

Church Weddings project

Parish clergy training event focus groups

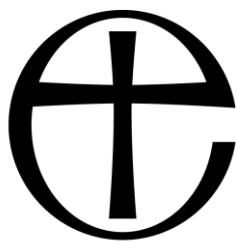
March 2010

1. Welcome and explain purpose of feedback from training event; confidentiality and introductions (*first names only for recording purposes*).
 - a. Please describe briefly the parish and ministry team in which you serve.
 - b. Have you noticed any difference to your wedding ministry since the 2008 Marriage Measure? (describe)
2. Current Wedding Practices
 - a. (If necessary) What are the strengths of your church/ parish church weddings provision?
 - b. Are there any practical, theological or other areas of church wedding ministry that concern you?
 - c. (If time) How do church weddings fit with your church congregation(s) in terms of support and welcome for couples?
3. Training event
 - a. Have you heard anything at this training event (so far) that has surprised you?
 - b. Which suggestions made at this training event (so far) appear most immediately useful?
 - c. Is there anything you particularly wish had been covered at this training event?
4. Conclusion
 - a. Are there things that you feel the wedding project has not addressed?
 - b. Do you still have any concerns about your wedding ministry that have not been addressed by the wedding project?

Next stage We asked you, to give us some dates in late August early September for the next focus group at which we will ask for your feedback after the main summer weddings season. Can I remind you to complete the form and hand it back to us before the end of the training event?

THANK YOU for your time and help in taking the church wedding project forward.

Lynda Barley



The Weddings Project

Manchester clergy questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. We are conducting research into the development of a strategy for improving practice in church weddings. Your views are very important to us.

Please rest assured that all information you provide will remain entirely confidential and anonymous throughout this project. No individual will be identifiable in any analysis or report of this project.

We would also welcome your participation in **two research discussion groups**. The first will take place during this training event and the details of the second will be confirmed at a later date close to the end of the summer wedding season. We will ensure that any expenses incurred will be reimbursed.

Please tick this box if you are able to take part in the two research discussion groups ☐

Please provide several dates that would suit you towards the end of August/early September for the second of these groups to be held at this same venue 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____

The questionnaire is divided in four main sections (About You, About Your Parish, About Weddings and About Training & Resources). The last section provides you with the opportunity to feed back, to the research team only, your views about The Weddings Project.

Instructions:

To complete circle or tick your answers where appropriate. Should you wish to write more than the space provided allows, please continue on a separate sheet writing your full name at the top of the page and the question number to which the answer relates to. Thank you!

About You

1. Please provide us with your contact details so that we can discuss aspects of this research with you

Full name _____
(strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties)

tel _____ email _____
(please write this in capital letters)

2. Year of Ordination: _____ 3. Number of years in current post? _____

4. Previous post of responsibility? _____

5. At which college/ course did you train for ministry? _____

6. How would you describe your churchmanship/

Continued

preferred style of worship? _____

7.. Which of the following categories best describe your current post:

a. **incumbent/ priest in charge** b. **rector/team leader** c. **rural/area dean**

8. Have you ever held a post of diocesan responsibility? YES ☐ NO ☐

a.If YES, in what capacity? _____

b. Was this a full-time post? YES ☐ NO ☐

9. a. How were you first trained *as a curate* to conduct church weddings?

b.. How satisfactory did you feel this to be? _____

10. Have you undertaken any *other* training prior to today related to weddings? YES ☐ NO ☐

a. If YES, what form did this take? _____

b. How satisfactory did you feel this to be? _____

About Your Parish(es)

10. Is/are your parish(es) mainly:

a. **urban** b. **rural** c. **suburban** d. **inner city**

11. Are you responsible for a grade listed building? YES ☐ NO ☐

12. Please describe the ministerial team you have in place in your parish(es) (this may include, for example, lay ministers, ministry teams, administrative support, etc.)

13. a. What is the total size of your congregations (adults & children)
in a typical week? _____

b. Has this diminished in the past 5 years? YES ☐ NO ☐ Not Sure ☐

c. Have your parish(es) been engaged in specific mission initiatives to welcome more people
into your church in the past few years? YES ☐ NO ☐

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d. If so, what are these? _____

About Weddings

14. How many weddings/blessings of marriage were there in your parish(es) in:

a. 2006 _____

c. 2008 _____

b. 2007 _____

d. 2009 _____

15. a. Are you the only person who conducts church weddings in your parish(es)?

YES ☐

NO ☐

b. If NO, who shares these responsibilities with you? _____

16. a. Do you actively promote the celebration of weddings in your church(es)? YES ☐ NO ☐

b. Please explain how successful this is _____

17. a. What are the strengths of your parishes church weddings provision?

b. Are there any practical, theological or other areas of church wedding ministry that concern you? _____

c. Can you describe any difficult requests that have come to you recently relating to wedding services and how you have dealt with them? _____

About Training & Resources

Continued

18. How do you expect this training event to influence your provision of church weddings?

- a. **Not at all** b. **A little** c. **A certain extent** d. **Significantly** e. **Very significantly**

Explain _____

19. Do any aspects of the Weddings Project surprise you? (Explain)

20. Had you looked at the “yourchurchwedding” website before coming
to the training event?

YES ☐ NO ☐

21. a. Have you found any of the items on the website particularly helpful? YES ☐ NO ☐

b. If YES, which and why? _____

22. a. Have you found any of the items on the website to be unhelpful?

YES ☐ NO ☐

b. If YES, which and why? _____

23. Are there any areas of church wedding ministry that you feel the Church Weddings Project
should address to a greater extent than at present?

24. Please use the space below to share any other thoughts you would like to contribute to our
research?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire!

CofE and AC Logos

Questionnaire for all clergy attending Conferences

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your views are very important to us.

Please rest assured that all information you provide within these pages will remain entirely confidential and all precautions will be taken to protect your identity throughout the project.

As you may be aware, in this second stage of the Weddings Project, Rev.d Lynda Barley (the Head of Research and Statistics of the National Church Institutions) was asked by the Archbishops' Council to conduct research into the development of a strategy for changing practices in dioceses.

As part of this second phase, all clergy attending the conference have been asked to complete this questionnaire and provide their contact details so we may contact you either by phone or email with follow-up questionnaires as the weddings season progresses. We would also welcome your participation in two research discussion groups. The first will take place xxx the second, the details of which will be confirmed at a later date, will be close to the end of the wedding season.

While the limited budge will not allow us to stretch as far as providing you with good financial rewards, we will ensure that all expenses incurred will be reimbursed. In addition, we are in discussions with your Diocesan staff to see whether those who participate in the research project may be able to accrue CME/D credits.

Given difficulties in capacity, we may have to randomly select a number of clergy to take part in the research discussion groups should a greater number of you would like to take part.

Please tick this box if you would like to take part in the research discussion groups

Please provide five dates that would suit you towards the end of August/early September for the final of these groups

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The questionnaire is divided in four main sections (About You, About Your Parish, About Weddings and About the Conference). The last section provides you with the opportunity to feed back, to the research team only, your views about the conference

Instructions:

To complete circle or tick your answers where appropriate. Should you wish to write more than the space provided allows, please continue on a separate sheet writing your full name at the top of the page and the question number to which the answer relates to. Thank you!

About You

1. Please provide us with your contact details for follow-up surveys

- a. Full Name _____
(strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties)
- b. Phone number _____
- c. Email address _____
(please write this in capital letters)
- d. Postal address _____

2. Year of Ordination:

- a. Deacon _____
- b. Priest _____

3. Number of years in current post? _____

4. What was your first post of responsibility? _____

5. Did you complete your ministerial training:

- a. on a course (part-time)
- b. on a course (full-time)
- c. residential college

6. Which of the following categories best describes your current post:

- a. Incumbent
- b. Team leader
- c. Rural Dean
- d. Priest in charge

7. Have you ever been a rural dean? Yes ☐ No ☐

8. Have you ever held posts of diocesan responsibility? Yes ☐ No ☐

a. If so, in what capacity? _____

9. Was this a full-time post? Yes ☐ No ☐

10. If not, were you also responsible for a parish? Yes ☐ No ☐

i. Please describe you other responsibilities in the space provided below.

11. Have you taken any ministry related CME/D courses in the past 10 years?

Yes ☐ No ☐

a. If so, how many? _____

b. Which CME/D course/s did you take? _____

12. Have you taken a sabbatical since ordination? Yes ☐ No ☐

a. If so, did you receive Diocesan support? Yes ☐ No ☐

b. Please state the purpose of the sabbatical and the reason for applying below.

c. Yes ☐ No ☐

d. Yes ☐ No ☐

About Your Parish

13. Is your parish mainly:
- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| a. Urban | c. Suburban |
| b. Rural | d. Inner city |
14. Are you responsible for a grade listed building? Yes ☐ No ☐
15. Please describe the ministerial support you have in place in your parish (this may include, for example, lay ministers, ministry teams, administrative support, etc.)
- _____
- _____
- _____
16. What is the size of your congregation? _____
- a. Has this diminished in the past 5 years? Yes ☐ No ☐
17. Has your parish been pursuing evangelical schemes to welcome more people into your church in the past few years? Yes ☐ No ☐
- a. If so, what are these? _____
- _____

About Weddings

18. How many weddings were there in your parish in:
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. 2006 _____ | c. 2008 _____ |
| b. 2007 _____ | d. 2009 _____ |
19. Are you the only person who celebrates marriages in your parish? Yes ☐ No ☐
- a. If not, who shares these responsibilities with you? _____
- _____
20. Do you currently advertise the celebration of weddings in your parish?
- Yes ☐ No ☐
- a. Please explain your reasons for (not) doing so _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
21. Was attendance to this conference your choice? Yes ☐ No ☐
22. Did you feel the findings of the first part of the Weddings project
- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| a. Were inspiring | d. Were a cause for irritation |
| b. Reflected your perceptions of weddings | |
| c. Were unexpected | |

Please feel free to use the space below to write your views in greater detail

-
-
23. Do you agree with the premise of the project (that weddings may be used as evangelising tools)? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please use the space below to explain your reasons for dis/agreeing with this premise

-
-
-
24. Had you looked at the “yourchurchwedding” website before coming to the conference? Yes ☐ No ☐

25. Did you find any of the items in the toolkit particularly helpful? Yes ☐ No ☐

a. If so, which and why?

-
26. Did you find any of the items in the toolkit to be unhelpful/useless? Yes ☐ No ☐

a. If so, which and why?

-
27. Despite the fact that the research project did not focus on second weddings, do you feel the toolkit has addressed these also? Yes ☐ No ☐

a. Please feel free to use the space below for your thoughts on second weddings

-
-
-
28. Please use the space below to share any other thoughts you would like to contribute to our research?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire!