

In the Church of England, there are three legally-approved forms of words for a marriage service.

A bride and groom join hands in front of the vicar

Most weddings use the words from [The Marriage Service from Common Worship \(2000\)](#). It is in contemporary language and offers the most flexibility in the choice of readings and prayers.

However, sometimes couples have special reasons for wanting a ceremony that uses old language, such as *thee* and *thou* instead of *you*.

A service from the [Book of Common Prayer \(1662\)](#) is also a legally approved service. There is also a slightly updated version of the 1662 service, known as [Alternative Services: Series One](#), which was used by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge for their wedding. The language is still old and traditional.

When the time comes to start choosing hymns and readings for your Order of Service, your vicar will be delighted to advise you. You may also like to try our [Ceremony Planner](#), or the book [Church of England Marriage Services by the Revd Peter Moger](#), may be helpful.

Also in this section

A traditional hymn board inside a church

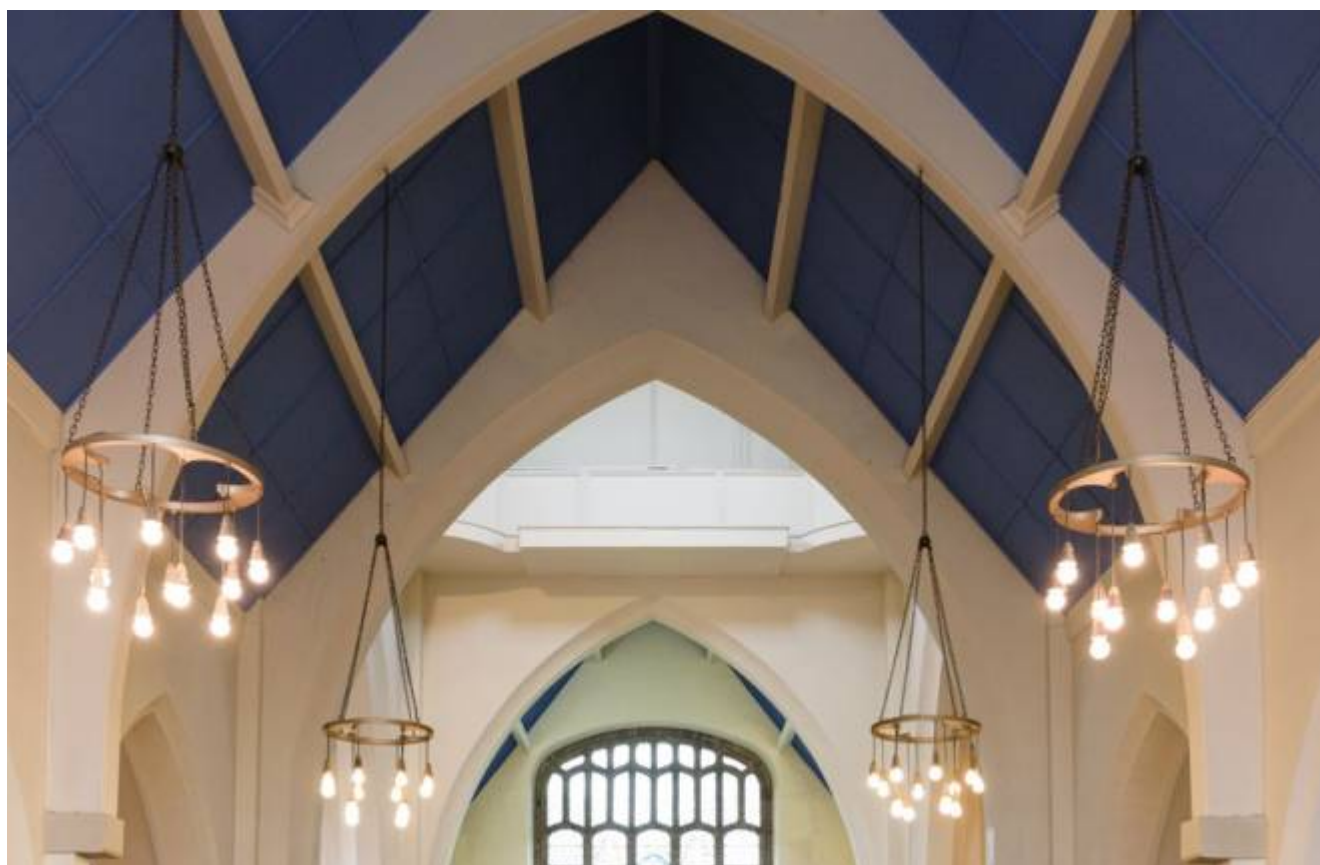
[Hymns](#)

A close up of the Bible open at 1 Corinthians 13 with a wedding ring on the text

[Bible readings](#)

Cross painted on cloth in an abstract style

[Choices for your wedding ceremony](#)



Countdown to your church wedding

Wedding decorations: a bow tied to a pew end

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Ceremony planner

A couple and the vicar at a wedding rehearsal

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The rehearsal

A wedding photographer setting up a group shot

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Professional photography

The bride and her father walk down the aisle

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Walking down the aisle

A couple in church listening to the vicar

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Reading of banns

An open book on a table

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Additional readings

A bride and groom with singers behind them

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Other music

Inside a church. A cross, a candle and some white flowers.

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Prayers

A couple standing at the front of church with guests watching on

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Wedding blessings

A couple making their wedding vows

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Wedding vows

A videographer filming a wedding in church

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Filming

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