

How do I organise a blessing or renewal?

Simple. Just contact your local vicar. There are no legal requirements to adhere to – it is just a declaration between two people of their love and commitment.

Does it have to be a big or small ceremony?

That is your decision – it is your day, so celebrate it how you want.

Is there any cost?

As both services require no legal documents there is no cost in this respect. Some couples who have the ceremony in church may like optional extras such as flowers, an organist or bell ringers which will cost extra – speak to your vicar about this. Some couples also like to make a donation to the church, but this is not obligatory.

Do I need to wear a white dress?

No – wear whatever you feel comfortable in. It can be as casual or informal as you wish.

How do I know where my local church is?

Go to www.achurchnearyou.com and type in your postcode – this will tell you where your nearest church is.

If you would like this booklet in another format (ie Large Print, printed on a particular colour, etc.) please contact Andrea Young:-
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Blessings & Renewals
in the
Church of England



Blessings and Renewals

As well as a traditional wedding ceremony, the Church of England offers other types of services, without legal requirements, that a couple can opt for.

Service of Prayer and Dedication *otherwise known as a 'blessing.'*

This is a simple service, designed for couples who have had a civil marriage ceremony in the UK or abroad and want to have a church service afterwards.

Many people like to have a blessing, as it adds a spiritual dimension to their relationship. It doesn't have to be big – it is your choice.

As more and more couples go abroad to be married, blessings are becoming more popular.

Blessings are also available to people who are remarrying after a divorce.

Simply contact your vicar and they will answer any questions you may have.

Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage *otherwise known as 'renewing your vows.'*

This is a service for those who wish to renew their marriage vows.

As it is not a civil service, you can choose to hold it in a church or another venue such as your home (you will need to speak to your Vicar about the exact details).

A Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage can be held for a number of occasions including renewing marriage vows, to celebrate a special anniversary, or to celebrate a new start after a period of separation or difficulty in the marriage.

The thanksgiving service is a chance for couples to give thanks for the time they have had together and to look forward to the development of their relationship in the future.

It is a public declaration of their love for each other, and can bring new energy to a relationship. It is very popular to arrange a renewal of vows around a milestone anniversary.

You can also combine the renewing of vows with a service of Holy Communion if you wish. There are no legal requirements for this kind of service.

***You may also want to combine your blessing or renewal with the baptism of any children you have or a service of thanksgiving for the gift of a child.
Please ask your vicar for details.***