

Church Weddings Telephone Interviews July 2010

Name _____

Diocese _____

Introduction

Good morning. I am calling from the Archbishops' Council national Church Wedding project on behalf of Revd Lynda Barley, Head of Research & Statistics. You attended a project training event in your diocese in February/ March and I am calling to briefly see whether this has been useful to you. Have you got a few moments to talk with me now or shall I call back later? (Arrange time if necessary)

..... (date & time of interview)

THANK YOU for taking the time to participate in our research to develop 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. We are recording this call for monitoring purposes but please can I assure you that no individual will be identifiable in any analysis or report of this project.

1. How have things been going since the diocesan training event in March/ February? (Please explain)

Busier than before	Weddings cancelled	Weddings postponed
Same as before/ no change	I have found the project training event helpful	I &/or couples have found the project website helpful
I &/or couples have found the information pack helpful	I &/or couples have found the project cards helpful	I have used my own personalised information pack
Couples have had problems accessing the information on the website	I have directed couples to the website	I have found the online diary helpful
I have had to explain to couples why they could not have everything they wanted, as presented on the website	I have tried to make more contact with the couple after the wedding	I (and clergy colleagues) have made/ are looking to make some changes to our weddings ministry
I have made more of an effort to have more direct contact with the couple myself before the wedding	I have tried to include members of the church congregation in the ministry of marriage	I have tried to include members of the church congregation in the preparation and welcoming of couples and their guests
I have made greater efforts in making the guest congregation feel more welcomed	I have had to explain my position on fees to couples	I have changed the way we deal with other wedding professionals (organist, photographer etc)
The training affirmed what we are already doing.	It is too early in the wedding season to be able to comment	

Why?/ Please explain further/ Any other comments

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2. **If have made changes ... how are they working for you? Have you noticed a difference?**

Couples responding well	Couples not responding any differently	The ministry team has accepted the changes
I have had good feedback from the guest congregation	The church congregation has responded well to the changes	The ministry team is unsure of the changes
It has helped the church make more of wedding ministry	I feel more confident/ it has helped my ministry	I feel I am going in the right direction though some work needs to be done still.

Please explain further/ Any other comments

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3. **Have you found the diary pages useful for your own reflection?**

I have not had the time to use it	I have found it too detailed to use	I have found it not detailed enough to be useful
I was not sure how to use it	I was concerned about the couples confidentiality	It is too early in the wedding season to be able to comment
I have found the preparation pages useful	I have found the wedding pages useful	I have found the follow-up pages useful
I did not find the preparation pages useful	I did not find the preparation pages useful	I did not find the preparation pages useful

Please explain further/ Any other comments

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Focus group invitation

4. To give clergy proper time across the summer to use the project training and resources we are planning a **research discussion group in September** in a central location near you. It will be confidential and independent of your diocese. We will ensure that any expenses incurred will be reimbursed.

- a) Would you still be willing to take part on September (*insert date*)
at (*insert location*)?

Yes - morning	Yes – on another date
Yes - afternoon	No/ Not sure

- b) If “Yes – on another date”, could you come to a central London group here at Church House, Westminster on:

September 10 th	YES	NO	Not sure
September 13 th	YES	NO	Not sure

- c) If “No/ Not sure” to a) or b), would you be willing to talk again on the telephone?

YES NO Not sure

Comments (eg convenient times to contact, travel problems)

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4. Can I close by just checking your contact details?

tel: email:

THANK YOU for your time.

If you want to contact the research team for any reason in the future we can be telephoned on 020 7898 1592 or email: statistics.unit@c-of-e.org.uk

Church Weddings project

Parish clergy focus groups

September 2010

1. Welcome and confidentiality:

Good morning/afternoon. My name is Lynda Barley and I am Head of Research & Statistics for the Archbishops' Council. I am working alongside the national Church Wedding project to assess the impact of the training event that you attended in your diocese in February/ March. I am keen to know how this has been useful to you and any further suggestions you may have towards developing a strategy for developing pastoral practice in church weddings.

THANK YOU for taking the time to participate in this discussion group. Your views are very important to us. I would like to record our discussion to help me bring together our emerging ideas and I hope that is satisfactory to you. It will only be used by members of the research team. 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.

2. Introductions using Christian names only. Please describe

- a. the number of church weddings conducted since the national Church Wedding project training event (in March) and
- b. whether this number is different to your usual wedding "load".

3. Current Wedding Practices

- a. Since the training event (in March) how have you sought to develop your church wedding ministry?
- b. What has been your experience in trying to establish this?
 - i) with couples?
 - ii) with guest congregations?
 - iii) with the church congregation? How does it fit with their priorities?
 - iv) with your ministry team (lay & ordained)?

4. Future Wedding Practice

- a. In the light of your experiences since the training event, how do you now plan to develop your church wedding ministry?
- b. How does the ministry of weddings fit with your own (local) mission priorities? and with your involvement in the local community?
- c. How does the ministry of weddings fit with your own personal ministry development (& CMD) priorities?

(continued)

5. Project Pointers

- a. What changes in church wedding ministry do you feel other clergy and the wider Church should consider for the future?
- b. How does the ministry of weddings fit with your approach to contemporary attitudes towards marriage?
- c. Would you recommend other dioceses to invite the national Church Wedding project to conduct a similar training event for their clergy? (Explain)

6. Conclusion

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

Action research dioceses

Over 2010/11 I would like to offer clergy in your diocese the opportunity to engage in formal CMD accreditation in church weddings. The aim I have in mind is to use your experiences to develop together a personal development toolkit for clergy to utilise in church wedding ministry.

We will use educationally based action research methods which will initially involve a reflective diary (previously distributed) and invite participation in an on-line discussion forum with fellow clergy. I will participate as a fellow priest-researcher and offer practical research skills to clergy for their own investigations as required eg questionnaire design, observational and interviewing skills.

Other members of the national Church Wedding project team will not be involved unless a participant requests this. I plan to be in touch over the next few weeks and welcome any suggestions you may have on the design of this process within your diocese.

Invite immediate comments and suggestions

Other dioceses

Offer telephone help line and virtual discussion forum for future support in church wedding ministry. Invite immediate comments and suggestions