



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Your Wedding at Locking Castle Church



Introduction

Weddings are wonderful times of celebration which contain some profound and moving moments as well as joy and laughter.

But your wedding is much more than that: it is a life-changing declaration of promises between the bride and groom before God, family and friends. That can be a little daunting. So we want to help. This leaflet will give you

some guidance on choosing songs, hymns, poems and Bible readings that will make your wedding feel just how you want it to be.

Why a wedding? Why a church wedding?

In a wedding you make life-long promises before witnesses, including God. It is important before you do this that you consider carefully the promises that you will make to each other. This is the first consideration. If you have not done so then we suggest you look at Appendix A where you will find a description of Christian marriage and the promises you make.

Marriage Preparation

Because of the important promises that you make and so that you give your marriage the best chance of success it is important to prepare well. Some people put all of their effort into the wedding day and forget the years of marriage ahead. It is a requirement if you choose to get married at Locking Castle that you undergo proper marriage preparation. We work with a charity called Lighthouse in Weston-super-Mare to provide every couple the chance to attend a Marriage Preparation Course. For more details of courses have a look at www.themarriagepartnership.org.uk or contact Kevin and Mandy Wood on 01934 621701.

If you do not want to do a Lighthouse course, you must find an alternative form of marriage preparation and let us know who is providing this.

Style

The second consideration is about the overall style or feel of the wedding. For example, do you want a traditional wedding or would you prefer something more contemporary in feel? Your decision on this issue will govern the colour of flowers and dresses; the readings and music that you will choose.

Common hymns for a more traditional wedding – often accompanied on the organ

- *Amazing Grace*
- *Come down O Love divine*
- *Father hear the prayer we offer*
- *Lead us heavenly Father lead us*
- *Lord of all hopefulness*
- *Love divine, all loves excelling*
- *Guide me O thou great Redeemer (bread of heaven)*
- *Praise my soul the King of heaven*
- *The king of love my shepherd is*
- *The Lord's my shepherd.*

Please feel free to choose other hymns from the books available from the church office, or have a look at <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org> where you can listen to the most popular hymn choices for Weddings.

For a more contemporary feel to the service, Locking Castle Church has musicians who can lead songs on a Guitar or Piano – if you come along to LCC on a Sunday morning you will soon get to know some of the best contemporary worship songs.

Alternatively we have facilities if you want to use a CD of songs that your family and friends know. These songs need to be checked with the Minister well in advance of the wedding.

Choosing Readings

You may have one or more readings as a part of your wedding. You must have one reading from the Bible. The following are popular Bible readings:

- ☞ 1 Corinthians Chapter 13
- ☞ John Chapter 2 Verses 1 - 11
- ☞ Ephesians Chapter 3 Verses 14 - end

- ☞ Ephesians Chapter 5 verses 21 - end
- ☞ Philippians Chapter 4 verses 4 - 9
- ☞ Colossians Chapter 3 verses 12 - 17
- ☞ 1 John Chapter 4 verses 7 – 12

Do feel free to contact us for advice about readings or for assistance navigating the Bible to find them!

Practicalities

Who can get married at Locking Castle Church?

Locking Castle Church is an Ecumenical Church and we can offer weddings under the authority of either the Church of England or the United Reformed Church.

If you choose to be married with a Church of England style service, led by Tom Yacomeni, normally he can only marry you if you live in our local 'Conventional district' (essentially the Locking Castle, Weston Village and West Wick Estates) or you have a qualifying connection with Locking Castle Church – for example if your Parents were married at the Church, or you have attended the church at least once a month for 6 months. This is because of Government rules to do with registering your marriage.

The standard 2015 Church of England fee for a wedding is £413 and £41 may also be payable for the Banns certification.

Usually we would ask you both to undertake proper marriage preparation. The Lighthouse Charity in Weston runs excellent courses and you can find out more at www.themarriagepartnership.org.uk

Normally we will announce your wedding during the 10:30 am service in the three Sundays leading up to your wedding. We call this publishing the 'Banns of Marriage'. You are very welcome to come to the service to hear your Banns being read and so that we can pray for you.

Photographs and Video

A professional photographer or friends are welcome to take photos before and at the end of the service; as you process down the aisle; and afterwards in the church or outside. No photographs should be taken during the vows: the vows that you make are very important and nothing should distract you at that important moment in your life.

Confetti

Confetti is great fun and can make a wonderful photograph! However please only throw confetti outside the church buildings and ensure it is bio-degradable.

What about children?

We love children at LCC and we hope they will feel at home. There is a selection of toys and books at the back of the church for those who would like to use them.

Order of service

Before your marriage the minister will meet with you to talk to you about what you would like to include in the service and to pray with you. He will advise you on the content of the service.

If you are having an order of service printed to give to your guests when they arrive at the church you should check the contents of this with our Administrator at least a week before you need to print them.

To get you started with your first draft it should be something like this:

- ❖ Entrance Music (name the music)
- ❖ Welcome and opening prayer
- ❖ Hymn or song (print the words)
- ❖ The Declarations

- ❖ Readings (Including a bible reading)
- ❖ The Address
- ❖ The Marriage Vows
- ❖ (If you want three hymns or songs the second will be placed
- ❖ here)
- ❖ Prayers and the Blessing
- ❖ Hymn or song (print the words)
- ❖ The general Blessing
- ❖ Signing of the Registers
- ❖ Wedding procession (name the music)

Appendix A

The explanation of marriage used in the Church of England
*In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 we have come together
 to witness the marriage of N and N,
 to pray for God's blessing on them,
 to share their joy and to celebrate their love.
 Marriage is a gift of God in creation
 through which husband and wife may know the grace of God.
 It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust,
 they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind,
 as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.
 The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together
 in the delight and tenderness of sexual union
 and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.
 It is given as the foundation of family life
 in which children are [born and] nurtured
 and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad,*

*may find strength, companionship and comfort,
and grow to maturity in love.
Marriage is a way of life made holy by God,
and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.
Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty
which all should uphold and honour.
It enriches society and strengthens community.
No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly
but reverently and responsibly in the sight of Almighty God.
N and N are now to enter this way of life.
They will each give their consent to the other
and make solemn vows,
and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring.
We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide
and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes
for the whole of their earthly life together.*

The promises the couple make to one another
*I, N , take you, N ,
to be my wife/husband,
to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.*

The meaning of the ring
*N, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,*

*and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.*

If you would like more information or would like to meet the minister or arrange a visit to the church, please contact the church office on 01934 519888 on weekday mornings.

We have good facilities at the Church for the comfort of your guests and the hall is available for hire as a reception venue. The nearby lakes provide a pleasant backdrop for photographs.

We look forward to assisting you!

For more information about Locking Castle Church please visit our website:

www.lockingcastlechurch.org

Locking Castle Church, Jasmine Way, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 7JW

☎ 01934 519888

✉ office@lockingcastlechurch.org