



Your Wedding in Church

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Congratulations

May I begin by congratulating you on your forthcoming marriage !

Christians reading the Bible find right at the beginning of the Bible, almost on page one, that God offers marriage as a gift to men and women as part of his creation. We therefore firmly believe that marriage is good for you and for society. Although it takes hard work on both sides, there's plenty of evidence to show that marriage sets a solid foundation for love and companionship to continue to grow and flourish.

A Church Wedding

A church wedding will add a spiritual dimension to your marriage. It's a ceremony that bonds you together, not just in front of your family and friends, but in the eyes of God as well. It's not simply the beauty of the church building, but the fact that God Himself welcomes you and would see you draw closer to Him.

So if I am able to help you, then I would love to do so. I am committed to doing the best I can for couples getting married here. I try to make every wedding service special; involving each bride and groom in making choices about their service. But a church wedding is not just about the big day itself - a wedding day is just *Day One* of the life-long adventure that is marriage. So, in preparation for marriage, we offer time and space to couples to reflect on marriage and the vows made in the marriage service. We also invite couples to share in our regular worship seeking to honour God in all things, including marriage. We aim to be here for you - not just on your wedding day but in the months and years to come.

The Parish of Rushen has four churches: Kirk Christ (the Parish Church), St. Catherine's Church (Port Erin), St. Mary's Church (Port St. Mary), and St. Peter's Church (Cregneish). Why not look around them before making your decision as to where to get married ?

The information in this short booklet has been put together over a number of years based upon questions that couples have asked as they have approached their wedding day. I hope and pray that it will be useful to you as you plan for your big day and your shared lives together.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe". The letter "J" is large and loops around the "o", and the "e" is written in a simple, cursive style.

Rev. Joe Heaton

Getting Married in Church

Marriage by Banns

The publication (reading) of your Banns of Marriage gives the wider public the opportunity to make a legal objection to the marriage. Banns state the full names of the bride and groom and the parish (or parishes) in which you are resident. In this Parish, we read the Banns on three Sundays approximately eight weeks before your wedding day. This is done at the service of the church where the wedding is to take place (and the Parish Church if the wedding isn't at the Parish Church).

If either of you lives outside the Parish of Rushen, you will need to ask your local Vicar to read your Banns at their parish church as well. After they have been read three times at that parish, you will receive a Banns certificate (signed by the Vicar), stating the dates on which the Banns were read. A charge will be levied by that Vicar for the reading of the banns and the certificate.

The Banns Certificate from the other Parish must be seen by whoever is conducting your wedding. If you haven't given it to the Vicar beforehand, **please bring the Banns Certificate to the wedding rehearsal.**

If you live in the Parish of Rushen, you are able to get married at any of the churches in the Parish. If you do not live in the Parish, then you can still get married here but you must either attend church regularly for a minimum of six months (so that you can be entered onto the Church electoral roll); alternatively it may be possible to get married by a Special Licence (see below).

Special Licence

If you are unable to be married by Banns of Marriage (e.g. you do not live in the Parish, and are unable to regularly attend Sunday Worship) it may be possible to be married by Special Licence. To be married by Special Licence you have to have a connection with the Parish. For example,

- the bride or groom must have resided (or have regularly attended church) in the Parish for at least 6 months (12 months if it was ten or more years ago);
- a bride or groom's parent must have resided (or have regularly attended church) in the Parish for at least 6 months (12 months if it was ten or more years ago);

The Vicar will be able to provide further information on this should it be necessary.

Marriage in Church after Divorce

If either of you have been married before and have a spouse who is still alive, then it may be possible to conduct your marriage in the Parish of Rushen. However in line with the Church of England's national policy on marriage after divorce we ask you, in the first instance, to make an appointment to see the Vicar. It is a legal requirement that I must see a certified copy of the decree absolute(s).

To Book your Wedding Day

If you are able to be married in the Parish of Rushen, then we will ask you to complete a Wedding Application (downloadable from our website); alternatively contact the Vicar by email or by phone. Please do not assume that your wedding is booked until you have received due notification.

The Wedding Service

The Order of Service

As a couple you will need to prepare a Wedding Order of Service to give to your guests as they arrive at the church. What will be in the service will be decided in discussion with the Vicar, but the running order is given below. Items with a ✓ next to them indicate that you are able to choose (e.g. the Entrance Music), whilst a ✗ next to an item indicates that it must be in the service (e.g. Marriage Vows).

1. ✓ Entrance Music *(Organ Music)¹*
2. ✗ Welcome and Prayer
3. ✓ Hymn *(if there is more than one hymn)*
4. ✗ Introduction
5. ✗ Declarations
6. ✓ Bible Reading and Address
7. ✗ Marriage Vows
8. ✗ Giving of Rings
9. ✗ Proclamation and Blessing
10. ✓ Hymn *(if three hymns are desired)*
11. ✗ Signing of the Registers *(Organ)*
12. ✗ Prayers
13. ✓ Hymn *(if there are two or more hymns)*
14. ✗ Blessing
15. ✓ Departure *(Organ Music)¹*

Similarly, if there are any extra items they may also be accommodated on the same basis (at the discretion of the Vicar). When the Service is a Wedding Blessing (e.g. the marriage has been place in a in a Civil Registry but a Service of blessing occurs in church) the Order of Service will differ from that given above. For example, there will be the *Declarations* and *Signing of the Registers* are omitted.

¹ Live music (i.e. the organ) is preferable to recorded music, as the organist is aware of the proceedings and can tailor the music accordingly.

It is advisable, prior to printing, to send a draft copy to the Vicar to ensure that the order of service is correct. The wedding service should be prepared 4 to 6 weeks before the wedding day. When putting together the Order of Service it is advised that you

- do not make the font size too small,
(e.g. This is text may be too small to read, particularly if someone has forgotten their reading glasses)
- do not use a highly scriptive font or use all capitals
(e.g. *This text can be difficult to read.*, AND THIS IS TOO.)

The Vicar will be able to provide you with Orders of Service from past weddings so that you can see how other couples have prepared their wedding booklets.

Music and Hymns

It is never too early to think about the music that will be played and the hymns that will be sung at your marriage service. To assist you with your choice, a selection of popular weddings hymns can be downloaded from the Parish website. The Vicar will be more than happy to assist in your choice. Additionally, the Church of England has a website (www.yourchurchwedding.org) that has a selection of hymns that can be listened to.

You should contact the organist approximately 10 to 12 weeks before your wedding day to arrange to meet with him at the church where you will be married (his contact details are at the beginning of this booklet). When you meet with him he can play many pieces so that you can choose which music you would like to have at your wedding (e.g. walking down the aisle, signing the registers, etc.). Don't feel that you have to make the choice before meeting with him, he can help you choose the right music for your wedding.

Choir

The Parish of Rushen has a choir that can be booked for the wedding service (there is an additional charge for this). The choir will provide a strong lead to the singing of the hymns. If you decide to have a choir, please could you produce ten copies of the Order of the Service for them. Thank you.

Readings

During the wedding service, a passage from the Bible will be read out. To assist you with your choice, a selection of Bible readings suitable for weddings can be downloaded from the Parish website. Why not ask a wedding guest to read the Bible passage ? (The Vicar, though, will more than happy to read the passage should a willing guest not be found).

Poems may be read during the service. These should be sent to the Vicar in advance to ensure that they are appropriate for a Christian wedding service.

Wedding Vows

During your wedding service, you will both say to each other your wedding vows. These are a sign of commitment that you making to one another. (You do not need to learn them as the Vicar will say each line for you to repeat). Please do read through them and talk about them prior to your wedding so that they are more than just words.

The Groom will say to his Bride

I, N, take you, N,
to be my wife,
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 Bride will say to her Groom

I, N, take you, N,
to be my 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.

Signing the Wedding Registers

At your marriage service three sets of marriage registers and your marriage certificate will be signed. **The bride should sign in her maiden name.** Two witnesses will be required to sign as well as the bride and groom.

Other Matters to Consider

Confetti

We ask that your guests refrain from throwing confetti inside the church or church grounds. It can be upsetting for visitors to the churchyard to find confetti on the grave of their loved ones. Feel free to throw confetti outside the church grounds, but kindly refrain from throwing foil-confetti (best reserved for table decorations).

Photography and Video Recording

Your photographer is welcome to take pictures in the church. **We do, however, ask photographers to be discreet and to record the ceremony without the use of a flash.** Usually this includes general pictures from the back of the church, signing of the registers and of the procession down the aisle after the marriage service.

There is no objection to you including the marriage service as part of your wedding video. You should be aware of copyright legislation regarding the recording of events such as weddings. The recording of the wedding will include music and performers all of which are subject to copyright law and it may therefore be worth consulting the company making the video recording about this in order not to infringe copyright law.

So, if you wish anyone to video the wedding service we ask that you sign a statement that 'indemnifies' the Rushen Parochial Church Council against the cost of any litigation arising from any breach of copyright or similar rules, as a result of the video recording.

Flowers in Church

When considering flowers in the church for the wedding, please speak to the Vicar. He will be able to advise you what flowers there may be already in the church on your wedding day, depending on the church's season.

When placing flowers in church, please be aware that our churches are ancient buildings and therefore it is forbidden to:

- attach adhesive tape, pins or staples to any woodwork as this will cause damage when removed.
- place flowers on the pianos or organ consoles.

Please do clear up immediately any water spillages. (Thank you)

Car Parking and Toilets

At the Parish Church there is a car park for approximately 30 cars (but no coaches in the car park, please). There is also on-street parking at each of our churches. However, it may be advisable to inform ushers that they may need to reserve space for wedding cars.

At each of the churches there are toilets available either in the church or at the nearby church hall. These will be made available during the wedding service.

Travelling abroad after your marriage ?

Should you be travelling abroad immediately following your wedding, your attention is drawn to the Isle of Man Government website regarding amending a passport if you are changing your name due to marriage. Go to www.gov.im and Search for 'marriage passport'

Wedding Fees

The wedding fees are set nationally and are reviewed at the beginning of each year. The wedding fees for 2026 are outlined below:

Type of Fees	Total
Certificate of banns (if required)	£36.00
Common Licence	£130.00
Special Licence	£322.00
<i>and</i>	
Marriage Service	£490.00
Marriage Certificate	£13.00
Service after a civil marriage	£180.00
Renewal of Marriage Vows	£160.00
<i>also</i>	
Verger	£35.00
Organist	£120.00
<i>Optional Items:</i>	
Choir	£75.00
Heating of Church (1 Oct – 31 May)	£70.00

For a couple marrying by banns (assuming that both are resident in the parish) then the basic fee for the wedding comprises

Marriage Service	£490.00
Marriage Certificate	£13.00
Verger	£35.00
Organist	£120.00
Total	£658.00

A letter detailing the individual items for your wedding will be sent to you approximately eight weeks before your wedding day. Please ensure that payment is made four weeks prior to your wedding day. Please make cheques payable to *Rushen PCC*.

Wedding Rehearsal

The minister conducting the marriage service will want to have a rehearsal a few days before the wedding day. They will walk through the service with you, feel free to ask any questions. Please feel free to invite family and any person taking part in the service.

Marriage Preparation Day

Each year the Anglican churches in the South of the Island put on a Marriage Preparation Day. This is an informal and informative time when you will meet other couples also looking forward to being married in Church in the coming months. A light lunch will be provided.

Finding our Churches

Each church has its own What3Words address, please feel free to include these in your wedding invitations so your guests know where to find us.

Kirk Christ - [///wraparound.shepherd.love](https://www.wraparound.shepherd.love)

St Catherine's - [///family.necessary.included](https://www.family.necessary.included)

St Mary's - [///congregation.slowly.enhanced](https://www.congregation.slowly.enhanced)

St Peters - [///crowning.makeovers.hamper](https://www.crowning.makeovers.hamper)

Countdown to your Wedding Day

The times are for guidance only.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 12 months before | Book your wedding with the Vicar.
Initial meeting with the Vicar.
Begin to attend church – it will become a very significant place for you both, and you will receive a warm welcome ! |
| 4 months before | Finalise your wedding plans with the Vicar. |
| 3 months before | Send draft Order of Service to Vicar for approval.
Meet with the Organist to arrange music. |
| 8 weeks before | Attend Church to listen to your Banns being read. |
| 4 weeks before | Send full payment of the wedding fees. |
| 2-3 days before | Attend Wedding Rehearsal at the Church |
| On the day | The groom should be at the church at least 30 minutes before the start of the wedding so that he can welcome guests. |

Closing Remarks

We shall endeavour to make the occasion of your marriage a joyful, happy and memorable occasion for you, your families and friends.

Do not hesitate to get in touch with any of us mentioned in this booklet if you have thoughts or queries about your wedding day. Frequently asked questions can be found on our website (www.rushenparish.org.uk).

And finally, why not Like us on Facebook  (Rushen Parish) to keep up with events in and around the Parish and, by doing so, make a stronger connection with the people and the place where you'll be married.

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Church Services on a Sunday

Kirk Christ

9.30am Morning Worship

St. Catherine's

11am Morning Worship

St. Mary's

11am Morning Worship

St. Peter's

3.15pm BCP Evening Worship

Messy Church

On the 3rd Saturday of each month *Messy Church* meets at St. Catherine's Church Hall at 3.30pm. An occasion for all the family (further details on our website).



Church Hall

St. Catherine's Hall is available for hire for Parties, Social Events, Meetings, Wedding Receptions, etc.

Contact Gerry (474924) for details.

What3Words: [///access.nicest.enlightening](http://access.nicest.enlightening)