

Music at your Wedding

Music will play a crucial part at Wedding.

It will help set the tone, give sense of celebration, and help us remember God's presence.

Organist: Bob Barnes (01233 770355) is the official organist for Biddenden and Smarden. He will be pleased to discuss with you your choice of music.

Using your own organist: Sometimes couples prefer to invite an organist they have personal contact with to play for their wedding. This can normally easily be arranged, but please note the organists fee will still be payable.

Your choice of music:

You need to choose:

- Music at the start
- Two and three hymns
- Music during the singing of the registers.
- Music at the end of the service.

In choosing music, ask yourself three questions:

1. The Music Test - Will the congregation be able to sing the music.
2. The Word Test – Are the words used in the hymns appropriate to a wedding and a celebration of marriage.
3. The Pastoral Test - Does the music fit the tone of the occasion?

A commentary on some Hymns and songs:

Opening hymn

The opening hymn sets the mood. Ideally needs speak about praise to God.

Tell out my soul the Greatness of the Lord :A great hymn of praise. Speaks about the wonder of God's action in our world.

Praise my soul the King of Heaven: A well-known traditional hymn of praise which can draw the whole congregation together. A hymn that thanks God for all he has done for us, for his loving nature

Middle hymn

Often a more reflective hymn, it normally takes place between readings, or the sermon.

The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want - a version of the 23rd Psalm. A hymn reminding us of God's care through good times and bad times. There are several settings that can be used for this song, both traditional and more modern.

Love's divine all love's excelling – (This is possibly also a very good opening hymn, but also a quieter hymn.) A hymn offering ourselves to Jesus, asking him to change us and to help us to live our lives in praise of him.

Lead us Heavenly Father, lead us - a hymn more of a prayer to God, asking him to guide us, forgive us and fill us with joy and peace.

Make me a channel of your peace - based upon a prayer written by St. Francis of Assizzi.

Final hymn

Sung after the marriage, but before the signing of the registers. It's a point in the service to have a rousing hymn of celebration.

Now thank we all our God - a hymn of praise to God for his care for us and also a prayer for him to look after us.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising - a simple, happy, joyful song that talks about praise and happiness.

There are lots of other songs and hymns to choose from:

Here are some other suggestions (including those given above):-

“A new commandment I give to you”
“Bind us together”
“Brother, sister let me serve you, will you let me be your servant”
“Christ triumphant, ever reigning”
“Come down o love divine”
“Dear Lord and Father of mankind”
“Give me joy in my heart, give me praising”
“Great is thy faithfulness”
“King of glory, King of peace”
“Lead us Father, Heavenly Father lead us”
“Let there be love shared among us”
“Lord for the years”
“Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us”
“Make me a channel of your peace”
“My song is love unknown”
“Morning has broken”
“Now thank we all our God”
“Oh Jesus Christ, I have promised”
“Praise my soul the King of Heaven”
“Praise to the Holiest in the Highest”
“Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord”
“The King of love my shepherd is”
“The Lord's my shepherd” (Crimmond)
“The Lord's my shepherd” (Townend)
“To God, be the glory”

You don't just need to think about music played on an organ. Instrumental music can often be appropriate – when the bride makes her entrance – when the bride or bride and bridegroom make their entrance – during the signing of the register and when the couple leave the church.