Welcome to the Bristol Ceremonies Guide

Bristol is a lively, vibrant city full of character and historical interest making it a perfect choice for your ceremony.

Within this guide you will find information on all celebratory services that Bristol Register Office has to offer: marriage, civil partnership, civil partnership conversion ceremonies, civil naming ceremonies and renewal of vows. It also includes detailed advice ranging from legal requirements and procedures to licensed venues and services to help your day run smoothly from start to finish.

We are very proud of The Old Council House building and the rooms we now have available. If you wish to view the rooms please call us on 0117 922 2800 or email us at register.office@bristol.gov.uk to arrange a viewing. We look forward to seeing you soon.

The Ceremonies Team, Bristol Register Office.
MARRIAGE

You must first decide where and when you wish to marry.

If you wish to marry within England or Wales there are several options:

If you wish to have a religious ceremony, you must marry in either an Anglican church (Church of England) or in a place of worship which has been registered by the Registrar General for marriage ceremonies.

If you wish to have a civil ceremony you may marry in any register office within England or Wales or at approved premises – a building which has been granted a licence for civil marriages. This might be a hotel, civic building or stately home.

The law makes a clear distinction between a religious and a civil ceremony. This means that you may not hold a religious ceremony on premises authorised for civil ceremonies, and you may not hold a civil ceremony in a place of worship.
Choosing your Venue

Civil marriages take place in register offices or approved premises and are arranged through the register office that covers the area where you intend to marry. Religious marriages are booked through your priest, minister or other religious representative who will advise you whether you need to contact a register office as part of the procedure.

Ceremonies in Places of Religious Worship

If you are planning a Church of England wedding the vicar will advise you on the legal requirements.

If you have arranged to marry in a place of worship which does not belong to the Church of England you must give notice at the register office.

If you or the person you wish to marry is subject to immigration control please see ‘Giving notice if you are subject to immigration control’.

You may need to book a registrar to be present at your ceremony. If so, you will need to contact the register office as soon as possible.

If you want to marry in a place of worship which is in a different district from where you both live, it is usually only possible if either of you worships there. Our staff will be glad to advise you on this matter.

Ceremonies at The Old Council House

The register office is a Grade II listed building which has many wonderful, interesting features including a grand staircase, ideal for those special wedding pictures. The building is situated at the corner of Corn Street and Broad Street. Ceremonies are held between 9.30am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 3.30pm Saturday. The Mayoral Room holds up to 50 people.

We also have two very special rooms available for ceremonies.

The Lantern Room

With its beautifully crafted interior and elegant lighting, the Lantern Room’s regency-style setting provides the ideal atmosphere for that special event. This room holds up to 70 people.

The Grand Council Chamber

Opened by Queen Victoria and housing large paintings depicting various events in Bristol’s history, this is the ideal venue for larger ceremonies as the room holds up to 150 people.

Ceremonies at Approved Premises

Alternatively, you may want to choose from one of the many approved premises that are listed in the back pocket of this guide. It is essential that you visit your chosen venue as they will require a deposit to secure your booking. After that, contact the register office to confirm the date and agree a time.
Giving Notice

Giving notice to form a marriage

The notice is a legal statement which must be signed by you and the person you are marrying. The numbers of days’ notice you have to give prior to your ceremony is 28 days for everyone, but possibly 70 days if you or your partner are subject to immigration control.

Both parties are required by law to give legal notice of marriage in person to the register office in the district in which they have resided for a minimum of 7 consecutive nights, or if either party is subject to immigration control at one of the 76 designated register offices in England and Wales (Bristol Register Office is one).

There is a fee for giving notice – please ask for details. After you have given notice you must wait at least 28 days before the marriage can take place. The marriage must take place within twelve months of the date when notice was given.

Giving notice if you are subject to immigration control

Unless you are a British citizen, a national of a country in the European Economic Area (EEA), or you have in your passport a certificate of entitlement giving you right of abode in the UK, you will be subject to immigration control.

For further information please contact the Bristol Register Office.
The Marriage Ceremony

Documents Required

One of the registration staff will interview you in private. In all cases evidence of identity and nationality will be required. The preferred document is a current passport. If you do not have a passport there are other documents which may be acceptable: please contact us for advice. We also require proof of residence: A bank statement no more than 1 month old at the time of the appointment, a utility bill no more than 3 months old at the time of the appointment, the current council tax bill, mortgage statement or tenancy agreement or valid driving licence are acceptable. If either of you have been married before, either in this country or abroad, you will need to produce evidence that the previous marriage has ended. If you are divorced, and your divorce was in England or Wales the document required is a court-stamped Decree Absolute. If the divorce was elsewhere you must produce the original document issued by the court and, if not written in English, a third party translation. If you are widowed, bring the death certificate of your former spouse.

If you have changed your name legally please bring the legal document with you. If you are under 18 years of age you will need to produce a full birth certificate and evidence of consent from your parents or guardian. If your parents have divorced, we will need to see the court order giving custody to one or other parent.

Our registration staff will advise you which documents are required, depending on your own personal circumstances. Please be aware that photocopies are not acceptable.

The Marriage Ceremony

On the day you must bring at least two people with you to be witnesses to your marriage. You can choose any relative or friend as long as they are old enough to understand what is taking place.

Please arrive at least ten minutes before the ceremony is due to begin as we will need to check the details taken at the time of the notice and collect any fees due.

The Superintendent Registrar will welcome everyone and introduce the registrar who will make the formal record of the marriage in the register.

You will be reminded of the legal definition of marriage and of the solemn and binding character of the vows you will be making to each other.

In order for the marriage to be legal you must make two declarations, firstly that there is no legal impediment to your marriage and secondly that you take one another to be husband and wife.

This is usually followed by an exchange of rings, after which the Superintendent Registrar will declare you are now married.

To conclude, the couple and their witnesses will sign the marriage register and the marriage certificate will be presented. There will then be an opportunity for photographs.

If you wish to know more about marriage ceremonies at the register office or approved venues, please ask your registrar for details.

We are here to give guidance and support throughout and will do everything within our power to make your day happy and memorable.
Civil Partnership

Civil partnership is a legal and formal recognition of the relationship between two people of the same sex, through which they gain rights in law similar to married couples.

CHOOSING YOUR VENUE

Civil partnerships can take place in register offices or approved premises (a full list of approved premises in Bristol are listed in the back pocket of this brochure) and are arranged through the register office that covers the area where you intend to form the partnership.

Giving Notice of Intention to Form a Civil Partnership

Before a civil partnership can take place, couples must give formal notice of their intention to enter into a civil partnership. This is a legal requirement and failure to give notice will result in the civil partnership not taking place.

You must live in the registration authority district for at least seven days before you may give notice on the eighth day. It does not matter if you move away from the area after you have given notice.

Once the notice has been given, a period of 28 clear days must elapse before the schedule (authority for the partnership to take place) can be issued. This is valid for one year. The notice and schedule will state the place in which the civil partnership will take place and if you wish to change the venue then new notices will have to be given.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

One of the registration staff will interview you in private. In all cases evidence of identity and nationality will be required. The preferred document is a current passport. If you do not have a passport there are other documents which may be acceptable: please contact us for advice. We also require proof of residence: A bank statement no more than 1 month old at the time of the appointment, a utility bill no more than 3 months old at the time of the appointment, the current council tax bill, mortgage statement or tenancy agreement or valid driving licence are acceptable. If either of you have been married before, either in this country or abroad, you will need to produce evidence that the previous marriage has ended. If you are divorced, and your divorce was in England or Wales the document required is a court-stamped Decree Absolute. If the divorce was elsewhere you must produce the original document issued by the court and, if not written in English, a third party translation. If you are widowed, bring the death certificate of your former spouse.

If you have changed your name legally please bring the legal document with you. If you are under 18 years of age you will need to produce a full birth certificate and evidence of consent from your parents or guardian. If your parents have divorced, we will need to see the court order giving custody to one or other parent.

Our registration staff will advise you which documents are required, depending on your own personal circumstances. Please be aware that photocopies are not acceptable.

The Civil Partnership

On the day you must bring two people with you to be witnesses to your civil partnership. You can choose any relative or friend as long as they are old enough to understand what is taking place. Please arrive at least ten minutes before the civil partnership is due to begin as we will need to check the details taken at the time of the notice and collect any fees due.

The Partnership Registrar will welcome you and remind you of the legal nature of civil partnerships. The couple and their witnesses will then sign the schedule. You may exchange rings, gifts or special vows, after which the partnership registrar will declare that you are civil partners. There will then be an opportunity for photographs.

If you wish to know more about civil partnerships at the register office or approved venues, please ask your registrar for details. We are here to give guidance and support throughout and will do everything within our power to make your day happy and memorable.
**AVON GORGE HOTEL**

(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

The Avon Gorge has a style and personality all of its own, a character that bestows on weddings and civil ceremonies an extra special ingredient to add excitement to the romance of the occasion. The best views in Bristol, light airy rooms and a private terrace, coupled with the elegance of the building, create a hotel that has no equal for weddings and civil ceremonies.

Avon Gorge Hotel,
Sion Hill, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4LD.
TEL: 0117 973 8955
EMAIL: weddings@theavongorge.com
WEB: www.theavongorge.com

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**THE BEECHES**

(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

The Beeches is an elegant Victorian mansion set in two acres of beautiful private gardens. This unique setting is full of romantic period grandeur and is the perfect backdrop to your special day.

The Beeches has a seated capacity of 65, can accommodate up to 120 for an evening reception and even holds up to 1000 in their marquee for larger celebrations.

It’s easy to see why this is regarded as a top wedding venue in Bristol once you experience the ambience of the building and gardens. The offer of total exclusivity coupled with their wedding co-ordinators’ experience will ensure that planning your wedding day is as easy as cutting the cake.

The Beeches,
Broomhill Road, Brislington,
Bristol BS4 5RG.
TEL: 0117 972 8778
EMAIL: info@the-beeches.co.uk
WEB: www.the-beeches.co.uk
**The Rummer Hotel**

In the winding alleyways just a stone's throw from the Bristol Register Office, The Rummer Hotel offers the most romantic of venues for intimate receptions up to 150 guests. The hotel offers an entirely bespoke service at an affordable and realistic price. Their professional and experienced team will work with you to tailor every part of your day into the perfect moment.

Let their award winning Head Chef devise individual and special menus to amaze and delight your guests, before you enjoy one of the best and most extensively stocked cocktail bars in the country.

The Rummer Hotel,  
All Saints Lane, Old City, Bristol BS1 1JH.  
**Tel:** 0117 9290 111  
**Email:** weddings@therummer.net  
**Web:** www.therummer.net

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**Mercure Bristol Grand Hotel**

(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

The most established and elegant hotel in Bristol, dating back to 1869. The Mercure Bristol Grand Hotel is conveniently situated opposite the Register Office on Broad Street.

During 2016 the hotel will undergo a £3.7m refurbishment which will see a total transformation of the bedrooms, restaurant and reception. The Grand Hotel is the venue for your wedding, however small or large your guest list, from a lavish reception for 400 guests to something a little more intimate! The selection of suites includes the listed Ballroom, with elegant crystal chandeliers, a perfect setting for a fairytale wedding.

The Executive Chef is on hand to work with you to create your perfect wedding breakfast, whilst your dedicated wedding planner will ensure your perfect day runs smoothly and seamlessly from start to finish.

There are 182 spacious bedrooms, including sumptuous suites and their luxurious bridal suite. Wedding guests may also enjoy the Health and Leisure Club which is situated underneath the hotel's own car park.

For enquiries please contact the Events Team  
Mercure Bristol Grand Hotel  
Broad Street, Bristol BS1 2EL.  
**Tel:** 0117 930 3322  
**Email:** HA0i2-SB@accor.com  
**Web:** www.mercure.com/gh/hotel-A0I2-mercure-bristol-grand-hotel/index.shtml

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**Mercure Bristol Grand Hotel**
The Bristol
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

If you would like to enjoy the finer things on your special day, The Bristol will provide the luxurious experience that you are looking for.

For the larger celebration, the Ballroom boasts floor to ceiling windows overlooking the harbourside, stunning Waterford crystal chandeliers and its own private bar and lounge facilities. The William Jessop Suite is a beautiful, softly furnished room just made for weddings with cream walls, thick drapes and a lounge area with the very best in bespoke furniture. Finally, the River Grille is simply a stunning location to hold your wedding breakfast, with a glass wall looking right out onto the riverfront – just perfect.

As the happy couple you are very special to the staff at The Bristol, so complete your wonderful day with a complimentary bedroom followed by an English breakfast and finally celebrate all over again on your first anniversary with their present of a dinner for the two of you in their restaurant.

The Bristol prides itself on its warm wealth of hospitality beginning from your initial enquiry through to the most memorable day of your life and beyond.

The Bristol, Prince Street, Bristol BS1 4QF.
Tel: 0117 923 0333
Email: bristol_events@doylecollection.com
Web: www.doylecollection.com/bristol

Mercure Bristol Brigstow Hotel
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

The Mercure Bristol Brigstow Hotel is a four star boutique hotel on a tree-lined boulevard overlooking the river and historic Bristol Bridge in the heart of the old city.

Catering for up to 65 seated guests for the celebratory meal and up to 150 for a standing reception, Mercure Bristol Brigstow is the ideal venue if you’re seeking a more intimate feel.

From the minute you enter the hotel, you will be greeted by a friendly team who will instill you with confidence that your every detail will be catered for. Their wedding package has been carefully designed with you in mind, and they cover everything from your wedding breakfast to evening reception with a dash of flair, a touch of imagination and attention to detail essential ingredients for that perfect day.

Mercure Bristol Brigstow Hotel,
5/7 Welsh Back, Bristol BS1 4SP.
Tel: 0117 9291030
Email: h6548-sb@accor.com
**Paintworks Event Space**
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

Paintworks Event Space is a fabulous alternative venue for wedding receptions, parties and celebrations. Its mixture of exposed brick, stone and steel work make it an exciting and dynamic place to hold a party and the size of the space creates a sense of scale that’s perfect for important occasions.

Fully licensed for private wedding ceremonies, Paintworks is a versatile blank canvas venue with vibrant on-site photo locations and a lovely outside courtyard for drinks receptions. An integrated sound system, exceptional in-house caterers and attentive venue staff are all on hand to help you create your unique wedding day.

Paintworks Event Space,
Bath Road, Bristol BS4 3EH.
**TEL:** 0117 971 4320
**EMAIL:** natalie@paintworksbristol.co.uk
**WEB:** www.paintworksevents.co.uk

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**Kings Weston House**
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

Kings Weston House was built between 1712 and 1719 and is one of Bristol’s hidden treasures. Having spent 3 years lovingly restoring the house, from top to bottom, Kings Weston would now like to invite you to share their home for your wedding day.

The level of décor and furnishings that are already there will allow you to concentrate your budget on things that make your wedding as you really want it, including a great menu with price and choice in mind.

For viewings & further information please contact Naomi or Norman
**TEL:** 0117 330 3405
**EMAIL:** welcome@kingswestonhouse.co.uk

Kings Weston House,
Kings Weston Lane, Bristol BS11 0UR.
BLAISE CASTLE HOUSE MUSEUM
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

Situated in the beautiful parkland of the Blaise Estate at Henbury, this late eighteenth century mansion was immortalised by being described as ‘the finest place in England’ in Jane Austen’s novel Northanger Abbey.

The room holds up to 80 guests, providing an intimate atmosphere and a grand backdrop for the ceremony. The room has been restored to reflect the period in which the house was built, with sumptuous red wallpaper, decorative features and is hung with pictures from the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery’s collections. French doors open out onto a terrace that commands impressive views of the estate, and provides the perfect setting for photographs and to enjoy celebratory drinks. Exclusive use of the dairy garden next to the house is also offered.

For further information please contact the Events Officer on 0117 353 6173, or email: bristolmuseums@bristol.gov.uk
Blaise Castle House Museum, Henbury Road, Henbury, Bristol BS10 7QS.
WEB: www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/blaise-castle-house-museum

WEDDINGS AT M SHED
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

M Shed is a world-class cultural landmark set on the harbour side in the heart of Bristol. They are fully licensed for weddings and civil ceremonies and flexible enough to suit all budgets and preferences, whether you’re planning an intimate ceremony or a grand celebration.

They can also offer a number of exclusive options such as arranging for your wedding party to arrive at M Shed in one of their boats or for the happy couple to be delivered by crane— an entrance that won’t be forgotten!

Your private roof terrace will give you fantastic panoramic views across Bristol’s Harbour side.

Let them show you around call on: 0117 927 3086.
M Shed, Wapping Road, Princes Wharf, Bristol BS1 4RN.
EMAIL: events.mshed@compass-group.co.uk
WEB: www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed

THE BRISTOL HIPPODROME

Add a touch of theatricality to your wedding day and have your reception at The Bristol Hippodrome! Entertain your guests with one of their world class shows, it’ll certainly be a night they won’t forget, and continue the party after the show in their historical setting.

You can be certain of a very unique and memorable day.

The Bristol Hippodrome,
St Augustines Parade, Bristol BS1 4UZ.
TEL: 0117 302 3244
EMAIL: alisongurney@theambassadors.com
**BRASSERIE BLANC PRIVÉE DINING ROOMS**  
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

Why not let Raymond Blanc’s event team add a little French flair and magic to your wedding celebrations.

Set in Bristol’s breathtaking 13th century monastic halls in the heart of Quakers Friars, Brasserie Blanc’s Privée Dining Rooms are the premier location in central Bristol to wow your guests. Boasting three uniquely stunning rooms and steeped in history, it is the perfect backdrop to celebrate your wedding from start to finish.

The experienced wedding coordinators will work with you through every aspect of the big day. From the walk down the aisle to the photographs, the wedding breakfast menu and the evening celebration, they will create that bespoke stylish day you dreamed of and your guests will remember.

Whether it is an intimate 20 or 200 of your closest friends, Brasserie Blanc’s brigade of chefs and service staff will look after you and your guests. They will take care of all the details, little or large, leaving you to enjoy your special day and create memories that will last forever.

Brasserie Blanc,  
The Friary Building, Quakers Friar,  
Cabot Circus, Bristol BS1 3DF.  
**TEL:** 0117 910 2410  
**EMAIL:** bristol@blancevents.com

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**THE SOUTHWVILLE CENTRE**  
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

The large, light filled hall and charming garden of this beautiful Grade 2 building can be personalised to create a stunning backdrop for your day. The Southville Centre offers a tailor-made service with exclusive use of the venue for your ceremony, sumptuous wedding meal (100 guests), reception (130 guests) or evening party (200 guests). In-house caterers In the Pink Catering will add the icing on the cake with a lovely range of home baked, seasonal menus.

For further details or to arrange a visit please contact:  
The Southville Centre, Beauley Road, Bristol BS3 1QG.  
**TEL:** 0117 923 1039  
**EMAIL:** kim.taylor@southvillecentre.org.uk  
**WEB:** www.southvillecentre.org.uk

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Brasserie Blanc, reverieseventsbath.co.uk

The Southville Centre
The Trinity Centre
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

At the Trinity Centre, you can have your official ceremony and reception all in one venue.

Their beautifully renovated upstairs hall has all the classic features of a traditional Georgian venue, perfect for ceremonies.

Their large downstairs hall, complete with stage, lighting and a fully licensed bar, is a fantastic option for receptions and parties. The large garden is great for marquees and outdoor drinks receptions.

You are free to use outside catering, entertainment and decorations to make your day unique. The friendly team will work with you to help realise your vision for your perfect day.

The Trinity Centre
TEL: 0117 935 1200
EMAIL: info@trinitybristol.org.uk
WEB: trinitybristol.org.uk

AT-Bristol (Licensed for civil ceremonies)

Make your day unique and add the wow factor by getting married in At-Bristol Science Centre! Say “I do” under a twinkling canopy of stars in the Planetarium or enjoy a romantic reception overlooking the beautiful Bristol Cathedral and Millennium Square.

The unique ceremony and reception spaces – from the impressive Rosalind Franklin room which can seat up to 300 to the more intimate Annex for smaller receptions – offer a contemporary and bright venue with private outdoor space and stunning views.

“We had an absolute ball, our guests were all wowed by the star show during the ceremony and everyone loved playing on the exhibits!” Mr and Mrs Shellard

The Venue Hire Team At-Bristol,
Anchor Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5DB.
TEL: 0117 915 8000
EMAIL: venue.hire@at-bristol.org.uk
WEB: www.at-bristol.org.uk/venuehire

Colston Hall (Licensed for civil ceremonies)

A unique venue that encompasses classic and contemporary architecture, located in the heart of the city centre.

Whether you are a music lover, a fan of the arts or simply looking for something out of the ordinary, Colston Hall has the perfect space for an intimate occasion or a grand affair. The stunning features of the old building and the fresh design of the foyer create an impressive backdrop for your special day. Their tailor-made packages let them create the day of your dreams.

Colston Hall,
Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5AR.
TEL: 0117 204 7104
EMAIL: naomi.easy@colstonhall.org
WEB: www.colstonhall.org
**GOLDNEY HALL**
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

Goldney Hall was built in 1714 and is set in ten acres of formal grounds in the heart of Clifton. Features of the gardens are the tower, shell-lined grotto, ornamental canal, grand terrace, rotunda and bastion.

Licensed room: the Mahogany Parlour is used for your ceremony and can accommodate 36 guests.

Reception: the sunny Orangery overlooks, and has direct access to the gardens.

Capacity: 110 (seated) and 150 (buffet).

Catering is provided by Fosters Events who have served the discerning diner with innovative cuisine and fine wines for many years.

For further information please contact:
University of Bristol Conference Office,
The Hawthorns, Woodland Road,
Clifton, Bristol BS8 1UQ.
TEL: 0117 954 5501
EMAIL: conference-office@bristol.ac.uk
WEB: www.bristol.ac.uk/conference

Or Fosters Events, Unit 5, Avonside Road,
Feeder Road, Bristol BS2 0UQ.
TEL: 0117 977 6611
EMAIL: events@fostersevents.co.uk
WEB: www.fostersevents.co.uk
Merchants’ Hall (Licensed for civil ceremonies)

Steeped in history, the Merchants’ Hall is one of the jewels in Bristol’s crown. A grand, detached house, Merchants’ Hall stands proudly in its own grounds just a short walk away from picturesque Clifton village and its world-famous suspension bridge.

Despite its rich heritage, the Merchants’ Hall feels more like a home than a museum and guests frequently comment on how warm and comfortable they feel, despite the opulent surroundings.

The entire hall is made available exclusively to your party during the day. The reception room, with a Steinway piano and numerous paintings and antiques; the dining room, seating up to 100 guests with French doors leading out onto the terrace; the beautiful garden and the smaller rooms upstairs are all yours.

The Merchant Venturers, Merchants’ Hall,
The Promenade, Bristol BS8 3NH.
TEL: 0117 973 8058
EMAIL: enquiries@merchantventurers.com
WEB: www.merchantventurers.com

No 4 Clifton Village (Licensed for civil ceremonies)

Located in a beautiful Georgian house, in the heart of Clifton Village, No.4 creates the ideal intimate, sophisticated wedding venue, with a touch of originality and a real sense of grandeur. It is fully licensed to host your wedding, civil ceremony and reception for up to 80 people.

No.4 is renowned for its warm and friendly atmosphere, it has been styled to create a sense of romance and boasts a large private walled garden, a beautiful restaurant, bar and hotel, giving you many options and ultimate flexibility to create your perfect wedding day.

No.4 Clifton Village, The Rodney Hotel,
4 Rodney Place, Bristol, Avon BS8 4HY.
TEL: 0117 9706869
EMAIL: bookings@no4cliftonvillage.co.uk
WEB: www.no4cliftonvillage.co.uk

The Square (Licensed for civil ceremonies)

The Square is a unique wedding venue, situated in a Georgian townhouse in the heart of Clifton.

Vintage boutique decor and contemporary art create a welcoming, stylish atmosphere throughout. The Square boasts a reception lounge, ceremony and wedding breakfast room, cocktail bar and dancefloor, and a terrace garden.

Accommodating up to 70 daytime guests and 120 in the evening, their in-house wedding planner and award-winning chefs will look after every detail of your special day.

The Square,
15 Berkeley Square, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1HB.
TEL: 0117 921 0455
EMAIL: bookings@thesquareclub.com
WEB: www.thesquareclub.com
**ARNOS VALE**

(Licensed for civil ceremonies & Woodland Weddings)

As the only licensed woodland wedding venue in the heart of Bristol, Arnos Vale is a perfect location for the couple looking for that unique wedding experience as their Underwood Centre brings you and your guests closer to nature. Alternatively, discover the stunning Anglican Chapel and Spielman Centre which complete the breathtaking venue collection for church or civil ceremonies, wedding breakfasts and evening receptions. These three distinctive venues can be combined together to complete a memorable wedding occasion designed around you.

Arnos Vale, West Lodge, Bath Road, Bristol BS4 3EW.

**TEL:** 0117 9719117  
**EMAIL:** kat.mcconnell@arnosvale.org.uk  
**WEB:** [www.arnosvale.org.uk](http://www.arnosvale.org.uk)

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**ALMA TAVERN AND THEATRE**

(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

For something a bit different why not choose a friendly, independent and unique venue for your reception. This local theatre and tavern is the perfect venue to host your reception or ceremony, or both together. The Alma offers delicious catering to tickle your tastebuds from their experienced Head Chef, real ales and fine wines, a beautiful outdoor area, and cosy bar, all situated in the heart of Clifton.

The Alma Tavern and Theatre,  
18-20 Alma Vale Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2HY.  
**TEL:** 0117 973 5171  
**EMAIL:** info@almatavernandtheatre.co.uk  
**WEB:** [www.almatavernandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.almatavernandtheatre.co.uk)
The Milk Thistle

Hidden in one of the finest historic buildings in the old city, The Milk Thistle is one of Bristol’s most famous clandestine cocktail bars.

Milk Thistle can offer a truly unique and alternative wedding, from intimate lunch and dinner parties up to 16 guests, right up to larger parties of 120 for a standing buffet, all catered by sister restaurant, The Ox.

With stunning decor and atmosphere The Milk Thistle is the perfect location for couples looking for a truly grown up* celebration in impressive surroundings.

The Milk Thistle,
Quay Head House, Colston Avenue,
Bristol, BS1 1EB.
TEL: 0117 929 4429
EMAIL: info@milkthistlebristol.com
WEB: www.milkthistlebristol.com

*no under 18’s due to licensing restrictions.

The Ox

With two locations on Whiteladies Road and Corn Street, just a stone’s throw from The Old Council House, The Ox is perfect for intimate wedding lunches and dinners in decadent surroundings.

Widely regarded as two of the best restaurants in the city, The Ox can accommodate up to 80 guests exclusively at each restaurant as well as smaller groups. Renowned for their exceptional steak and cocktails, they’re the ideal venues for couples wanting something unique and special to celebrate their big day.

The Ox Bristol / The Ox Clifton,
The Basement, 43 Corn Street, Bristol BS1 1HT.
96A Whiteladies Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2QX.
CORN ST: 0117 922 1001
CLIFTON: 0117 973 0005
EMAIL: info@theoxbristol.com / info@theoxclifton.com
WEB: www.theoxbristol.com / www.theoxclifton.com

Pata Negra

Situated within walking distance of The Old Council House, Pata Negra is a fabulous and flexible venue, ideal for couples wanting to throw a party with plenty of food, drinks and dancing for their big day.

Spread across three floors, with a maximum capacity of 350, Pata Negra offers a feel of Spain’s bustling tapas bars, complete with two beautiful private cocktail bars, each able to accommodate up to 120 with plenty of space for dancing.

Pata Negra,
Corn Street, Old City, Bristol BS1 1YH.
TEL: 0117 9276762
EMAIL: info@patanegrabristol.com
WEB: www.patanegrabristol.com
Glassboat
(Licensed for civil ceremonies)

With panoramic views over the floating harbour, Glassboat is one of the most beautiful and unique wedding venues Bristol has to offer. This lovingly restored boat with its polished wooden decks and enchanting location makes a truly elegant and romantic setting which is rivalled only by the quality of the dishes created on board.

Glassboat’s classic French dishes are created from the finest ingredients and are freshly prepared with care to complement your special day. Thoughtfully sourced and keenly priced wines and champagnes add to the fabulous dining experience.

The main deck of the boat is light and airy during the day, transforming at twilight into a truly romantic space where style and atmosphere are hard to beat. The glass-walled aft end of the boat is licensed for ceremonies with a capacity of 80 and can become a dancefloor later in the evening for you and your guests to dance the night away. Main deck capacity is 100 for a sit down meal or up to 150 for a standing reception.

The lower deck private dining room is a unique and intimate space perfect for smaller post-wedding meals, with water-level views of the river from the original portholes. The lower deck room has a maximum capacity of 40 for a sit down meal.

A dedicated weddings co-ordinator will be on hand from the start and throughout the planning stages to help you with menu selection, table plans and to create a bespoke offering to ensure that this wonderfully memorable occasion is the day of your dreams.

Situated close to the Register Office, Glassboat benefits from a plentiful range of hotel accommodation right on its doorstep.

Glassboat, Welsh Back, Bristol BS1 4SB.
TEL: 0117 332 3971
EMAIL: events@glassboat.co.uk
WEB: www.glassboat.co.uk
City Hall - formally known as The Council House
(Licensed for Civil Ceremonies)

As one of the West's most distinguished venues, City Hall offers an exceptional location for your special day.

Each of the stunning rooms available for your Ceremony can be booked separately or combined with the Conference Hall or Main Foyer to provide an adjoining reception space for your Wedding breakfast and evening celebrations.

The Lord Mayor’s Reception Room has a luxurious feel, offers a warm welcome with its original period features and can accommodate up to 50 guests. If your numbers are larger the Council Chamber can accommodate 200 guests and offers a certain formality and splendour. The Writing Room has an original stone fireplace with the crest of Bristol above it and can accommodate up to 70 guests.

For your reception the Conference Hall is a wonderfully versatile space and can be tailored to suit any style of reception. It can accommodate up to 200 guests with space for entertainment and dancing.

With its exquisite rooms, sumptuous dining and your own dedicated event’s organiser, this is an ideal setting for Weddings and ceremonies.

Conference Office,
City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR.
TEL: 0117 922 4737
EMAIL: conference.office@bristol.gov.uk
WEB: www.bristol.gov.uk/web/city-hall/weddings

Freemasons Hall
(Licensed for Civil Ceremonies)

Experience your perfect day: get married at Freemasons Hall.

Built in 1820 and bought by the Freemasons of Bristol in 1871, this beautiful historic building was originally Bristol’s Historical and Philosophical Centre.

Their experienced staff will help you in your preparations to make your wedding day a day to remember.

Freemasons Hall,
17-31 Park Street, Bristol BS1 5NH.
TEL: 0117 954 9841 / 07811371055
EMAIL: info@parkstreetevents.co.uk
WEB: www.parkstreetevents.co.uk
Patisserie Valerie

Patisserie Valerie is the place for truly spectacular wedding cakes. Established in 1926, Madame Valerie’s wealth of experience has been creating beautiful centrepieces for years.

Choose from their sample menu or create your dream cake by using their personalised service in one of the stores in Cabot Circus, Cribbs Causeway or Clifton.

Patisserie Valerie, Cabot Circus, George White Street, Bristol BS1 3BA.
TEL: 0117 927 3101
WEB: www.patisserie-valerie.co.uk

Evoke Pictures

Evoke specialise in documentary wedding photography, capturing all the laughter and emotion every step of the way. Each couple receives a complimentary engagement session, so your photographer can get to know you before your big day! All photographs are provided on a USB stick so you can share them with friends and family, make prints, and share on social media. If you feel inspired to share Evoke’s artistic vision, drop them a line and go for a coffee to talk about your special day.

Evoke Pictures — Bristol Wedding Photographers
MOB: 07979 551 580 MOB: 07907 722 555
EMAIL: info@evokepictures.com
WEB: www.evokepictures.com

Doctor Chocolate

You’re getting married! Congratulations! If you are looking for a professional, reliable and fun wedding band to ensure your evening celebrations are amazing then get in contact! Doctor Chocolate are a nine piece wedding band with a tight rhythm section, explosive horns and two versatile and powerful vocalists. They know how important it is to ensure your evening is fun and entertaining, and they play the best music from the 1960’s to present day songs to keep that dance floor packed all night!

TEL: 07967 709 018
EMAIL: sarah@doctorchocolate.co.uk
WEB: www.doctorchocolate.co.uk
KATES KITCHEN BRISTOL

There’s nothing like a feast of freshly sourced, lovingly prepared food to add sparkle to the biggest day of your life.

With years of wedding catering experience behind them, Kate’s Kitchen know what it takes to make your wedding day special. They take the hassle out of the preparation so you can relax and enjoy playing the host.

Care will be taken to deliver a personalised wedding, based on your needs and desires.

TEL: 0117 330 8189
EMAIL: events@kateskitchenbristol.co.uk
WEB: www.kateskitchenbristol.co.uk

THE WEDDING PLAYERS

Award Winning Bespoke DJ Service

An award winning bespoke DJ service (the Wedding Industry Awards 2015), providing you with the special attention you deserve to create your wedding party exactly as you envision it.

Neat, simple and stylish presentation is key to making their disco fit in with your beautiful wedding venue; coupled with a “Music Playlist Service”, so you can choose the music you and your guests want at your wedding. They look forward to answering any questions you might have.

TEL: 01275 393 114
MOB: 07841 385562
EMAIL: music@theweddingplayers.com
WEB: www.theweddingplayers.com
Neil Pollock Photography

With over a decade filming documentaries for all the major UK broadcasters, Neil has an exceptional eye for detail and great shots. He is a true professional with a relaxed and observational approach, so you can be sure that your celebrations will be documented with a minimum of fuss, leaving you to enjoy your day. The result is impressive, high-quality, natural photographs that capture the whole event and preserve your memories beautifully.

Neil Pollock Photography
MOB: 07779 062096
EMAIL: info@neilpollockphotography.co.uk
WEB: www.neilpollockphotography.co.uk

Nick Ball Photography

Nick Ball ARPS offers a range of professional, artistic and affordable packages that can include: albums, prints and a DVD of all your images that you can print from or use to create your own album. Nick believes successful wedding photography is about understanding people. In order to do this, he arranges an initial meeting and a pre-wedding shoot to ensure that the bride and groom feel confident.

MOB: 07836 571 068
EMAIL: nick@nickballphotography.com
WEB: www.nickballphotography.com

The Bristol String Quartet

The Bristol String Quartet is a well-established quartet who have played at over 1200 weddings across Bristol and the South-West. With a repertoire of in excess of 1000 pieces ranging from Beethoven and Mozart to The Beatles and Coldplay, you can be sure that they have the perfect music for your special day.

The Bristol String Quartet
TEL: 07736 273723
EMAIL: mail@thebristolstringquartet.com
WEB: www.thebristolstringquartet.com
Rosie Shaw Cake Company

At the Rosie Shaw Cake Company they take great pride and care in personally creating each cake from the first consultation to the delivery of your cake. All of the cakes are bespoke and created in their professional kitchen located in St George, Bristol. If you are looking for a cake for your wedding please get in touch at info@rosieshawcakecompany.co.uk.

Rosie Shaw Cake Company,
264 Church Road, St George, Bristol BS5 8AF.
TEL: 07500 554215
EMAIL: info@rosieshawcakecompany.co.uk
WEB: www.rosieshawcakecompany.co.uk

AJE Classics

Looking for something just a bit different? AJE Classics offer an alternative to the traditional white/ivory wedding car; stunning classic 1960s Jaguars in opalescent pale blue and green.

Emma and Andrew pride themselves on their professional, relaxed and friendly service covering Bristol, Bath, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

If you would like a quote or would like to come and have a look at the Jaguars (photos really don’t do them justice) please get in touch.

“We are so glad we chose to hire our wedding car from AJE Classics. The Jaguar was beautiful, in pristine condition inside and out. Emma and Andrew were wonderfully organised and helpful both during the planning process and on the wedding day itself. Many of our guests commented on how stunning the car looked and it features in many of our wedding photos as the photographer thought it was beautiful too! I can’t recommend AJE Classics highly enough”.
Rachel & Tom, Bride and Groom.

TEL: 01454 600 072 / 07748 117 547
EMAIL: emma@ajeclassics.co.uk
WEB: www.ajeclassics.co.uk
JUST FOR YOU BRIDAL

Located in Bristol’s city centre, Just For You Bridal offer one of the UK’s largest bridal collections, including many top designers to suit all shapes, sizes and budgets. Also available are extensive men’s hire wear, bridesmaid and accessories ranges. With over 25 years of bridal expertise, and in a 2500sq foot space, you are in safe hands with friendly and knowledgeable staff who will help you find your perfect gown in an exclusive private viewing room.

Just For You Bridal,
York House, Bond Street, Bristol BS1 3LQ.
TEL: 0117 9428900
EMAIL: info@justforyoubridal.co.uk
WEB: www.justforyoubridal.co.uk

Clifton Brides

Clifton Brides is now in its 28th year of trading and remains as one of the most recognised bridal boutiques in Bristol and the South West.

Tucked away at the top of Whiteladies road, overlooking the picturesque Clifton Downs, this beautiful boutique offers the very latest in bespoke bridal wear. Their service, knowledge and professionalism remains the priority, providing you with the standards and service that every bride deserves.

Clifton Brides stocks an ever evolving, hand picked selection of gowns from leading national and international designers including Mikaella by Paloma Blanca, Lillian West, Le Papillon, Augusta Jones, Snow by Annsaul Y and Alan Hannah. With 60 collective years of industry experience, they have a wealth of knowledge to share with you, but rest assured they’re young at heart! Their prices range from £900- £2200.

Clifton Brides look forward to welcoming you.

Clifton Brides,
186 Whiteladies Road, Clifton, Bristol BS82XU.
TEL: 0117 923 7928
EMAIL: sales@cliftonbrides.co.uk
WEB: www.cliftonbrides.co.uk
TWITTER: www.twitter.com/cliftonbrides
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/CliftonBrides
INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/cliftonbrides
Other Ceremonies

Civil Naming Ceremony

When a new child is born, parents often feel the need for a special occasion to gather together their families and close friends to welcome the child into the family. The civil naming ceremony has no religious content and no legal significance. Each ceremony is designed to meet the individual needs of the family, and includes words of welcome to the child and promises of commitment. The ceremony can also be used to welcome an adoptive child or step-child into a new relationship and family unit.

Renewal of Marriage Vows

This is a ceremony for a married couple who wish to renew their vows: either to celebrate a special anniversary, or because their relationship has been through some difficulties and they now wish to renew their commitment to each other. Some couples who have married abroad later decide to renew their vows before their families and friends.

Civil Partnership Conversion Ceremony

Couples who are in a civil partnership formed in England or Wales are now legally able to convert this to a marriage. The conversion is a statutory paper process with the option to have a celebratory ceremony.
POINTS TO NOTE

♦ Your ceremony cannot go ahead unless the legal formalities have been completed.

♦ Notice of marriage or civil partnership must be given in person by you and your partner. No-one can give notice on your behalf. You cannot give notice by post or by telephone.

♦ Unless you or your partner are subject to immigration control you must give notice in the districts where you both live. You must get married or hold the civil partnership within twelve months of the date you give notice. You cannot give more than twelve months notice.

♦ The fees for giving notice and for a marriage or civil partnership in a register office are set nationally. However, the fees for the attendance of registration staff at a marriage or civil partnership in approved premises (e.g. a hotel) are set by the local authority. We will give you details of current fees on request.

♦ There can be no religious content in a civil marriage/partnership.

♦ This guide gives general information only. It is not a complete statement of the law. Please discuss your personal circumstances and wishes with us.

OUR COMMITMENT

The team at Bristol Register Office are committed to achieving high standards of excellence in public service and we positively welcome feedback from our customers. Your comments and views are always welcome.

HOW TO CONTACT
BRISTOL REGISTER OFFICE

Bristol Register Office, The Old Council House, Corn Street, Bristol BS1 1JG.
Tel: 0117 922 2800
Fax: 0117 903 8877
Email: register.office@bristol.gov.uk
Website: www.bristol.gov.uk

Opening hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm
Wednesday – 10.00am to 4.00pm

For marriage or civil partnership enquiries, please ring or visit the office during the above hours. To give notice of marriage or civil partnership at Bristol Register Office please telephone 0117 922 2800 for an appointment.

Late night opening
Wednesday – 5.00pm to 7.00pm
(appointment only)
Saturday – 9.00am to 1.30pm
(appointment only)
Honeymoon

- Your honeymoon is the launch pad for the rest of your married life; choosing the right location is just as important as the wedding service and reception venue. Wherever you decide to spend your honeymoon the location should be decided jointly between the two of you.

- Once a budget has been decided upon, stick to it. The consequences of a “live now pay later” approach can be very stressful on a marriage.

- Ensure that your passports and visas are up to date. If you decide to travel in your married name be sure to have your passport details changed at least two months in advance. If there is not sufficient time for the passport office to make the changes, the bride should take the marriage certificate and her old passport to prove her identity.

- Remember to include the cost of going away and holiday clothes into the wedding budget, they can amount to quite a lot of money once you “hit the shops.”

- Check with your travel agent whether your honeymoon is inclusive of travel insurance. If not additional travel insurance is always a must, even on the simplest holiday abroad.

- If you are planning a honeymoon abroad check well in advance with your doctor as to whether any inoculations or injections will be needed. Remember you may need time to recover from the effects of some tropical disease injections.

- It is always wise to take a small first aid kit on holiday with you. It is far easier if you do need anything such as dressings, insect bite cream, painkiller or diarrhoea tablets if you have some handy in your room instead of having to find the local chemist or doctor for these emergencies.

- Relax. Have a great time and enjoy yourselves. We can’t be with you for this part, but on your return, share the memories of your special day and send us some of the wedding photos.