Guidelines for Wedding Photography at St Saviour's Church High Green



At St Saviour's we really enjoy having weddings and we seek to do everything we can to help the day be a wonderful event for the happy couple, family and friends. However, photography can sometimes be a source of problems. We fully understand and support the couple's desire for great photographs and the professional need of the photographer to record the great day. Even so, previous experience has led to us having the occasional problem. Therefore we provide the following guidelines to help smooth the whole process.

- 1. The Vicar hopes to meet the photographer at least half an hour before the service starts in order to clarify any issues. Occasionally a photographer attends the rehearsal and this is very helpful.
- 2. The photographer has full control of matters outside of the church. All of the church grounds are available for taking photographs. However, once the bride is inside the church the Vicar takes control.
- 3. The Vicar gives a few notices just as the service is about to start. This includes an encouragement to the congregation to take lots of photos as the bride comes down the aisle but then not to take any more until the wedding party makes its departure at the end. This is simply to stop people taking photographs with flash during the service which can lead to it becoming a photoshoot.
- 4. The official photographer is exempted from this protocol. However we expect:
 - 4.1. That no flash is used by the photographer during the service.
 - 4.2. That the photographer does not move around the building during the service, as this can become a distraction to the congregation.
 - 4.3. However, the photographer is welcome to stand in the central aisle to take one quick photo of the bride as she walks down.
 - 4.4. Additional cameras at the rear of the church (on tripods?) can be used by an additional photographer but that person must be invisible throughout the service.
 - 4.5. Additionally, the Vicar will turn the bride and groom to face each other as they make their vows. At this point the photographer should be able to take some good shots from the back of the church with a telephoto lens.
- 5. When it comes to the signing of the registers the photographer is welcome to take informal photos, but those doing the signing have to be focussed on the task. However, once all of the registers have been completed the Vicar will clear the desk and lay out a register etc for photographs. At this point the Vicar hands over the arrangements to the photographer for sorting out groups for photographing and there is no time limit (well, within reason!).
- 6. At the end of the service the wedding party will process out of the church. The photographer takes control once the wedding party is halfway down the aisle.
- 7. If it should be raining the photographer is welcome to use the church building for taking photographs.
- 8. The Vicar and the team have to clear up the church etc after the wedding and then need to leave (this is usually takes quite a long time). This will mean locking the main church door. Hopefully by this time the photographer will no longer be needing this to be open.
- 9. The same principles apply to video photography, including the use of cameras used unattended on tripods. Guests in the service are very welcome to video the service on mobiles etc as long as they don't interrupt the view of those behind them.

We offer these guidelines in order to help smooth all the arrangements. We hope that they don't seem too prescriptive, but experience has taught us that gaining clarity helps the process and enables us to avoid any problems arising. Most of all we want the happy couple to have a wonderful day and to have great photographs to remember it by.