

YOUR CHURCH

WEDDING



Choices for your wedding ceremony

A planning guide

It's a delight and a privilege to welcome you both for your church wedding! This planning booklet will help you make some notes about all the choices you can make for your ceremony so you can discuss them with your vicar. There are some suggestions given to inspire you and space to write in your own ideas too.



THE WITNESSES

Two witnesses are legally required for your wedding. Use the boxes below to record who your two witnesses will be. You don't need to make a final decision until it's time for the wedding rehearsal.

Witness 1

Witness 2

CHOOSING MUSIC

Music will be such a big part of your ceremony. Suggestions for what works well in each part are given here in the order they happen in the service.

Bride's entrance

Music for this moment might be gentle, dramatic, emotional and touching, but always positive. The type of music you choose may depend on the size of the church and which songs or music really mean something to you both. There are some popular choices on our website here yourchurchwedding.org/other-music and you can talk to your vicar for advice about your own ideas too.

NB How the music can be played: Traditionally, music is played by an organist, and organ music suits a church's acoustics, but recorded music from a playlist is also a possibility if the church has the right facilities. You may also have your own musician(s) to play a piece. Ask your vicar about what the church can offer.

Hymns

Visit yourchurchwedding.org/hymns to listen to some popular wedding hymns and see their lyrics. It's usual to have two or three hymns, but you don't have to have any if you don't want to. You can discuss these and other music choices with your vicar when you meet.

Hymn/Song 1

Hymn/Song 2

Hymn/Song 3

Signing the marriage document

This is a moment of pause in the ceremony and music is often played while you and the two witnesses sign the marriage document. You could choose a hymn for your guests to sing, or have a piece of music played, either by a live musician, or from a playlist if the church has the facilities. Select/write your preferred hymn or piece of music here:

Leaving the church as husband and wife

There are some popular, traditional classics suggested on yourchurchwedding.org/other-music, but you can talk to your vicar if you'd like something different.

CHOOSING READINGS

You can have up to three readings in a church wedding and at least one of them must be from the Bible. Take a look at some popular Bible readings at yourchurchwedding.org/bible-readings to see if any have special meaning for you.

There may be readings from poetry or literature that you like too, or things that have been written by you, your family or your friends. Visit yourchurchwedding.org/additional-readings for some ideas and talk to the vicar for advice as well.

You can also indicate who you'd like to do your readings - make a note of their name in one or more of the boxes below.

1. Bible Reading

Read by

2. Reading

Read by

3. Reading

Read by

PLANNING THE PRAYERS

Prayers are unique to church weddings. They express what you would like to say to God on your wedding day. If you'd like to choose prayers or make prayer requests, you can record that here, or, if you'd rather talk to your vicar about the prayers and be led by their advice, simply leave this blank.


NEXT STEPS

Your next step will be to talk all of this through with your vicar. You might like to use this short prayer to ask for God's blessing on you both at this exciting and busy time:

"Loving God, please bless us as we plan our marriage. Amen"

Notes

Use this area for more notes or anything else you would like to discuss with your vicar.



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yourchurchwedding.org/hymns

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yourchurchwedding.org/other-music