

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 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 for a Service page on this website, and also the All Age Talk page.

A Marriage Thanksgiving and Rededication Service for church members and friends with a cake and drink afterwards - usually best held on the Saturday afternoon. Suggestions for the contents of the service and other matters will be found on this website at 'Marriage Rededication Service'. Though you will probably wish to have wedding vows in it, we suggest that you do not call it "Renewal of Vows" so any who had a basic civil wedding without vows 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. (The organisations mentioned in our page on Marriage Enhancement might 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 Quiz Evening. This is a lighter form of marriage enhancement - two types of quiz, with a buffet meal in between. The quizzes are on this website - Marriage Quizzes - they are a Mars and Venus Quiz, with a separate page of answers, and Mr and Mrs Quiz. Folk could be asked to bring a contribution to the meal. The first quiz will teach about men-women differences; the second about each other. Both are fun! They could be followed with an invitation to a marriage enhancement course. (You will need to have some extra questions in reserve for the Mr and Mrs Quiz, to divide couples who tie with the same score, if you are running it competitively.)

A Marriage First Aiding session. 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.

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**, and invite couples to do the Compatibility Questionnaire on this website.

You could sell The Highway Code for Marriage (by Michael and Hilary Perrott), and the magazine 'Getting Married', the latter from Redemptorist Publications, Alphonsus House, Chawton, Hants GU34 3HQ (written from an Anglican perspective). Other items on the stall could be some free 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'.

Take an offering in church for a marriage organisation.

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 the web. Care for the Family, Garth House, Leon Avenue, Cardiff CF15 7RG offer support for step-families in various ways. Other organisations (see the web) offer help for the divorced.

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