

There are currently no legal restrictions on numbers who can attend wedding, but caution is still recommended. Your vicar will want to accommodate as many guests as possible while keeping everyone safe. Discuss this with your vicar, who can let you know what is possible for your wedding in the coming weeks and months.

Wedding rings in presentation boxes

Can my wedding go ahead?

Yes. Your vicar will want to make your wedding day beautiful and special, as well as safe for you, your guests and church staff. The church may still therefore have some restrictions in place, such as a maximum capacity for that particular church, or some social distancing measures or masks, based on a risk assessment. If you have any worries about the safety of your wedding, talking it all through together with the vicar in advance will help you understand the risks, so you know what to expect, and then agree on the best way forward for your particular wedding.

How have restrictions affected wedding banns?

Many churches have been open for normal worship during pandemic restrictions, but some have been closed. Where a church has been open, banns have continued and they are valid for three months from the date of the final reading. If your church has been closed, or has only been offering online services, then it hasn't been possible for banns to happen there.

If restrictions have caused disruption to your banns or uncertainty around their validity, your vicar can suggest alternative legal preparations depending on your wedding date.

Can my guests now sing at my wedding?

Congregational singing is now legally permitted in churches, but you will need to check with your particular church whether singing is going ahead when balanced with their own risk assessment. There are many lovely ways to incorporate music into your wedding without congregational singing if necessary, such as performer singing and recordings. Your vicar can advise on this.

If I delay my wedding until later in the year or next year, will things be better?

The picture for how the coronavirus pandemic will unfold over the coming months is still unclear, but everyone remains hopeful that things will be better in the future.

What if I do decide to cancel?

You may want to put your wedding completely on hold until things are much clearer. If you cancel a church wedding, the ceremony legal fees are fully refundable.

This prayer may be helpful as you think about your wedding plans:

Loving God,

Surround us this day with your presence;

Be with us in our disappointments and in our joys,

Help us to be wise as we think about our wedding plans.

Sustain us in our love for one another,

And hold all whom we love in your great love.

Amen.

Also in this section

A vicar preparing the legal paperwork in the vestry

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Legal requirements

A church with a square tower surrounded by blossom trees

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Finding a church



Why marry in church?

Wedding flowers with guests, the couple and the bridesmaids out of focus in the background

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When can I marry in church?

Some confetti lying in the grass

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Mixed faith marriages

Bride and groom signing the register with their son on his dad's knee

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Your children are welcome

Wedding flowers with guests, the couple and the bridesmaids out of focus in the background

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When can I marry in church?



Information for same sex couples

The interior of a church with the couple making their wedding vows

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More than a wedding venue

simple flowers in jam jars on the ends of pews

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Booking a church

A vicar laughing with a wedding couple

Image not found or type unknown

Meeting the vicar

A bride and groom being blessed by a vicar

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Seven steps to a heavenly wedding

Inside a church. A church window with a lit candelabra in front of it

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Marriage after divorce

A white wedding car stopped by a lychgate

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If you live abroad

A wedding invitation with pink heart confetti on it

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Information for foreign nationals

A bride holding her bouquet

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Special licences

A wedding ring resting on an open Bible

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Common Licences

Looking up into a church roof

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Do we need a marriage licence?

Some church flowers in focus in wider shot of church

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Superintendent Registrars Marriage Schedule

A close-up of a couple holding hands

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The cost of church weddings

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