



Wedding Arrangements

It is a privilege to prepare for your marriage. Likewise, it is one of the great joys of ministry to conduct a wedding blessing, asking for God to bless your love and promises to one another.

Legalities

La Côte Anglican Church is part of the Church of England. It is located in the Diocese in Europe which comes under the Province of Canterbury.

Any church in any country must comply with the law of the land and this can affect the conduct of a wedding service. Marriage in Switzerland is governed by local civil law (the National and Cantonal Laws of Switzerland). These laws differ from those in other countries.

- In Switzerland a church wedding on its own has no legal status. Before the church service can take place, you must first have been through a civil ceremony of marriage and be able to provide evidence (Civil Marriage certificate) that you have done so.
- In the church service we ask for God's blessing on the marriage you have already made in the eyes of the state. The wording of the service may differ slightly from that of a wedding service elsewhere. However, the intention to celebrate the start of a married life together with God's blessing is exactly the same.
- If either of the couple is a member of another Church, s/he is encouraged to speak to her/his own priest or minister. It may be necessary or advisable to obtain a dispensation to ensure that the validity of the Anglican service is recognised by the other Church. A priest or minister of the other Church may be invited to assist at the service.
- Likewise if either of the couple is a member of another religion, s/he is encouraged to speak to a leader of her/his religion. It is possible to arrange for clergy of other religions to assist at the service.
- The blessing of a marriage where one (or both) of the partners has been divorced and has an ex-spouse still living, can take place at the discretion of the Chaplain and with the permission of the Diocesan Bishop.

Talk to the Chaplain

You will first need to make sure that the Chaplain and, possibly, the church are available. The Chaplain will usually be able to confirm the date within a few days and will then expect you to make an appointment as soon as possible afterwards so that the formalities can get started.

As part of your marriage preparation, you will both be asked to meet the Chaplain for a series of sessions which aim to cover the following important issues:

- **Understanding of the beliefs** which underlie the celebration of marriage in the Christian tradition, and the spiritual preparation for the event itself.
- **Practical arrangements** about the details of the order of service, such as music, hymns, choir, readings, prayers, and the participation of other clergy.
- Preparation of an **order of service**.

If you live too far away from the La Côte area to engage in marriage preparation, you may be asked to approach a minister in your vicinity, and ask if he or she is prepared to help you with marriage preparation.

It is also possible to have parts of the service (readings, prayers or hymns) in different languages, to allow participation in the ceremony by all members of the congregation.

In the week before the service, the couple to be married usually rehearses the ceremony in church, together with any others who will be taking part.

Photographs / video recordings

Please be sure to consult the Chaplain about any arrangements you wish to make with regard to photographers, and especially if you would like the ceremony to be recorded on video. It is essential that these do not interfere with the conduct of the service.

During the ceremony we strongly prefer that photography be kept discreet, with just a professional stills photographer and one video (if appropriate). Professional photographers understandably like to capture every moment and take as many pictures as possible which can sometimes become intrusive. We ask you to make this clear to professionals and your guests so that there isn't distraction during the service and ensure a happy and harmonious occasion.

Biodegradable confetti may be used in the gardens of the church.

What does it cost?

La Côte Church is entirely self-funded by the pledges and gifts from our church members together with donations from members of our wider community and our fundraising.

Guidelines for wedding donations:

For a ceremony at Gingins

Donation for the ceremony CHF 675 minimum

Office expenses CHF50

Organist Fee CHF 350 plus - depending on the preparation required

Permission to Video the service CHF 100

The additional costs of “special” music, flowers and other decorations, photographers, videographers etc., are the sole responsibility of the wedding party. We always ask in the case of a Saturday wedding that if at all possible, your altar flowers might remain for the following Sunday’s service.

For weddings elsewhere in the La Côte area:

Fees for the ceremony CHF 675

Chaplain’s travel and other expenses as incurred

Timings of payments

The fees for the organist, choir & musicians (if using) are payable before the service date (payment details to be sent to you directly by the organist and/or musicians).

The donation for La Côte Anglican Church is payable in advance, at the latest the week before the service (payment details below)

In addition to the fees mentioned La Cote Church encourages a donation for the upkeep of our Ministry and administration expenses.

I hope that this clarifies our normal practice and allows you to make arrangements with the minimum of embarrassment and maximum of clarity.

Payment details are as follows:

Bank: UBS Nyon 1260

IBAN: CH42 0022 8228 5504 9740 H

Beneficiary: La Côte Anglican
1267 Coinsins

BIC: UBSWCHZH80A

Church Development Association,



Or here is a QR code:

Yours sincerely,

Liz Le Feuvre

Admin Assistant to the Chaplain
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