

Church Weddings

One of the most painful aspects of the Covid-19 crisis for many couples and their families has been the postponement of weddings, in both church and elsewhere. The decision to stop all marriages during the public health emergency was taken by the Government and will be reversed when the Government decides that it is safe to do so.

Churches in the Diocese of Exeter look forward to being able to celebrate marriages once again and are continuing to support couples who are planning their weddings through this difficult time, especially those whose weddings have been delayed. We very much hope that it will be possible for couples to marry as soon as it is safe for them to do so.

It is possible that when the time comes, the resumption of weddings will be a staged process; for example, marriages with only the legal minimum of persons present (the couple, officiant, and two witnesses) might be allowed before full-scale weddings can take place, whether in churches or elsewhere. It is important to say that at this stage, it is not yet known when or how the Government will permit marriages to go ahead in any form.

Whatever happens, we will work with couples to plan a wedding which fulfils their hopes for the day, within the limits of whatever may be allowed at the time. We have put special arrangements in place to streamline the legal preliminaries for marriage, particularly where there will be short notice between a Government decision to resume marriages and a forthcoming wedding.

It continues to be the privilege of Church of England clergy to share with couples in their church wedding and preparations for it, and we sympathise deeply with all whose plans have been affected by the present emergency.

Further practical information is available on the Exeter diocesan website at: <https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Guidance-on-marriages-and-coronavirus-April-6-2020.pdf>

If you would like to talk to someone about having a church wedding and what it involves please contact communications@exeter.anglican.org