

National Marriage Week - Ideas for Church Events



A Day of Prayer for Marriage on the first Sunday in Marriage Week. See our page on ways of observing that, entitled 'Day of Prayer'.

A Marriage Thanksgiving and Rededication Service for church members and friends with a cake and drink afterwards. Suggestions for the contents of the service and other matters will be found on this website at 'Marriage Rededication Service'. We suggest that you do not call it "Renewal of Vows" so that those who had a civil wedding do not feel excluded.

A Marriage Enhancement Evening This could begin with a Valentine's Dinner. The heart of the evening would be a talk with humour and testimony from a gifted and experienced individual or couple. (Our page on Marriage Enhancement gives ideas of organisations who could supply a speaker(s).)

If the couples could be spaced out at tables and music played, the speaker(s) could give them an exercise or two in communication or some other marriage enhancing task.

A Marriage First Aid Evening The key person you need is someone who has had experience of helping others with marriage difficulties and who could lead the evening, perhaps a minister. Details are also on this website.

A Sermon on Marriage on the Sunday in the Week.

Hold a Sunday Service with the theme of Marriage as God's Gift - see the Service Resources page on this website.

Have a **special display of books on marriage and preparing for it**. This can be done in conjunction with any one of the suggestions above. Arrange a **Stall in a Shopping Centre**, not only to give out Key Cards, but to invite couples to do the Questionnaire (click on Questionnaire on the Menu opposite). This is based on one devised by the Norfolk Branch of Marriage Resource. Other items on the stall could be our six 'Marriage Milestones' leaflets, and also our leaflets 'Living Together Successfully' and 'Marriage Under Pressure', all of which are obtainable from CPO (see CPO Resources on this website) and also the pages 'Twenty Steps to Happy Marriage' and 'Why Pay the Earth for Your Wedding?' and you could sell the Jon and Japonika book from National Marriage Week and the magazine 'Getting Married' from Redemptorist Publications, Alphonsus House, Chawton, Hants GU34 3HQ. £2.95 including p&p (written from an Anglican perspective).

Arrange a **Stall in a Shopping Centre**, and invite couples to do the Compatibility Questionnaire on this website. This is based on one devised by the Norfolk Branch of Marriage Resource.

You could sell The Highway Code for Marriage (by Michael and Hilary Perrott) from CWR, and the magazine 'Getting Married' from Redemptorist Publications, Alphonsus House, Chawton, Hants GU34 3HQ (written from an Anglican perspective). Other items on the stall could be some printed copies of pages on this website - 'Living Together Successfully', 'Five Keys to a Great Marriage', 'Twenty Steps to Happy Marriage', 'Why Pay the Earth for Your Wedding?', 'Marriage Under Pressure' and the six 'Marriage Milestones'.

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Office, Montpellier House, Montpellier, Gloucester GL1 1LF Tel: 0800 336622 would supply you with three copies of their booklet 'Your Wedding' which is a good introduction to arranging a wedding in any church or civil venue.

Take an offering for a marriage organisation.

Visit the **National Marriage Week website** www.marriage-week.org. and find details of their exciting resource, the Jon and Japonika book, and associated Leader's Guide with group discussion questions.

Do not be deterred by concern for **single, divorced and widowed people** in your church. They will be pleased that things are being done for the married, provided their own needs are being met as well. Addresses of organisations for single people can be obtained from Kairos Church, c/o 76 Alexandra Road, Winbledon, London SW19 7LE. Care for the Family, Garth House, Leon Avenue, Cardiff CF15 7RG offer support for step-families in various ways. Divorce Care, 57a Windsor Road, Forest Gate, London E7 0QY offer help for the divorced.