage
- ♥ The couple declare their intent to marry, make their promises to each other and exchange rings
- ♥ The vicar declares the couple as husband and wife and prayers for the couple and their families are said.
- ♥ Sometimes a second hymn is sung
- ♥ The couple sign the marriage registers (the legal document which proves that you are married)
- ♥ The couple, bridesmaids, groom and close family process out through the church.
- ♥ At some point the vicar gives an encouraging message.

What words do we have to say to each other?

There are some options on the words of the church service and the vicar will discuss this with you at one of the meetings. The words of the service are on the Church in Wales website. In the wedding there are two sections where each of the couple repeat a declaration and then the vow (promise) after the vicar says them. It is the vicar's job to help you concentrate on this part of the service, since this is the most important part of your wedding day. For this reason, ***you don't have to remember the words***, just repeat them.

Can we add things that are personal to us?

Most words of the wedding ceremony cannot be altered since it is a legal service. However, you can add hymns, music to come in/out, extra readings, choose flowers and ask people to take part. You will need two people over 18 years old act as witnesses to the marriage.

What about photographers, videos and flowers?

It's up to you to arrange these: you can pay someone or get a friend/family to be involved. Whoever you use for photos, you should make sure that they chat with the vicar beforehand to decide what can be done at different parts of the service, where to stand etc.