

Planning your Special Day

The Wedding Timetable

First Steps

The first thing you will plan for your wedding is the budget. Talk between yourselves and your respective parents about the kind of service you would like. You will find that your parents will be of enormous help to you in discussing the budget. On your very special day you will want the best of everything, so plan carefully the style and tone of the day.

When you have decided, visit your Vicar/Priest or Registrar and make arrangements for your marriage ceremony. They will be of great help to you both, and explain everything you will need to know about walking up the aisle and saying 'I do'. If you wish, a rehearsal can be arranged to set your minds at ease and to assure you that it will all be perfect on your wedding day. Take this opportunity to apply for a marriage licence if necessary.

Now might also be the ideal time to decide on who you will ask to be 'Chief Bridesmaid' and 'Best Man'.

Other important things to be arranged now are as follows:

1. Book the photographer and videographer
2. Book the transport
3. Book the toastmaster if required
4. Decide on the number of guests and make a list
5. Order the invitations
6. Book the honeymoon and apply for passports
7. Decide on the bridesmaids and ushers
8. Order the wedding cake

You have now put in place an excellent framework for the build up to your big day. Hopefully, you now have a team of professionals all working towards making sure it is a day to remember, and for all the right reasons.

The Wedding Countdown

18-12 Months

Once you have decided the date and place of your wedding, it is important to remember the following points. In descending order your family and friends will generally remember the following:

1. How beautiful the bride looked.
2. How wonderful the ceremony was.
3. The reception.

Think about it. Now is certainly the time to be choosing carefully both your wedding dress and your reception venue.

6 Months

Time for some fun! Lets organise a wedding present list. (Don't forget that a lot of stores will now help you with this.) Having already organised your dress you will probably have a colour scheme in mind for the bridesmaids' dresses. Now is the time to be co-ordinating these as well.

Once the colour scheme is decided it is probably time to start ordering the flowers for bouquets, church, and reception if required.

Other items to arrange now are:

1. Hire of the suits for the bridegroom, best man, fathers and ushers.
2. Initial fitting of the dress.
3. Choosing the wedding rings.

While you're on the phone, now might be the ideal time to organise appointments with your hairdresser and beauty salon, to make sure you look at your most beautiful on the big day.