

Congratulations on your engagement! An exciting and happy time lies ahead and there will be so much to think about. If you're wondering how to make a start on all the planning and preparations for the service, this section will guide you through the first steps.

A vicar preparing the legal paperwork in the vestry

Legal requirements

Discover the basic legal requirements of a Church of England wedding to help you start planning.

A church with a square tower surrounded by blossom trees

Finding a church

Find out how many churches you have to choose from for your weddings - there could be several.



Why marry in a church?

If you're still deciding whether to have a church wedding, here's what makes it unique and special.

A bride and groom smiling at the front of church

Can I marry in church?

A church wedding is usually straightforward, but this page explains the circumstances which may cause complications.

Some confetti lying in the grass

Mixed faith marriages

Having a different faith to your partner need not be a barrier to having a church wedding if youâd both like one. Just like all couples, the vicar will want to get to know you both and help you develop a ceremony that reflects your story.

Wedding rings in presentation boxes

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Your wedding and Covid-19

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.

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

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Your children are welcome

Whether youâve already had children together, or have children from a previous relationship, we welcome them.

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?

There are no legal restrictions on which day of the week you can have a church wedding, but some days may be better than others.



Information for same sex couples

The law prevents ministers of the Church of England from carrying out same-sex marriages. And although there are no authorised services for blessing a same-sex civil marriage, your local church can still support you with prayer.

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

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More than a wedding venue

Wherever you go in the years ahead, a local church will always be there for you with friendship and prayer. Churches can offer so much more than simply a venue for your wedding ceremony.

simple flowers in jam jars on the ends of pews

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Booking a church

There are a few things to discuss with the vicar before your wedding date can be confirmed at a church, so make contact sooner rather than later to ensure you can synchronise the date with your reception venue.

A vicar laughing with a wedding couple

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Meeting the vicar

Once you've decided to marry in church, your first contact is most likely to be the vicar, although sometimes you may speak to a church administrator first.

A bride and groom being blessed by a vicar

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Seven steps to a heavenly wedding

From your first contact with us to your first anniversary and beyond, we're here for you at every step.

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

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Marriage after divorce

Even if one or both of you are divorced, there may be a way for you to marry in church, but you will need to talk to your vicar as soon as possible.

A white wedding car stopped by a lychgate

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If you live abroad

There's a little more paperwork if your home is in a different country, even if you're British.

A wedding invitation with pink heart confetti on it

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Information for foreign nationals

If either of you is not a national of the UK or Ireland and doesn't hold Settled or Pre-Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme, having a Church of England wedding will involve some different paperwork and there will be a number of things your vicar will want to talk to you about.

A bride holding her bouquet

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Special licences

A Special Licence represents exceptional permission given by the Archbishop of Canterbury to get married in a particular place. It is relatively rare to require one.

A wedding ring resting on an open Bible

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Common Licences

It's unusual to require a Common Licence but this page explains the basic information about them if you've been advised that you need one.

Looking up into a church roof

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Do we need a marriage licence?

Most Church of England marriages will not require a licence, but in some circumstances you might need to apply for one!

Some church flowers in focus in wider shot of church

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Superintendent Registrars Marriage Schedule

Some couples will need to apply for a Superintendent Registrar's Marriage Schedule before their wedding instead of having banns. Read on for an outline of when you might need this, and what to expect when applying for one.

A close-up of a couple holding hands

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The cost of church weddings

If you choose to marry in church, it will be a day that is personal and special for you, but that need not mean you spend a fortune.

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