

# MASON PHOTOGRAPHY

## Our Wedding Starter for Ten...

We have really enjoyed sharing in some incredible days with our clients over the past nine years. Experience shows that great wedding days don't just happen by accident – its all in the planning. The more time you and your suppliers invest up front, the better able you will be able to relax on the day and let your incredible day unfurl before you...

We hope you find the following useful in putting some of your initial ideas together for your own amazing day.

### 1. Planning.

The earlier you start planning, the more likely it is that you be able to get the venue and suppliers you want. Saying that, we have had people work with us who have organised their wedding in six weeks – this is however, a very high risk strategy not for the faint hearted!

By giving yourselves time, you can make considered choices, and not be a hostage to dwindling availability of the best suppliers. It also gives you plenty of scope to investigate other options if your first choice does not work out.

For larger and complex celebrations, or if you don't have the time (or inclination) for all the legwork, a wedding planner can take the stress out of it all. If you'd like a recommendation – [we'd be pleased to help](#).

Either way, as with lots of things in life, planning a wedding can eat up time – so allow a fair bit of it. Equally, if you spread the load over a few months, you don't need to feel like your life has become a wedding organising quagmire. Hey, you could even have time 'off' from planning, which may come as a welcome relief!

### 2. What If...?

**Think about contingencies** in terms of weather – make sure there's a decent plan B. Don't let it stress you out – but when you are looking at venues think about the 'wet weather' version of events.

A decent photographer or videographer will be able to work in all weathers, and should plan accordingly. If they are good at their job, they'll be able to make the images look great whatever happens with the weather.

That said – it is worth asking the question when you are choosing your suppliers.

Then having been very planned about it all, the weather will be amazing! Happy days!

**For other unseen nasties**, you may want to consider taking out wedding or event insurance – then if something goes seriously awry at least you are covered and won't lose out financially.

### 3. Budget.

**Think about what is important** to you about your day – formulate a list of priorities and allot a portion of budget to them. **Invest in the things that are important to you.**

Consider what elements of the day you are going to be left with. One client recently commented, "If I was committing so much of the budget to an amazing dress that after all is going to get worn once, it seemed logical to commit a similar amount to elements of the day that are left once the dress has been put away..."

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**Be realistic** – don't spread your budget too thin, it's better to have a few great suppliers that can deliver what they promise, than scrimp - get numbers that seem to work on the surface - but a load of sub standard suppliers.

Generally you get what you pay for, and this is not a day that can easily be re-staged.

Also, check that quotes include VAT – that extra 17.5% or whatever can make a big difference.

## 4. Sourcing your service providers.

**Recommendation is the best route** – whether that be by friends or family, or by another service provider or venue.

**Ask the advice** of friends or relatives who have recently married.

If the recommendation is coming from a venue or another supplier, ask if the person they recommend has paid for the recommendation. A number of venues will only actively recommend suppliers that pay them – so you may not necessarily get an objective opinion.

**Decent wedding events** like the [Designer Wedding Show](#) are a great way of meeting a selected group of quality suppliers. Small local events are unlikely to attract the same calibre of businesses than the larger shows. Events that pro-actively select suppliers are normally a better bet than those that do not.

**If suppliers have letters after their name** – don't be fooled. Trade organisations are not necessarily a guarantee of quality; with some organisations suppliers can just pay membership to gain letters. Always ask for testimonials or chat to previous clients – ultimately you'll be a better judge of what you want from your day than a panel of industry peers.

**Make sure you feel comfortable** with the suppliers before you commit – will they deliver what they say they will? Have you seen any client testimonials? Will they meet you to go through what you are after?

**Use your own judgement** – some of the suppliers (like hair and makeup, videographers, photographers etc) will be with you on your day, they will all be a part of your wedding day experience. If you don't get on with them – don't book them.

**Don't be pressurised** into signing on the dotted line (unless you are only booking a few weeks before the event!). Choosing the suppliers that are right for you is important and worthy of consideration – they can make your day. Saying that, if you click, and the vibes are good – timely booking means you get your first choice, before someone else gets there!

**Happy Planning!**



Louise & Jeremy

*Mason Photography is a small but perfectly formed boutique photography company - our business is a passion, not a job. [Talk to us](#) about how we can tell the story of your incredible day with exquisite images that will transport you back every time you see them. If you'd like to talk to us about your plans, **we'd be happy to arrange a consultation.***

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