

Wedding Information Sheet 11

Marriage Preparation Groups

- ⊙ At St Mary's, we take seriously our commitment in helping you prepare for your Marriage Service, so that it can be all you hope for!
- ⊙ The Marriage Preparation evenings are an important and integral part of that process—rather than an 'optional extra'.
- ⊙ Towards the end of January you will be invited to an Introductory Evening, where you will meet other couples being married at St Mary's in the same year and also our clergy, resident florist, director of music, parish co-ordinator and members of the Marriage Preparation team.
- ⊙ There then follow two evenings where there is a chance to think about the 'nuts and bolts' of relationships, as you prepare for this milestone in your life together. The evenings are designed to be informal and friendly—and it's about sharing experience and ideas, rather than being told what someone else thinks about it!
- ⊙ The two evenings are also an opportunity to pin the Rector down, and tweak the arrangement for your service as recorded on the large white booking form. By the end of the process, you should hopefully have decided on the various optional parts of the service, and settled the Fees bill in full.
- ⊙ The final part of the Preparation process is the wedding Rehearsal, which if all has gone to plan will have been agreed between you and the officiating minister at the Introductory meeting. The rehearsal usually takes place on a weeknight in the week before the wedding. It will **not** be the night before!
- ⊙ As you can imagine, some people find the thought of 'marriage preparation' a bit daunting, and worry about being put on the spot or embarrassed. We can assure you that you will be made very welcome, and that the experience of couples who have been involved in recent years has been very positive!
- ⊙ There will be a chance for you to help us evaluate the group evenings, so that we can make things as helpful and enjoyable as possible.
- ⊙ It is important that both partners attend together – it's one of those times when bringing your mother along instead really won't work! It won't work for you, for those taking part or leading.....or for your mother either, come to think of it!
- ⊙ When you receive the letter with the marriage preparation dates, if you foresee any difficulties then please contact the Rector direct – preferably by email.