

JESUS HOUSE FOR ALL THE NATIONS

GUIDELINES FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

YOU'RE ENGAGED!!! GREAT SO WHAT NEXT?

It's one of the most important days of your life, the day you tie the knot and become husband and wife. In the midst of all the planning thinking about cakes, reception venues, gowns and families and having a perfect day, it is all too easy to forget that though these individual aspects are very important, a Marriage starts with the marriage ceremony.

Tight Knots, the Jesus House Marriage Ministry, is committed to ensuring that your marriage ceremony is both memorable and enjoyable. As the ceremony is the most important aspect of the day, we have prepared these guidelines for your use to help you understand how weddings are coordinated here at Jesus House.

NOTIFYING THE CHURCH OF YOUR INTENTION TO MARRY (SOLEMNIZATION) OR HAVE A CHURCH BLESSING (RENEWAL OF VOWS).

- ➡ The first step in getting married at Jesus House is to notify the Church officially. A formal notification is required by the church, at least **nine months** prior to the intended wedding date. Please call the Church Office on 02084388285 to speak to a member of the Tightknots Team or email tightknots@jesushouse.org.uk.
- ➡ Once the formal notification is received, a Marriage Notification Form is sent to the couple by the Tightknots Team to complete. Upon receipt of the completed forms, an appointment is booked for the couple to see Bode & Kemi Olutunbi (Pastors, Tightknots Marriage Ministry).
- ➡ A couple already married by civil intending to have their union blessed by the church also need to notify the church at least **nine months** prior to the intended ceremony date and will follow the same steps as above.
- ➡ Once the above process has been completed and all is in order, the wedding/blessing date is confirmed and noted in the Church diary. The couple are registered for marriage preparation classes, 2BECOME1 premarital classes. (At Jesus House, it is a prerequisite that the couple getting married undertake premarital classes prior to the wedding ceremony date).
- ➡ The couple are introduced to the Wedding Liaison team (WLT) within Tightknots. They are responsible for guiding couples through the entire process leading on to their wedding day, offering help and advice as required.

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PRE-MARITAL CLASSES, 2BECOME1.

The premarital classes are designed to be fun and interactive, equipping couples with godly principles and time-tested tools that will enable them to build a solid foundation for a marriage that is fulfilling and honouring to God.

- Premarital classes run in semesters of nine weeks for courting/engaged couples usually on Fridays from 7pm - 9.30pm. These classes are a prerequisite for couples intending to be married by Jesus House Ministers. Registration is required prior to the start of the classes.
- We also recommend that those getting married abroad or in another church come along to the classes as the classes will help prepare for marriage.
- The classes are also suitable for those who are already married, who did not attend marriage preparation classes.
- Each couple is required to attend a minimum of seven out of the nine classes and also complete FOCCUS, a specially designed marriage preparation tool as part of the 2BECOME1 course. A Certificate of Attendance will be given at the end of the classes to all couples who have completed the required number of classes and FOCCUS. References are also available if required should you be getting married in another church.

WEDDING PLANNING.

- The Wedding Liaison Team (WLT) will help with preparations for the marriage ceremony and will ensure that all the relevant Church departments are notified on your behalf. WLT will review your wedding ceremony documents including Order of Service, organise rehearsals etc.
- When setting the venue, date and time of wedding, please ensure availability of the Church premises and Ministers to officiate at the ceremony. It is important to check and confirm these details before making any bookings for your wedding.
- A copy of a sample order of service can be obtained from the WLT.
- The marriage vows to be used are contained in the sample order of service. This is the approved format to be used by couples getting married at Jesus House.
- Jesus House is an Approved Building under Barnet Council and is therefore licensed to conduct marriage ceremonies. If the couple wish to get married at Jesus House, they are required to give their Notice of Marriage to their Local Authority but specify that they intend to get married in Jesus House, in Barnet.

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- ➡ Two white bibles are required to be exchanged by the couple in addition to or in place of the rings used traditionally as tokens of marriage.
- ➡ Decorations for the worship centre including flowers and aisle runners are allowed and can be arranged by the couple.
- ➡ **PLEASE NOTE** The bride's wedding dress and the bridal train's dresses need to reflect Christian values including modesty and sobriety.

CHURCH BLESSING (RENEWAL OF VOWS).

- ➡ Marriage Blessing if requested can be conducted for couples who have already had a civil ceremony and are living together. You need to notify the church at least **nine months** prior to the intended ceremony date.
- ➡ In the order of service, the joining and exchange of vows will be replaced by a reaffirmation of vows and a blessing of the union.

CHOIR

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1. The WLT Team will liaise with the choir on behalf of the couple to ensure that all the requirements are met.
 2. Each wedding ceremony is supported by a worship leader, instrumentalists and back-up singers.
 3. The choir uses the information provided by the couple to ensure the ministration is tailored to the needs of the audience attending the wedding ceremony.
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MULTIMEDIA

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1. The WLT Team will liaise with the multimedia team on behalf of the couple to ensure that all the requirements are met.
 2. Each wedding ceremony is supported by the multimedia team, any music to be used for the bridal march should be emailed or given to the WLT on the rehearsal day for the multimedia team.
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USHERING

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1. The WLT Team will liaise with the ushering team on behalf of the couple to ensure that all the necessary arrangements are in place for the day.
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