

The Ceremony

You will need to make a few **choices** about the service including songs and readings. In a church wedding there must be a Bible reading, but it is possible to have another suitable reading or poem. Some of the words of the marriage service are compulsory for it to be a legal wedding including the vows
<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/wedding-vows>

Some of the key choices are laid out below for your consideration. I will discuss some of these with you when we meet. The full range is available on the Church of England website.

There are examples on the Church of England website to help you choose a Bible reading and hymns. You don't have to stick with these you may have something else that is a favourite, but it will help you to think through which you would like. Please take some time to discuss before we meet and have some ideas, don't worry we can also help you with these.

Music

If you require music played you must supply a copy. If you need the organist to play something specific, four weeks' notice and a copy of the music must be given. This or a quick search on a music streaming service might help you with choices <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/hymns-your-wedding>

Music to choose: Entrance and Exit, Hymns - usually 2 or three hymns
Music during the signing of the marriage document

Are you having an organist or other musicians ?

Readings

You need to have at least one Bible reading in a church wedding (, the website gives you some options to think about. <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/bible-readings-your-wedding>. You may have second Bible reading or a suitable poem (clergy to approve) . The priest, friend or relative can do the readings.

Entrance order

English version	American style
Bride first with Bridesmaid(s) behind <i>everyone is in the right order to be seated</i> <i>And to sort back of bride's dress and veil</i>	Bridesmaids before the bride <i>needs more careful choreography</i>

(NOTE: Children under the age of 4 can be very phased walking into church with the bride. From experience, we advise they come into church earlier with an accompanying adult and pose on the photographs afterwards as appropriate. If young children are part of the procession, please ensure someone is responsible for them during the service.)

Bringing to Marriage

This is optional

Traditional version	Contemporary Version
<p><i>Minister: Who brings this woman to be married to this man?</i></p> <p><i>Bride's father / relative: I do</i></p> <p>The bride's father/relative passes the Bride's right hand to the minister who passes it to the Groom. The Father then goes to his seat.</p>	<p><i>Minister asks parents to stand (brides or both)</i></p> <p>Who brings Bride to be married to Groom?</p> <p>"I do" or "Her mother and I do" or "Her family and I do" or (in unison) "We do." <i>Or</i></p> <p>Who brings Bride and Groom to be married to each other?</p> <p>Parent(s) of the bride and Groom: "We do."</p>

The Lord's Prayer

Modern version	Traditional words
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 for ever. Amen.	Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.