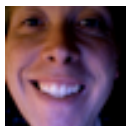


Your wedding in burry port



THE vicarage
Cae ffwrnes
Burry port
CARMARTHENSHIRE
Sa16 0FW

From the vicar...

Many congratulations on your engagement! We are delighted that you have chosen to 'tie the knot' and be married at the Parish Church in Burry Port. We look forward to working with you and helping you in every way we can to make your wedding day as enjoyable and as memorable as possible.

In order to make the process of preparation as thorough, manageable and relaxed as possible, I usually like to meet couples on three separate occasions before the day of the wedding itself. These meetings usually take place on a Wednesday evening either at the church or the vicarage. If you have not done so already, please contact me by phone or e-mail to arrange the first meeting.

This leaflet outlines the procedure as you begin to arrange your big day and answers some common questions asked about marriage and the law. Although there are some standard procedures that we have to observe, it is important to remember that, like you, your wedding will be unique and the service should reflect that.

I look forward to meeting you.

With every blessing

R Paul Davies

R Paul Davies
☎ 01554 832936
✉ pllldavies@btinternet.com

meeting 1: Admin & the law

In the first meeting, at the time of arranging the wedding (either in church or at the vicarage), the priest will help you with the following:

a) *Completion of the Application Form*

The priest will require the following information: Full names; dates of birth; full addresses with postcodes; occupations; father's full names; father's occupations. It is enormously helpful if you can collect this material together for the first meeting.

b) *Ensuring your Eligibility to be Married.*

According to law, you may not be married if:

- i) You are already married
 - ii) You are closer in relation than 1st cousin
- Furthermore, one of you must reside in the parish for at least 15 days before the wedding to be entitled to be married in the parish church.

The Church in Wales allows the remarriage of divorcees in church as part of its understanding of new life as a grace and gift of God. It is, however, essential for the priest to see the actual decree absolute. Please bring it to the meeting.

c) *Arranging Date, Time & Place.*

We try to do our best to accommodate with the date and time of your choice but, in a busy parish church, this may not always be possible. Holy Trinity, Pwll is also licensed for weddings

d) *Banns of Marriage*

The priest will discuss the publication of banns of marriage with you at this meeting.



meeting 2: THE WEDDING SERVICE

The second meeting (at least 3 months before the wedding) will be to help you put together your service. The service contains four sections:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Ministry of the Word (Readings)
- 3) Marriage Ceremony
- 4) Prayers
- 5) Optional Holy Communion

In thinking through your service, you will need to consider the following:

a) *Those you'd like to involve.*

e.g. best man, bridesmaids, ushers, readers, ring bearers, witnesses (you must appoint two witnesses - who must both be over 18 years of age)

b) *Music you would like to have*

It is completely up to you whether you have music/hymns etc. The organist (phone number overleaf) can advise and help you with this.

Traditionally, very many couples choose to have *Wagners Bridal March* for the entry of the bride and *Mendelsohn's Wedding March* to leave to. There are usually two hymns. Popular choices:

Morning has broken
Love divine, all loves excelling
All things bright and beautiful
Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
Guide me O thou great redeemer.
Calon Lan

c) *Other options*

- *The church choir are sometimes available
- *You may decorate the church with flowers (no nails or drawing pins permitted at all)
- *Church bells may be rung - there is a fine peal of five bells in St Mary's.
- *Photographs may be taken but not during the ceremony itself.

meeting 3: THE REhearsal

The rehearsal usually takes place approximately two nights before the wedding in church at a time arranged between you and the officiating priest. It lasts about half an hour and usually involves:

- Bride and Groom
- Best Man and Bridesmaids
- Page Boys and Ring Bearers
- Ushers and Readers
- Parents
- Any one else taking part in service



WEDDING FEES

Fees tend to go up with inflation each year but current fees are as follows:

Statutory Marriage Fees	
Publication of Banns	£22.00
Marriage Fee	£260.00
Total	£282.00

Additional Church Fees	
Organist	£48.00
Ringling of Church Bells	£50.00
Cleaning of Church	£30.00
Church Choir	£50.00

We do not ask for any deposits but fees must, by law, be paid before the wedding takes place. It is most sensible that you bring payment to the rehearsal. Money goes through the church account and therefore cheques should be made payable to *Burry Port Parish Church* (or if you are being married in Pwll to *Holy Trinity Church, Pwll*)

Your own Marriage Preparation

Getting married is one of the biggest decisions that you will make in your life. It is SO important that you don't let your organisation of the day push to one side the real preparation. It is SO important that you talk through expectations and issues concerning your marriage: why are you choosing marriage (you could just live/go on living together)? Why marriage in church – what difference will it make? How will your role and status change – from single to married? Talk about issues such as a family, organising finance, commitment – is it really 'till death us do part'? Communication is vital to a healthy marriage and the sooner you discuss difficult issues the better. The clergy can advise you of books that are worth reading together.



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USEFUL CONTACTS

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Organist: Roland Jones ☎ 834213

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Your Wedding



in St Mary's

The Parish Church
Of Burry Port