



# Christ Church

Avenue de l'Eglise Anglaise 1, CP 70, 1000 Lausanne 6, Switzerland

## WEDDINGS

Christ Church, Lausanne, is part of the Church of England. It is located in the Diocese in Europe which comes under the Province of Canterbury. The Church of England itself is a member of a wider family of churches which includes Anglicans and Episcopalians around the world. The services and practices at Christ Church reflect that tradition.

Any church in any country must comply with the law of the land and this can affect the conduct of a wedding service. Marriage in Switzerland is governed by local civil law (the National and Cantonal Laws of Switzerland). These laws differ from those in other countries. Consequently the celebration of a wedding here differs from comparable events you have attended in the UK or other parts of the world, as you will see from the following :

- ! In Switzerland a Church wedding on its own has no legal status.
- ! Before the service in Christ Church (or elsewhere) can take place, you must first have been through a civil ceremony of marriage and be able to provide evidence that you have done so. In the UK this would be known as a Registry Office wedding.
- ! In the Church service we ask for God's blessing on the marriage you have already made in the eyes of the state. The wording of the service may differ slightly from that of a wedding service elsewhere, e.g., in the UK. However, the intention to celebrate the start of a married life together with God's blessing is exactly the same.
- ! Under the discipline of the Church of England Diocese in Europe, at least one of the partners should be baptised in the Christian faith, though not necessarily as Anglican.
- ! If either of the couple is a member of another Church, s/he is encouraged to speak with her/his own priest or minister. It may be necessary or advisable to obtain a dispensation to ensure that the validity of the Anglican service is recognised by the other Church. A priest or minister of the other Church may be invited to assist at the service.
- ! If either of the couple is a member of another religion, s/he is encouraged to speak with a leader of her/his religion. It is possible to arrange for clergy of other religions to assist at the service.
- ! The blessing of a marriage where one (or both) of the partners has been divorced and has a partner still living, can take place at the discretion of the Chaplain.

### Talk to the Chaplain

Before going too far with your wedding plans, you will need to make sure that the Chaplain and, possibly, the church are available. So, **first ask the chaplain if the date and the time you want is possible**. The Chaplain will usually be able to confirm the date within twenty-four hours and will then expect you to make an appointment as soon as possible afterwards so that the formalities can get started.

As part of your marriage preparation, you will both be asked to meet the Chaplain to discuss the Church's understanding of marriage, and practical issues connected with the celebration itself. There is opportunity to rehearse the ceremony.

It is possible to have parts of the service (readings, prayers or hymns) in different languages, to allow participation in the ceremony by all your guests.

## What does it cost ?

Christ Church, Lausanne' s only source of financial support is the generosity of those who share in its worship, and those who ask for the ministry of its Chaplain for the special occasions in their lives. Fees reflect the costs that must be covered by the Church in order to maintain its chaplain and building for the service of the English speaking community in the region. The appropriate fees must be paid in advance, at the latest the week before the service.

The charges are as follows :

*Minister' s fees at Christ Church	CHF 350.-- / CHF 500.--
*Minister' s fees at any other church	CHF 400.-- + travel costs
*Voluntary contribution towards maintenance of Christ Church (this includes cleaning, garden upkeep, organ maintenance and tuning)	CHF 350.-- / CHF 500.--
Organist	CHF 350.-- / CHF 500.--
Permission to Video the service	CHF 100.--

\*These fees are paid to the Church in recompense for the chaplain' s time. They are not retained by the chaplain.

The additional costs of "special" music, flowers and other decorations, photographers, videographers etc., are the sole responsibility of the wedding party. In the case of a Saturday wedding you may like to leave a floral decoration for the service the following day. We discourage confetti, rice, flower petals, etc. inside the church or the church garden.

## Photographs / video recordings

Please be sure to consult the Chaplain about any arrangements you wish to make with regard to photographers, and especially if you would like the ceremony to be recorded on video. It is essential that all photography be kept very discreet so as not to become intrusive. We ask you to make this clear to professionals and your guests, so as to ensure a happy and harmonious occasion.

Lausanne, September 2010