



## *Making The Most Of Your Wedding Photography*



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# Thanks So Much For Booking Me

I hope you find this information useful as you continue to fine tune your wedding plans. If you have any questions between now and the wedding do drop me a line and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

## What To Expect

**With 5 weeks to go**, I will send you a link to my online wedding questionnaire. You can give me your final timings, group shot list, and any other special requests.

**With 4 weeks to go**, you will receive your final balance invoice. Please let me know before this time if you wish to add anything to your wedding package.

**With 2 weeks to go**, we can have a quick run through your day via video or phone call.

**On the day**, expect me there a little early, ready to document your special day and knowing everything that is expected of me.

**The day after the wedding** you can expect an online preview of your wedding photographs to share with your guests.

**Within 6 weeks** your final gallery will be ready for you to view and download.

If you have ordered a wedding album, please select your images choices within 3 months of the wedding.







## *Getting Ready*

When planning where to get ready, please consider choosing somewhere that has good natural light (your makeup artist will love you for it). A dark and pokey hotel room with yellow tungsten lighting is not ideal, so don't be afraid to request a room that has good light (they will have been asked this before).

Your hairdresser and makeup artist may arrive very early to start getting you and the bridal party ready. Whilst I love capturing the atmosphere, anticipation and excitement, you won't need me there from the moment you step out of the shower, 60-90 minutes is a reasonable amount of time to allow me to take photos that reflect this element of your day.

It's a busy time especially if several of you are getting ready in the same space. It's easy for the room to get very cluttered with coats and bags, boxes, hair and makeup equipment etc, so allocate an area for everyone to put their things and try to keep the room tidy if possible.

Make sure you put your dress on half an hour before you are due to leave. Often brides are reluctant to get dressed until the very last minute, but then you won't have time for lovely shots of you all ready. Ensure your bridesmaids are all dressed before you too, this avoids some wearing robes and others wearing jeans while helping you into your frock! Lastly consider the location. Getting ready an hour from your wedding venue means less photography time!





## *The Time Of Your Ceremony*

It's really important to understand that the time of your wedding ceremony will effect your photography. For instance, during the winter when there are less daylight hours, you should consider having your ceremony at an earlier time. If you have your December ceremony at 2.30pm, you will have as little as an hour of daylight after the ceremony for us to capture any 'couples' portraits, as well as any family photographs you want to be taken outside. If the reception is going to be at a separate location and travel time is included, you will have even less time.

On the other hand during the summer, sometimes there can be too much sun! If you were to have your wedding ceremony early, say 12.30pm, the bright overhead sun can cast heavy unflattering shadows on your face. After 3pm the sun is a little lower and the colour of the light changes and is far more flattering.

I will often take some couples' photos at the beginning of the reception and then again much later on as the sun is starting to set. We call this the 'Golden Hour' and it makes for beautifully flattering light that adds a dreamy quality to your photos. It's not uncommon for the light to be just perfect during the wedding breakfast, it happens often! If you don't mind, I can come and grab you between courses for a quick 10 minute mini session outside, so that we can make the most of that beautiful light.





## *Photographing The Ceremony*

I prefer to stand in front of you both during the ceremony in order to capture your expressions. Often your family and guests won't see this side of things so it's a lovely part to capture.

Civil ceremony officiants are usually very relaxed about where the photographer stands, but I do try not to move around too much or stand too close, and I don't use flash during this part of your day.

Church weddings can be a little less predictable. Photography access depends entirely on what your vicar or priest is willing to allow. Most realise that capturing photographs of this key element of your day is important to you. Some are very laid back and tell me to do whatever I like. Whilst others will ask me not to move, stay in a certain place, not to stand behind them, and I have even been told to stand at the back and not take any photographs at all.

Do find out what the specific rules, regulation and preferences are regarding photography where you plan to marry. It's such a shame to introduce myself before the ceremony only to be given a rigid set of rules that ultimately means I can't get the shots that you want.





## *Capturing Your Confetti Moment*

I love a good confetti shot and you'll love the moment, but they don't tend to happen entirely spontaneously! This is because you two will leave the church, the room, or the area you have married first. With outdoor ceremonies guests can be ready to throw their confetti as you walked back down the 'aisle', but for other weddings a little choreography is required.

I will ask you to keep walking to the side of the church or away from your guests while everyone files out. I'll make sure they all have a handful of confetti and form a pathway. When everyone is ready I'll come and get you and on the count of three you can walk along the path and enjoy your moment.

A couple of points to remember. Make sure you have confetti that complies with your venue such as rose petals if throwing inside a church yard.

Don't walk too fast (I'll be walking backwards), and remember to look up! :)





## *Group Shots*

Couples book me for my relaxed and candid approach to documenting the day, but most would like at least a few formal group shots. They will become a photographic family heirloom and capturing them is an important part of my day.

A month before your wedding I'll ask you to provide me with a list of group shots you would like. This is so I can take a look at your schedule and plan when to take them and how long to allow.

When compiling a list allow 5 minutes for each shot on your list and remember to allow for any delays should guests be in the loo, at the bar, or checking in!

It's easy to create a long list including every guest with multiple combinations, but remember if the group shots take 30 minutes upwards, you'll have less time to chat with your guests and enjoy your canapés and fizz, AND less time for your couples' portraits.

In my experience a maximum of 10 (or less) is perfect, and remember everyone will be photographed whether formally, or candidly, enjoying your day.

If family group shots is your main priority I am happy to focus on these and work within your timings, but please don't hand me a long list on the day and also expect lots of candid shots as well as beautiful couples' portraits, especially if the light is fading! It's usually my couples that decide half way through their list they've had enough.





## *The Great British Weather*

The one element that's completely out of our control! Everybody wants the sun to shine on their wedding day, but if it decides to rain please don't let it spoil it for you. As long as there is food, wine and good company, you and your guests are going to have a wonderful time. There is more to your wedding than the weather, focus on what it's really about.

Make sure you have some brollies, and if you don't mind stepping out for some photos in the drizzle, ensure your brolly is something fun funky or bridal. You might also like to have some wellies to hand.

Please do understand that on a rainy day, or during the winter, the light may be particularly poor and your photos are likely to require some artificial light. They will have a different character to them than wedding photos captured on brighter days. However winter wedding photos can be rather magical and twinkly and reflect why you chose a winter wedding.





## *The Legend Of Uncle Bob*

Uncle Bob (or Aunty for that matter), is the guest that wants to come along with us when we go for our couple's portraits. They may stand a distance away, or come along with us and give you posing instructions, asking you to look at them and not me.

You have put a great deal of thought into choosing me as your photographer not to mention a considerable investment. Our time alone is a crucial element of your wedding photography and it's also a creative and skilled process for me. I don't like to keep a couple away from their celebrations for long and portraits typically take around 30 minutes. It's just a small part of your day, but I promise you will love the photographs we capture during this time. This is a relaxed and rather intimate moment time to take a breather despite the fact I am there with my camera. For this reason I would ask you to ensure that I alone take you away for this short period of time. I cannot get the best results for you if I have one or more guests along chatting and taking photographs too. I know you will understand this.





## *Consider Going Unplugged*

These days most guests like to take lots of photographs throughout the day, both for themselves as well as to share with you later. Camera phones and being able to upload straight to social media have made capturing 'the moment' fun and immediate. Some couples even create a hashtag for guests to label their photographs, whilst others have a special collating website created. As a lover of photography I think this is all fantastic, but there are a couple of times during the day that it would be great to ask your guests to put their cameras away (and you can do this when sending out information ahead of the day).

As the bride makes her entrance, it's so much nicer for her to see people's faces and for the groom to be able to see her, rather than cameras and iPads which obscure their view.

Sometimes I will shoot from the back of the venue and have often had my shot of a bride and groom's first kiss obscured by a guest jumping into the aisle to capture the moment. A guest's flash going off can completely over expose my shot beyond rescue, and your confetti moment can end up with more guests taking a photo than throwing confetti, no fun for you or them, plus their faces are obscured in all the photographs!

However nice their photographs might be, I promise to capture all the moments so nothing is missed, and by at least putting their cameras away until the reception they will be able to participate and enjoy those parts of your day.





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