



Christ Church

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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, called the Anglican Communion, 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 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 (Civil Marriage certificate) 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. 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 to 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.
- Likewise if either of the couple is a member of another religion, s/he is encouraged to speak to a leader of her/his religion. It is possible to arrange for clergy of other religions to assist at the service.

Priest -in-Charge: Rev'd Christine Bloomfield
Treasurer: Rosemary Raedler Hacking, Chemin du Caudoz 33, 1009 Pully. Tel: 021 323 5284 Email: r.raedler@bluewin.ch

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- The blessing of a marriage where one (or both) of the partners has been divorced and has an ex-spouse still living, can take place at the discretion of the Chaplain and with the permission of the Diocesan Bishop.

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 for a series of sessions which aim to cover the following important issues:

- **Understanding of the beliefs** which underlie the celebration of marriage in the Christian tradition, and the spiritual preparation for the event itself.
- **Practical arrangements** about the details of the order of service, such as music, hymns, choir, readings, prayers, and the participation of other clergy.
- Preparation of an **order of service**.

If you live too far away from Christ Church to engage in marriage preparation in Lausanne, you will be asked to approach a minister in your vicinity, and ask if he or she is prepared to help you with marriage preparation.

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

In the week before the service, the couple to be married usually rehearses the ceremony in church, together with any others who will be taking part.

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. They are in line with the charges specified by the Church of England. The appropriate fees must be paid in advance, at the latest the week before the service.

The charges are as follows :

For a ceremony at Christ Church, Lausanne

*Fees for the ceremony	CHF 675.-
Organist (depending on the preparation required) between	CHF 150.- and CHF 350.-
Permission to Video the service	CHF 100.-
*Voluntary contribution towards maintenance of Christ Church	between CHF 350.- and CHF 500.-

(this includes cleaning, garden upkeep, organ maintenance and tuning)

The additional costs of “special” music, flowers and other decorations, photographers, videographers etc., are the sole responsibility of the wedding party. We always ask in the case of a Saturday wedding that if at all possible, your altar flowers might remain for the following Sunday’s service.

Biodegradable confetti may be used in the gardens of the church.

For a ceremony at a church or chapel elsewhere

Fees for the ceremony	CHF 675.—
Chaplain’s travel and other expenses	as incurred

Please note that the other church or chapel may well have fees for the use of the building, for the organist or other staff, and other charges. Do check with the church concerned.

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 these do not interfere with the conduct of the service.

During the ceremony we strongly prefer that photography be kept discreet, with just a professional stills photographer and one video (if appropriate). Professional photographers understandably like to capture every moment and take as many pictures as possible which can sometimes become intrusive. We ask you to make this clear to professionals and your guests so that there isn't distraction during the service and ensure a happy and harmonious occasion.

Lausanne, September 2018

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