



ART BY DESIGN PHOTOGRAPHY



A PHOTOGRAPHERS GUIDE TO WEDDINGS

www.artbydesignphotography.co.uk



HELLO, AM I
THE PHOTOGRAPHER
FOR YOU



AS YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER, I OBSERVE,
LISTEN AND CAPTURE MOMENTS
WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU

I WANT TO BE THERE AS YOUR
FRIEND AND AS YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER.
MAKING SURE YOU HAVE THE BEST
EXPERIENCE IN FRONT OF THE
CAMERA.

IF YOU ARE AFTER A FUN,
PROFESSIONAL, SUPPORTIVE
PHOTOGRAPHER, THEN I MAY BE THE
PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YOU.



@artbydesignphotography

I have been a photographer for over 20 years and photographed hundreds of weddings and witnessed the stress and happiness of a wedding day.

This guide is not about table plans, flower choices, food etc. It is helpful advice from a photographer's point of view.

It will guide you through the planning stages and help with what to look for when choosing your wedding venue, advice on wedding attire, help with timings for your day, how to choose your photographer etc

Your wedding day, your way.

Steve

WHERE TO BEGIN





PLANNING

Where it all begins

Your wedding is a one-time event and you want to ensure that you have a day you will always remember. There are plenty of detailed timelines for you to follow but this is an overview of the top things to get booked in and by when. Communication is key in every part of the planning stage, always keep everyone updated.

10 - 18 months Before

Choose your date and book your venue
Book your photographer
Book your videographer

9 - 6 months Before

Purchase your dress
Book your florist
Order your cake
Book your entertainment
Reserve Hair & Make Up
Book other wedding vendors

4 - 5 months Before

Confirm timeline and details with your Photographer and other vendors
Dont' Panic



THE RIGHT VENUE

THE TYPE OF WEDDING VENUE YOU CHOOSE WILL
HELP YOU DECIDE ON THE VIBE AND THEME

The Venue

When it comes to choosing your wedding venue, it can be difficult to narrow down the breadth of options. Before starting your venue search I recommend sitting down with your partner and answer the following questions:

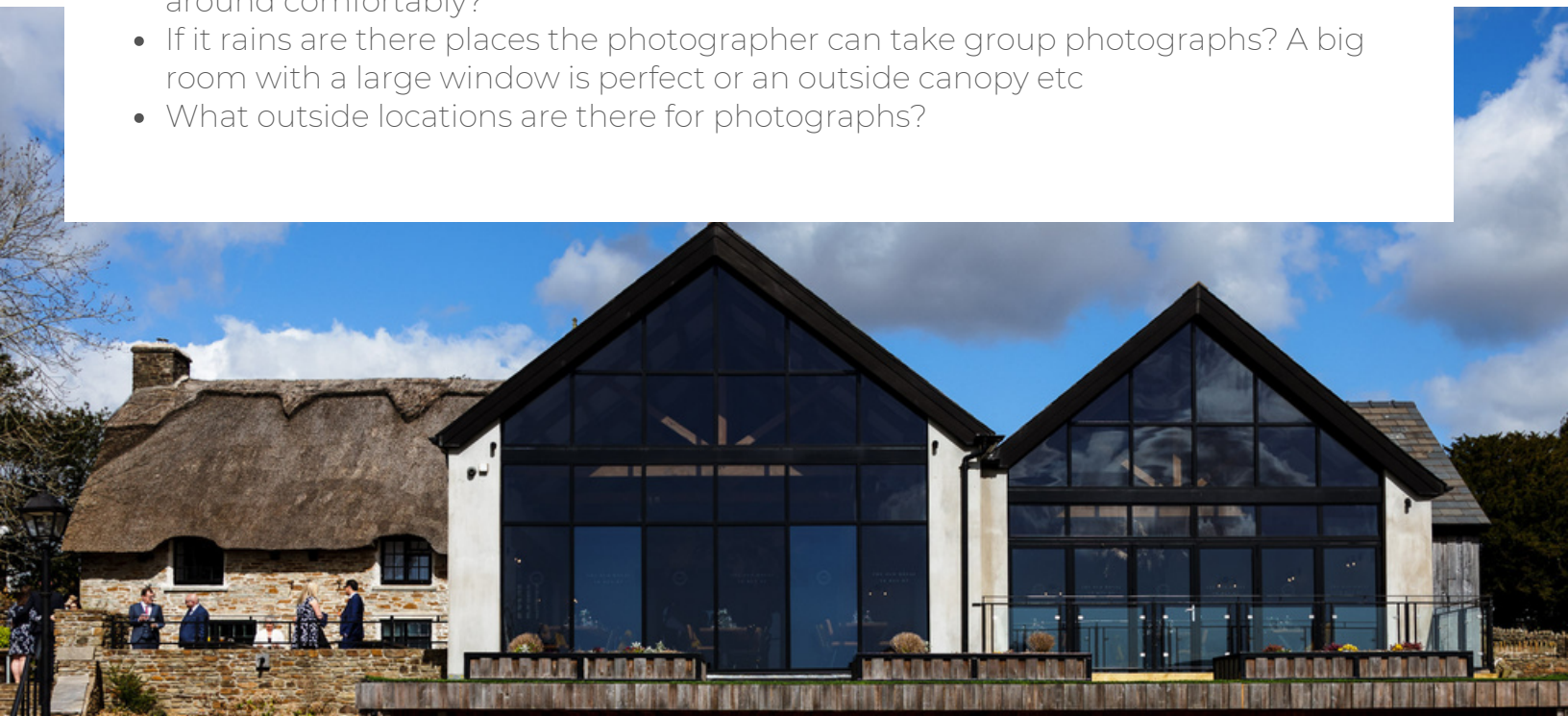
- Are we hosting a home or destination wedding? Where do we want to get married?
- Do we want a big wedding or a small wedding? How many wedding guests do we want to invite?
- What is our total wedding budget, and how much can we spend on venue and catering (usually about half of your budget will go to venue and food)?
- What are our favourite venue styles?

That last question is an important one, as the type of wedding venue you choose will help inform many of your wedding planning decisions, from your big day's general vibe and theme to the ceremony and reception decor to what you'll wear, and much more.

Lastly, when looking at your venue take into consideration what happens if the weather is bad. Some venues have amazing grounds but inside they can be darkey and pokey.

Consider the following:

- After the ceremony are there other rooms that the guests can gather in and move around comfortably?
- If it rains are there places the photographer can take group photographs? A big room with a large window is perfect or an outside canopy etc
- What outside locations are there for photographs?





PHOTOGRAPHER

INVEST IN A PHOTOGRAPHER WHO YOU CAN TRUST
TO CAPTURE EVERY MOMENT ON ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT DAYS OF YOUR LIFE.

The Photographer

Where do you start when it comes to choosing your wedding photographer? There are thousands of photographers with different styles, different prices and experience.

Your starting point is to ask yourself how important is photography to you and what is your budget?. At the end of the day once the ceremony is over, the food has been eaten, and the party has ended, all you have are pictures.

A photographer will document the full story of your day and capture all the connections, moments, love and laughter that you will forget as your day will go by in a blink of an eye.

When booking your photographer take these points into consideration:

STYLE

Book a photographer whose editing style is consistent and aesthetics aligns with what you love

CONNECTION

Meet the photographer to find out if you connect with each other. Someone who will make you feel comfortable in front of the camera

TRUST

Book a photographer who you feel you can trust and listens to you. Check out their reviews, their website. You only have one chance to get it right.





Finding the right photographer

Recommendations | Social Media & Google

Recommendations are always a good place to start, from friends or the venue. Next is on Social Media or Google. Once you have found ones you like, check out their website, read their reviews, how much experience have they got, what are their package prices?

If you are happy with their portfolio and the packages they offer then book a meeting. You may love their work but not them.

You know who is going to be right for you, trust your gut feeling.



QUESTIONS TO ASK THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Q: What if it rains?

Q: Do they have insurance?

Q: Do they have back up equipment?

Q: How long have they been in business?

Q: How do we and when do we receive our pictures?

Q: Will my photos be posted publicly on your site or social media?

Q: We are awkward in front of the camera. Can you make us look good?

Q: What happens if you are ill and unavailable to photograph our wedding?

Q: How much is the booking fee and when is the balance due?

Q: Do you keep a backup of our photographs?

Q: Do you offer a second photographer?

Q: Do you help with our timeline for the day?

Q: Can you recommend other wedding vendors?

WEDDING STYLE

THE SECRET OF GREAT STYLE IS TO FEEL GOOD IN
WHAT YOU WEAR



Wedding Style

Once you have booked your venue and decided on the theme of the wedding you can start thinking about what style of dress, suits etc you would like to wear. When thinking about the style of dresses and suits try and match the style to theme of your wedding day.

- CLASSIC
- BOHEMIAN
- FAIRYTALE
- GARDEN
- GLAMOROUS
- MODERN
- ROMANTIC
- RUSTIC
- VINTAGE
- DESTINATION

Tips

- Time how long it takes you to put your wedding dress on.
- Practice walking around in your dress. Make sure you feel comfortable. After all, you will be wearing it all day.
- Try different shoes on with your dress to see if it works with heels and no heels.
- Buy a suit instead of hiring and mix and match colours. The men want to look good and feel good as well.
- What you wear is captured in your photographs, so feel comfortable in front of the camera.



A bride with blonde hair and a white veil is seated in a light blue patterned armchair. She is wearing a white lace wedding dress with a V-neckline and short sleeves. She holds a large bouquet of flowers, including pink and red roses and greenery. The setting is a room with wood-paneled walls and floral curtains. A colorful patterned rug is on the floor.

WEDDING TIMINGS

A WEDDING IS A CRAZY RIDE, ENJOY EVERY MOMENT

Wedding Timings

Your day is a crazy ride, so you want to make sure you enjoy every moment. Once you know the times for the Ceremony, Wedding Breakfast, Speeches, First Dance and Evening Party you will be able to agree on the timings for the rest of the day. Discuss with your photographer everything you have planned as they will need to know what is going on so they can ensure they don't miss a moment. They will advise if they feel the timings are a bit tight. The last thing you want is to be rushing around.

Here is an example of timings for your day

Ceremony: Church 45 minutes, Civil Ceremony 30 minutes

Wedding Breakfast: 2.5 Hours for a 3-course meal

Wedding Speeches: Average 40 minutes - Decide if you would like the speeches before or after the wedding breakfast.

Room turnaround: 1 hour

Couple Portraits

I always suggest to my couples two 20 minutes sessions. The first session would be after the group pictures and the second in the evening when the room is being turned around. The second session may take place on location at a beach etc so take into consideration driving time to and from there. You may not want to be away from your guests for too long. You'll be able to talk to your photographer about these times.

Example timings for a wedding day where preps and ceremony take place at the same location (Civil Service)

11:00am photographer arrives for wedding preps

12:20pm Bride puts dress on and reveal photos

1pm to 1:30pm Wedding ceremony

1:30pm to 2:00pm - Confetti, Drinks and Mingle

2:00pm to 2:20pm - Group photos

2:20pm to 2:50pm - Couple Portraits

2:50pm to 3:15pm - Mingle with guests

3:15pm to 3:30pm - View wedding breakfast room

3:30pm to 6:00pm - Wedding Breakfast

6:00pm to 6:45pm - Speeches

6:45pm to 7:45pm - Room turnaround (Evening couple portraits)

8:00pm First dance and evening party

9:00pm - Photographer would leave (Usually when buffet comes out)

Wedding Timings

Wedding Prep

The start of your day is the wedding prep and your photographer would usually photograph the last 2 hours before the ceremony. Let's face it no one wants photos without makeup. The two scenarios below outline the advised timings for getting ready. The last thing you want to be is stressed on the morning of your wedding day.

Wedding Prep - Scenario One

Getting ready at a different location to where the ceremony is taking place e.g Church. Ceremony is at 1pm. Drive to ceremony location is 30 minutes

- Make sure you know how long it is going to take you to get into your dress. Sometimes a lace up could take 20 minutes.
- Dress to be put on at 11:30am so photographer can get pictures of you and the reveal before they aim to leave at 11:45 to get to the church for 12:15pm
- Bride leaves for church at 12:20pm to arrive at 12:50pm

(A second photographer is a good option when the preps, ceremony and reception are at different locations. This would allow the main photographer to stay with you in the morning until you leave whilst the second is at the ceremony location)

Wedding Prep - Scenario Two

Getting ready at the same location as where the ceremony is taking place. Ceremony is at 1pm.

- Make sure you know how long it is going to take you to get into your dress. Sometimes a lace up could take 20 minutes.
- Dress to be put on at 12:20pm so photographer can get pictures of you and the reveal before they leave for the ceremony
- Bride ready for ceremony at 12:50pm

(Having everything in one place gives you more time and breathing space to enjoy the day.)



THE CEREMONY

STOP | PAUSE | BREATHE

Walking down the aisle



STOP, PAUSE, BREATHE, TAKE IT ALL IN

So you are ready to get married. The butterflies have started and you can't wait to see your partner waiting for you at the end of the aisle.

The ceremony will go by so fast so you want to enjoy and remember every moment.

When you are at the top aisle don't rush down. Take a second before you start walking down.

When you start walking keep your head up and eyes focused on your partner. I know you will want to look down to make sure you don't trip but if you do that your photographer will not be able to capture the expression and the moment.

If you keep your head up and focus on your partner your photographer will be able to capture all the emotions of the moment and you will remember every step you took.



THE RECEPTION

IT'S YOUR DAY | ENJOY EVERY MOMENT

The reception

IT'S YOUR DAY, ENJOY EVERY MOMENT

You have just got married and now it's time to party. If you have got your timings right then you will be able to enjoy every moment of the rest of the day.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CEREMONY?

If you are getting married somewhere different to the reception venue then you will need to factor in more time. If there is space for group pictures, then the photographer may decide to take these pictures there as everybody is already in one place and once they go off to the reception venue guests may decide to wander. Also, allow time for confetti and a quick chat with guests.

Meet and greet line

Saying hello to your guests in a lineup outside a church or just before the wedding breakfast can take up to 45 minutes so please take this into consideration in your timings.

At the reception

Two hours is an ideal time from after the ceremony until you sit down for your wedding breakfast. This will allow you to enjoy every moment without rushing to fit everything in. Again if you are getting married elsewhere then factor in travel time to the reception venue.

Once you are at the reception venue it's time to party and enjoy the rest of your day. Mingle and drink with your guests, enjoy the photography, enjoy time together and party into the night.



A photograph of a bride and groom walking together outdoors in a garden. The groom is on the left, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored vest. The bride is on the right, wearing a white lace wedding dress and holding a bouquet of flowers. They are walking on a gravel path. The background features lush greenery, including trees and hedges. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

NATURAL & ICONIC
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY
CAPTURING EVERY
BEAUTIFUL MOMENT
FROM YOUR DAY



RECOMMENDED SUPPLIERS

Finding the right suppliers for you. There are so many suppliers to choose from but to help take some of the stress away from you, I have put together a list of suppliers I have worked with that are highly recommended

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Please let me know if you are thinking about having a video of your wedding day. I work alongside some amazing videographers whose style and creativity match my own.

It is also important that we work as a team and in harmony with each other. If this something you are interested in then here is a list of videographers that I have worked with.

Aurora

www.auroravideo.co.uk

Steve Radcliffe Films

www.steveratcliffefilms.co.uk

Cherished Memories

www.embraceweddings.co.uk

DanDan Films

www.dandanfilms.com

Bourbon and Blush Films

www.bourbanandblush.co.uk

Posh Bear Films

www.poshbear.co.uk/

Zade Film CO

www.zadefilm.co.uk

Ben Holbrook Films

www.benholbrook.com

Karl Partridge Video

www.kpvideography.co.uk

H A I R & M A K E U P

<https://www.janetwhiteashby.co.uk/>

Gower Bridal hair - <https://www.facebook.com/gowerbridalhair>

Antonias Hair Design - <https://www.facebook.com/Antonias-hair-design-by-Claire>

NGJ - <https://www.facebook.com/NGJmakeup/>

Phillipa Torrence Bridal Hair

Victoria Fox - <https://www.facebook.com/Makeupbyvictoriafox>

Fahrana Ali - <http://farhana.co.uk/>

Emily Porter - <http://www.emilyportermakeup.com>

Julie Holmes - <http://www.julieholmesmakeup.co.uk/>

Janet White-Ashby - <https://www.janetwhiteashby.co.uk/>

Katie Lancey - <https://www.facebook.com/GowerGlow>

Kirsty Rowlands - <https://www.facebook.com/makeupbykirstyrowlands>

Kate Morgan - <https://www.facebook.com/katemorganbeauty>

NGJ - <https://www.facebook.com/NGJmakeup/>

Steph Owens Beauty - @stephowensbeauty

Indugle Beauty and Make Up

ENTERTAINMENT

Trilogy - <https://www.facebook.com/wearetrilogyband>

John Adams Music - <http://www.johnadamsmusic.co.uk>

Gareth Peebles - <https://www.facebook.com/GarethPeebesWeddingSingerandDJ/>

Apple Tree Theory - <https://www.facebook.com/theappletreetheory/>

James Williams - <https://www.facebook.com/JamesWilliamsSinger/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HQMusicHQ/>

<https://nerysclark.com> - Cello

Katie Bayliss - Wedding Harpist - www.katiebaylissharpist.com

F L O R I S T S

The flower shop - <https://www.facebook.com/theflowershop>

Ruth Milton jones - <https://www.facebook.com/ruthmiltonjonesflowersbydesign>

Gail Armatage - <https://www.facebook.com/gailarmytageflorist>

Flower Lodge - <https://www.facebook.com/FlowerLodgeCardiff>

Emma Hall Designs - <https://www.facebook.com/emmahallweddings>

Beuatiful Lily Flowers - <https://www.facebook.com/beautifullilyflowers>

Wedding Flowers Wales - <https://www.facebook.com/weddingflowerswales>

Hilarys Floral Design - <https://www.facebook.com/hilarysfloraldesign>

The fabulous Florist - <https://www.thefabulousflorist.co.uk>

OTHER SUPPLIERS

Let me know if there is a particular supplier you are looking for. I have been in the wedding photography industry for over 20 years and network will hundreds of suppliers and can help you find the perfect supplier for you.

THANK YOU

I hope this guide has given you a better understanding of how important it is to have a timeline for you day and provided you with helpful tips.

So whether you're saying I do in a rustic barn, an outdoor ceremony in the woods, or tying the knot in a luxury hotel, iconic landmark, country house or castle.

Invest in an experienced photographer who you can trust to capture every moment on one of the most important days of your life. They will then provide you photographic memories you will treasure for years.

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