Your ceremony - a special day

Thank you for choosing Dudley Citizenship and Registration Services
Welcome

This guide is to help you plan your day to run as smoothly as possible, making it a happy and memorable occasion. It tells you what will happen on your ceremony day. If there is anything else you wish to know, we will be pleased to help. Our aim is to make your day very special, leaving you to enjoy the occasion with your families, friends and each other.

Choice of ceremony

It is your day so we want you to have the ceremony of your choice – either a simple affair with just two witnesses or a more traditional ceremony with best man, bridesmaids, guests, music, readings, video and photographs. Whatever your choice we will be happy to discuss the arrangements with you.

More information about the choices available to you is in this booklet, as is a ‘choices’ form which you should return to the register office no later than three months before the date of your ceremony.

Venue

Marriages and civil partnerships in Dudley borough can take place in the Register Office at Priory Hall, Dudley and the Thomas Robinson Building in Stourbridge. There are also other venues within the borough approved for ceremonies. Individual rooms within each venue are licensed and have a limited capacity for the number of guests attending your ceremony; this information can be found on pages 4 and 5.
Priory Suite
The Priory Suite is a high quality approved premise that can accommodate up to 57 guests. It retains the original hand carved oak paneling, windows and stone fireplaces. It is furnished to a very high standard of decor with floral enhancements.

The premise is a popular and highly sought after venue that ensures an extra-special wedding experience. This choice of venue offers a joint entry for the couple or for the bride to have an escorted entrance by the person of her choice.

A wedding here can be tailor made to include choice of ceremony options, ushering, music and poetry readings by members of the wedding party.

There is ample parking for guests and wedding cars are able to stop outside the entrance. Parking for people with disabilities is also available.

There is a webcam and DVD facility available if required. Additionally there is a magnificent staircase that lends itself as a wonderful photographic backdrop.

Castle Suite
The Castle Suite can accommodate up to 24 guests. This room is half oak panelled, with original windows and quality furnishings and decor. Couples are given a choice of ceremony options. Classical background music is played and web cam and DVD facilities are available if required.

The statutory register office ceremony room
Couples who want a very low key ceremony with no more than four guests can hold their ceremony in this office.

There will be no music, filming or photograph opportunities, just a very informal, basic ceremony in a pleasant office room.

The Wollescote Suite
The Wollescote Suite is a former gothic chapel within the refurbished Thomas Robinson Building. Built in 1879 the building is made up of two Victorian Gothic-style chapels, which house the registration office in one and a stylish new wedding venue in the other.

The sympathetically restored ceremony room features much of the former chapel’s original Gothic architecture complete with stained glass windows and can accommodate ceremony parties with up to 58 guests. A ceremony here can be tailored to include chosen music, vows, promises and readings. There is a webcam and DVD facility available if required.

Ceremony parties will arrive by the front entrance and exit the ceremony room from the double doors at the rear where photographs can be taken with further photograph opportunities in the sunken garden and nearby Wollescote Park.
Cotsworie Hotel, MRI Mill
Cotsworie Hotel (MRI Mill) has five rooms approved for marriages and civil partnerships. The largest is the Earl’s Suite for parties of up to 300. In the Caslon Suite, 250 guests can attend ceremonies whilst the Newbolt Suite can accommodate 150 guests. For the more intimate ceremony the Dixon Suite can accommodate 45 guests whilst the Edwards Boardroom accommodates parties of 15.

Village Urban Resort, Dudley
Village Urban Resort Dudley has the Inspiration Suite approved for ceremonies. This can be for large ceremonies with up to 150 guests viewing from a barge. The Dudley Suite at the Quality Hotel, Dudley accommodates parties of 15. In the Caslon Suite, 200 guests can attend ceremonies whilst the Newbolt Suite can accommodate 150 guests. The Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge The newly approved Talbot Hotel in Stourbridge dates back to the 1830’s. The attractive period building has three rooms where ceremonies can be held. The first floor Ball Room for larger parties of up to 120, the Breakfast Room accommodating parties of 70 and the Windsor Room where intimate ceremonies can be held for parties of 30.

The Limestone Caverns The Limestone Caverns offer an unusual venue choice. The wedding party arrive by barge and marry in the ‘teling cavern’ 50 guests can watch the ceremony in the cavern with another 50 guests viewing from a barge.

Old Swinford Hospital School The school is a popular venue for wedding receptions and has now been approved for civil ceremonies. With five different ceremony rooms they can cater for small ceremonies and large celebrations. The Oak Room is the most intimate accommodating parties of 6, the Library holds 50 and the Eric Moody Room 60. For larger parties the Great Hall can host 150 guests and the Foyer Centre is the largest venue allowing couples to invite up to 250 guests.

The Vibe is now approved for ceremonies with up to 100 guests and a small intimate ceremony can be held in the Motivation Room with a maximum of 20 guests permitted.

Benjamins Banqueting Suites, Halesowen
Marriages and civil partnerships can take place at Benjamins Banqueting Suites. On the first floor both the Aldridge and Beaumont Suites can accommodate parties of up to 100. On the ground floor couples can choose to hold their ceremony in the Corridor Room and invite up to 100 guests.

The Quality Hotel, Dudley
The Dudley Suite at the Quality Hotel, holds a maximum of 150 guests and is approved for marriages and civil partnerships by the local authority.

The Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge
The Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge in Stourbridge is approved for the ceremony. This can be on the terrace with up to 250 guests attending in Inspiration Suite 1 and a maximum of 100 guests attending in Inspiration Suite 2.

Do arrive on time
The bride who enjoys her wedding is the one who is not late and we want you to enjoy yours. Allow plenty of time to arrive 15 minutes before your appointment (or 30 minutes for him and 10 for you if you want to keep your dress a secret). If you arrive late your marriage may have to be postponed, whereas if any of your guests are late, the marriage will start without them.

Do get a parking ticket
For ceremonies at Priory Hall please note there is a one way system in operation, the entrance to Priory Hall is now accessed from Priory Road, not the island. Parking is available behind the hall, please ask your guests not to park outside the main entrance, this is reserved for the bridal car.

Other venues

Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill
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There is also on-street parking available and a metred pay and display car park. If you are holding your ceremony at an approved premise please confirm the parking arrangements with the venue.

Ceremony guests at the Thomas Robinson Building are requested to ‘tandem park’ their cars in the car park to maximise the number of spaces available. Additional on road parking is available in Springfield Avenue, allowing easy pedestrian access to the rear of the building.

Do bring your glasses
We will ask you to check that what we have written in the register and on the certificate is correct so don’t let vanity get the better of you.

Do think about small children
They don’t understand the importance of the occasion and can easily become bored. It is better to let the tikes wander rather than try to restrain them.

Your ceremony in the Dudley borough
Your wedding day is approaching fast and your plans are in full swing. Here are some dos and don’ts to help with preparations for the big day.

Don’t invite too many guests
It is important to adhere to the maximum numbers of guests for the chosen venue as shown in the brochure (pages 4 and 5). Fire regulations stipulate these numbers and registration staff are not able to permit more guests into the ceremony room.

Don’t sit granny at the back
We endeavour to make sure you have reserved seating for the people taking part in the ceremony (witnesses, best man, bridesmaids etc.) and close family members.

We don’t know your family and friends, therefore it is a good idea if you could ask someone to be an usher to assist with the seating arrangements.

Do think about small children
They don’t understand the importance of the occasion and can easily become bored. It is better to let the tikes wander rather than try to restrain them.

If your own children will be there ask someone to take charge and, if necessary, take them outside. It’s better if that someone is a friend as you don’t want your mum to miss anything. If you have small bridesmaids make sure they know who they will be sitting with for the ceremony.
Don’t memorise your vows
You will be asked to repeat the vows you have chosen in small sections so you don’t need to memorise them. You will probably forget everything on the day anyway, so why add extra pressure?

Do make a grand exit
At the end of the ceremony the registrar will present you with your marriage certificate and the guests will be asked to stand as the couple lead them out of the room. You will then have the opportunity for photographs to be taken on the staircase and in Priory Park.

Ceremony parties at Thomas Robinson Building will leave by the rear doors in the ceremony room for photographs on the steps at the back of the building, after which further photographs can be taken at the front and in the sunken garden.

If you have chosen to hold your ceremony in the Castle Suite this will be a more simple affair. The registrars will leave you in the ceremony room with your guests to take a few photographs before you make your way outside.

Don’t panic, relax & enjoy yourselves!
There are many choices available to you for your ceremony. These are detailed in the ‘choices’ booklet at the front of this brochure. Each ceremony is individually scripted from the selections you make. Please ensure your completed ‘choices’ form is returned to the registrar office as soon as possible and no later than three months before your ceremony. This allows ample time for your ceremony to be prepared.

Personalising your ceremony
You will need to ask two people, either friends or relatives, to witness your ceremony and sign the register. They must be credible witnesses and have sufficient command of English to understand the ceremony. You may be asked to choose another witness if the registrar feels the chosen witness is unsuitable to undertake the role.

Witnesses
You will need to ask two people, either friends or relatives, to witness your ceremony and sign the register. They must be credible witnesses and have sufficient command of English to understand the ceremony. You may be asked to choose another witness if the registrar feels the chosen witness is unsuitable to undertake the role.

Witnesses should be over 16 years old. If either of you do not speak fluent English, your witness must be able to properly interpret the ceremony for you.

On arrival
Prior to the ceremony the registrar will see the couple privately to confirm the necessary information. You will each be asked questions similar to those you were asked when you gave notice at your local registration office.

When these formalities are completed you will be invited to join your guests and the ceremony will begin.

The ceremony
There is no need to be nervous about the ceremony. Remember the registration officers are there to guide you through all you have to say and do.

Once everyone is seated, the registrar conducting your ceremony will say a few words of welcome and then ask you as part of the ceremony to repeat the solemn and binding declarations you have chosen.

The giving and receiving of rings may take place if desired and promises can be exchanged. The choices for your ceremony are outlined in the enclosed booklet.

The registrar will conclude the ceremony after which you will both be asked to check the information recorded in the marriage register very carefully before signing. You will sign in the names you were known by before the ceremony.

Your witnesses and the registration officers must also sign. Your marriage certificate will be presented to you at the conclusion of the ceremony.

After your ceremony
If you have children you may need to re-register their births. Where the natural parents marry each other you are required to do this. There is no charge for this service. We will be happy to advise you further.

Do let people know you are married. You may need to produce your marriage certificate to advise banks, tax office, DVLA and other official bodies of your change of circumstance.

If you think you may need more than one certificate, you can pre-order additional certificates, issued at the time of marriage when they are cheaper.
Photography
There will be an opportunity to take photographs after the register has been signed. Ceremonies are booked at sufficiently long intervals so that you will not be rushed. It must always be remembered, however, that the ceremony creates a solemn and binding contract between the couple and it is essential that their attention should not be distracted in any way from the meaning and dignity of the occasion. It is for this reason that photography is not permitted throughout the ceremony.

Video recording
If you would like someone to take a video of your ceremony they will need to comply with the following guidelines:
- Video recording is by prior agreement with the registrar
- Only one video camera may be used during the ceremony
- The equipment must be battery operated. We cannot provide a power source for any video equipment
- The recording may only be made using lighting available in the room
- The camera operator must remain in one place throughout the ceremony as agreed with the registrar at the ceremony

Confetti
At Priory Hall throwing of confetti is not allowed at the entrance to, or near to the premises, however there are acres of parkland alongside the building that can be used for these purposes.

Flickr
You can now share your special Priory Hall photos and videos with us at www.flickr.com/groups/priory-hall

For further advice
We will be delighted to offer further advice or information should you have any queries between now and your wedding day.

Civil partnerships are a legal union between two people of the same sex and give the partners many of the key elements that come with marriage.

The signing of the schedule forms the civil partnership, there is no requirement for couples to take part in a ceremony.

You may choose to attend the register office or approved premises with two witnesses, sign the schedule and leave as civil partners.

However, most couples prefer to take part in a ceremony giving them the opportunity to make promises and vows to each other when they register their civil partnership.

There is a choice of options available to couples forming their partnership in the Dudley borough that can be found in the booklet at the front of this brochure.

Please read through the options and return the form to the register office indicating your preferences as soon as possible and no later than three months before your civil partnership.

If you would like to be presented with a certificate at your ceremony, commemorative certificates are available. These need to be ordered in advance, please see page 16 for further details.

Civil Partnership Conversions
Couples who registered their civil partnership can convert it into a marriage. This may be done as a simple administrative process called a one stage standard conversion or a two stage process, where the conversion is followed by a celebratory ceremony.
Music for your wedding day…

Music is another way to personalise your wedding. Most songs are perfectly acceptable and any style (traditional, classic, pop, folk, jazz) that reflects the music of the two of you will be appropriate, but bear in mind songs must not contain any religious content.

Couples who have chosen to hold their ceremony in the Priory Suite, Wollescote Suite or at an approved venue, can select their own choice of music.

If you have chosen to hold your ceremony in the Castle Suite suitable background music will be provided for you.

No music is played at ceremonies in the register office.

In addition to the choices of promises and vows, if you have chosen to hold your ceremony in the Priory Suite, Wollescote Suite or at an approved premise, you may further enhance your ceremony by asking a family member or friend to read a short poem or piece of prose.

Would you like your reading presented as a personalised commemorative document in a presentation folder for the reader to use in the ceremony that can be kept as a souvenir? We can produce this for you and have it ready at the ceremony for your reader to use on the day. Please use the order form found at the front of this brochure to request this.

Please remember, readings must be non-religious by law. This additional facility is not available for ceremonies to be held in the Castle Suite or register office.

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The One

When the one whose hand you’re holding
Is the one who holds your heart
When the one whose eyes you gaze into
Gives your hopes and dreams their start
When the one you think of first and last
Is the one who holds you tight
And the things you plan together
Make the whole world seem just right
When the one whom you believe in
Puts their faith and trust in you,
You’ve found the one and only love you'll share your whole life through

Today is the day you will always remember

Today is the day you will always remember
The greatest in anyone’s life.
You’ll start off the day just two people in love
And end it as husband and wife.

It’s a brand new beginning, the start of a journey
With moments to cherish and treasure.
And although there’ll be times when you both disagree
These will surely be outweighed by pleasure.

You’ll have heard many words of advice in the past
When the secrets of marriage were spoken.
But you know that the answers lie hidden inside
Where the bond of true love is unbroken.

So live happy forever as lovers and friends
It’s the dawn of a new life for you.
As you stand there together with love in your eyes
From the moment you whisper “I do”.

And with luck all your hopes and your dreams
can be real
May success find its way to your hearts.
Success can bring you the greatest of joys
But today is the day it all starts.
Renewal of Vows

What is a renewal of vows ceremony?

A renewal of vows ceremony is an occasion where a married couple who wish to renew their marriage vows can celebrate with family and friends who were unable to attend the original marriage.

A ceremony can be arranged for a married couple at any stage of their marriage. It may be an opportunity to commemorate a special anniversary, such as 10th, 25th, 40th or 50th.

A couple may wish to celebrate a renewed commitment to each other after a period of difficulty.

Many couples who marry abroad wish to renew their vows back home with family and friends who were unable to attend the original marriage.

Who conducts a renewal of vows ceremony?

The person conducting the ceremony is a trained celebrant acting on behalf of Dudley Council. The celebrants are all registration officers with experience of different types of ceremonies.

Initially a provisional booking will be made which must be confirmed within one month to secure the arrangements. This can be confirmed in person by meeting with a member of staff at the register office in Dudley to discuss your ceremony requirements, or by agreeing details by post or telephone.

You will be asked to produce your marriage certificate and a non-refundable deposit of £50 is payable.

The balance of your ceremony fee is required no later than three months before the date of the ceremony. Current ceremony fees are available on request.

The cost of your ceremony will vary according to the venue and the day of the week.

When can a ceremony be held?

Subject to availability of the venue and celebrant, ceremonies can take place any day of the week from 10am until 4pm.

How is the ceremony created?

Each ceremony is individually scripted. You will be given ‘choices’ for your ceremony to select from. These choices include:

- A welcome by the celebrant
- The renewal of vows
- The giving or rededication of ring(s)
- Acknowledgement of any children of the marriage
- Readings by guests
- Inclusion of specially chosen music
- A short speech by a friend or family member, possibly the original best man

The ceremony is led by an experienced celebrant who will present the couple with a certificate to commemorate the occasion. Please note, only civil ceremonies are permitted, couples requiring a religious ceremony should contact their local church. The duration of a ceremony is entirely dependent on the choices made, but will last between 15 and 25 minutes.

How can a ceremony be arranged?

If you would like further information, or wish to book a ceremony, please contact a ceremony coordinator at the register office in Dudley on 01384 818349.

Alternatively you can email the ceremony coordinator at: marriage.enquiry@dudley.gov.uk.

Important information

These ceremonies have no legal effect and are not legally binding to those who participate. The celebrant who conducts your ceremony will not be acting in an official capacity - even if they work as a registrar.

The ceremony rooms are not designated as marriage venues during the ceremony. These ceremonies are for couples wishing to celebrate their marriage.

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ADDITIONAL SERVICES

We have a selection of ‘Ceremony extras’ available to help you to plan the perfect wedding day. From our range of personalised stationery themed to your venue to broadcasting your ceremony live on the internet. It’s your day - make it special!

PERSONALISED ‘SAVE THE DATE CARDS’

Personalised ‘save the date’ cards are now available for couples marrying at Priory Hall and Thomas Robinson Building.

Printed on a parchment card, they will give your guests advance notice of your special day so they can book the date into their diaries. The cards are supplied with matching cream envelopes and form part of our coordinating range of stationery.

PERSONALISED INVITATIONS

Printed on a quality ‘soft gold’ coloured parchment card, the invitation will inform your guests of the ceremony details. Historical facts about Priory Hall, Priory Park and the ancient St. James’s ruins or the Thomas Robinson Building are printed on the reverse telling your guests about your chosen wedding venue.

Invitations are supplied with co-ordinating envelopes.

ORDER OF CEREMONY LEAFLET

Enhance your ceremony with an order of ceremony leaflet handed to your guests as they arrive. Printed on a quality soft gold coloured parchment paper, the order of ceremony informs your guests of the music you have chosen and enables them to follow the ceremony as it progresses.

Historical facts about Priory Hall, Priory Park and the ancient St. James’s ruins or the Thomas Robinson Building are printed on the reverse providing interesting information to your guests about your chosen wedding venue.

This stationery will be produced based on your selection of music, no further amendments can be offered.

CONFETTI CONES

As your guests exit the ceremony room they can help themselves to a cone full of confetti to shower the happy couple with. Our cones are filled with gorgeous Shropshire flower petals. All of our petals are 100% natural, eco-friendly and biodegradable, just like blossom off the tree! They are all completely natural in colour so no dyes are ever added.

Made from ivory parchment paper, our cones are personalised to show your names and the date of your ceremony.

Please use the forms at the front of this brochure when ordering any ceremony ‘extras’ including the appropriate payment.
Commemorative certificates are presented after the signing of the register - making a perfect keepsake for the happy couple, parents, bridesmaids or best man.

Printed on a soft gold coloured bordered gift certificate and presented in a textured, gold foil stamped presentation folder.

Signed by the witnesses and registrars, the personalised wording captures the details of the day.

Complete the application form found in the ‘choices’ booklet when applying for a certificate and return it with your completed choices form. Please include a cheque or postal order made payable to Dudley Council or complete the credit card payment form.

Commemorative certificates can also be presented for civil partnerships, births, baby naming ceremonies, renewal of vows and citizenship ceremonies.

Ceremony rehearsals are now available for anyone having their civil ceremony at a venue within Dudley Registration District. We hope that the information we have already given to you will answer all your questions about your ceremony and prepare you for what to expect on your special day. However if you want more information and the opportunity to discuss your ceremony in more detail, you can now book a rehearsal appointment in which to do this.

- Meet with a registrar to discuss your ceremony choices
- Ask any questions you may have about your ceremony
- Plan your arrival for the day
- Agree seating arrangements for the bridal party
- Discuss the music to be played
- Walk down the aisle
- Have a trial-run ceremony
- Pay any fees you may have left to pay
- Order any last minute ceremony extras

Rehearsals cost £45 and should ideally take place about a month before your ceremony, available by appointment only. To book a rehearsal please email marriage.enquiry@dudley.gov.uk.

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Ceremony rehearsals are now available for anyone having their civil ceremony at a venue within Dudley Registration District. We hope that the information we have already given to you will answer all your questions about your ceremony and prepare you for what to expect on your special day. However if you want more information and the opportunity to discuss your ceremony in more detail, you can now book a rehearsal appointment in which to do this.

- Meet with a registrar to discuss your ceremony choices
- Ask any questions you may have about your ceremony
- Plan your arrival for the day
- Agree seating arrangements for the bridal party
- Discuss the music to be played
- Walk down the aisle
- Have a trial-run ceremony
- Pay any fees you may have left to pay
- Order any last minute ceremony extras

Rehearsals cost £45 and should ideally take place about a month before your ceremony, available by appointment only. To book a rehearsal please email marriage.enquiry@dudley.gov.uk.

Commemorative certificates are presented after the signing of the register - making a perfect keepsake for the happy couple, parents, bridesmaids or best man.

Printed on a soft gold coloured bordered gift certificate and presented in a textured, gold foil stamped presentation folder.

Signed by the witnesses and registrars, the personalised wording captures the details of the day.

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COUNTDOWN TO YOUR WEDDING DAY

Getting married is an exciting time and there are many tasks you will have to do before the big day. To help your plans go smoothly we have provided a ceremony checklist for you to follow.

✓ Up to two years before the day
- Save the date – if you are having a civil ceremony in the Dudley borough you can reserve the date and time with us up to two years before your ceremony, using the ‘Save the Date’ service to allow plenty of time for the preparations (see opposite).
- Twelve months before the day
- Notice of marriage should be given as soon as possible to secure your booking and can be done up to 12 months before the intended ceremony date. If you want to use our web cam to record a DVD or broadcast your ceremony across the internet, book it as soon as possible as this is available on a first come first served basis.

✓ Three months before the day
- Any outstanding ceremony fees can be paid at any time after the notices have been given but must be paid no later than three months before the ceremony day. Our preferred method of payment is by credit or debit card. Cheques must be made payable to Dudley Council.
- Your completed ceremony ‘choices’ form (found in the front of this brochure) should be returned to us as soon as possible but no later than three months before the ceremony.
- Are you having any ceremony extras? If so these should be ordered three months before the ceremony day.

✓ One month before the day
- Book a ceremony rehearsal so that you feel relaxed and confident
- Your ceremony day
- Arrive at your venue 20 to 30 minutes before the ceremony time and leave a little while later as Mr & Mrs

PASSPORT CHANGES

If you decide to get a passport in your new name before the ceremony

You will need the form (PD2) and leaflet (PD1) titled ‘Passports for newly weds and civil partners’, which explains what you need to do.

The form is available by:
- Visiting your local Post Office
- Downloading from www.gov.uk
- Calling the passport adviceline on 0300 222 0000

The form needs to be completed partly by you and partly by the person who is to conduct the ceremony. The leaflet explains this in more detail.

You should then apply for your passport in the normal way but include a completed ‘Passports for newly weds and civil partners’ (PD2) form. You should ensure the required sections on both sides of the form are completed before sending it to the superintendent registrar to be signed.

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for return of the form. This can only be done within three months of the date of your ceremony.

FEES CANCELLATION POLICY

Deposits and Save the Date fees
- Deposits and Save the Date fees paid to reserve a ceremony date are non-refundable. These fees will not be refunded if the ceremony is subsequently cancelled.
- Ceremony fees
  - If you wish to cancel your Priory Suite, Wellescole Suite or approved premise ceremony after full payment has been made the following will apply:
    - Cancellation more than 6 weeks in advance: 50% refund
    - Cancellation 4-6 weeks in advance: 30% refund
    - Cancellation 0-4 weeks in advance: 0% refund
- Coronet Suite
  - Ceremony fees £100 and below: 0% refund
  - Ceremony fees above £100: 50% refund

If you wish to cancel your Castle Suite ceremony after full payment has been made the following will apply:
- Ceremony fees £100 and below: 0% refund
- Ceremony fees above £100: 50% refund

In the unfortunate event of death of one of the parties prior to the ceremony, a full refund of the ceremony fee will be made upon the production of a death certificate.

Ceremony extras
- Cancellation more than 6 weeks before the ceremony, otherwise nil refund
- Corinthians / Confetti Cone / Commemorative Certificates / DVD / Web cam: Refund of fees paid less £20 admin fee

Administration fee
- If you wish to reschedule your ceremony around dates, times and venues, an administrative fee of £20.00 will apply to any further fees incurred where more than three months notice is given. Amendments within 3 months of the ceremony date will be treated as a cancelled booking and a fresh booking.
as well as their nuptials, Saturday 2 April 2016 also saw the venue effectively ‘christened’ as this was the first wedding at the renovated venue.

Lucky couple Natalie Davies and Chris Williams were the winners of an amazing £6,000 wedding package competition organised by Dudley Council to celebrate the opening of the Grade II former Lye and Wollescote Chapels which have undergone a £1.2 million renovation.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, the couple benefitted from a range of prizes including the service of two Victorian Gothic-style chapels, which have been renamed the Thomas Robinson Building has undergone substantial work to turn it into a new registration office for civil ceremonies.

Built in 1879 the building is made up of two Victorian Gothic-style chapels, which house the registration office in one and a stylish new wedding venue for the other.

The new Wollescote Suite, which features much of the former chapel’s original Gothic architecture, can host marriage parties in the region of 60 people. Just like the elegant Priory Suite in Dudley’s Priory Hall wedding couples will have the same options of music and vows.

It was a double celebration when newlyweds Natalie and Chris Williams tied the knot at the newly refurbished Thomas Robinson building.

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Himley, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 4DF Tel: 01384 817817
Email: himley.hall@dudley.gov.uk Web: www.dudley.gov.uk/himleyhall

Wedding bargain hunters who want to look stunning on their wedding day are in luck, because brand new and pre-loved wedding gowns are now available to purchase at The Thomas Robinson Building.

Our beautiful designer gowns are available at a fraction of the recommended retail price and come in all styles, shapes and sizes. 75% of all profits from the sales of most of the gowns go directly to local charity, The Mary Stevens Hospice, what a great way to save money and support a local charity on your big day!

To arrange an appointment to view and try on gowns please email charity@ddc.dudley.gov.uk

Charity Registration Number: 517656

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Our beautiful designer gowns are available at a fraction of the recommended retail price and come in all styles, shapes and sizes. 75% of all profits from the sales of most of the gowns go directly to local charity, The Mary Stevens Hospice, what a great way to save money and support a local charity on your big day!

To arrange an appointment to view and try on gowns please email charity@ddc.dudley.gov.uk

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**NEWLYWEDS TO SILVER ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED AT PRIORY HALL**

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, a selection of couples who have been married at Priory Hall over the last 25 years renewed their vows in a live web broadcasted group ceremony on Friday 6 May 2016. The couples ranged from newlyweds who married in 2015 to one of the first couples to tie the knot in 1991 who celebrated their silver anniversary alongside Priory Hall itself. The couples, plus the Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley had signed up to take part in the special anniversary event.

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**OPEN DAY AND WEDDING EXHIBITIONS**

for couples planning to marry or register a civil partnership to come along to Priory Hall to see the hall and grounds and visit the newly renovated Thomas Robinson Building. Demonstration ceremonies and bridal fashion shows are held during the events. Exhibitors attend the events with wedding related products and services. One lucky couple will win a free Priory Hall wedding and another couple will win a Thomas Robinson wedding!

Priory Hall open days 16 March 2017 and 17 March 2018 - Thomas Robinson open days 8 October 2016 and 7 October 2017 • Visit www.dudley.gov.uk

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