

What is Marriage Preparation?



Marriage preparation is preparation for the lifelong relationship which is marriage, in contrast to wedding preparation which is concerned with the very important first day of marriage. If every couple gave as much time to marriage preparation as to wedding preparation, there would be many more happy marriages.

We particularly recommend that couples do a premarriage questionnaire together. These are offered by PREPARE/ENRICH and FOCCUS, both of whose website addresses appear in our Directory. There is probably a PREPARE Practitioner or a FOCCUS Facilitator near you. Completing a questionnaire each and then having the answers compared helps a couple to discuss a whole range of things they ought to have thought about before marriage. The Practitioner/Facilitator will help you with this. The cost is only £10 to £25 – a tremendous investment.

Marriage preparation can be DIY through reading books about marriage, e.g. *Sixty Minute Marriage* by Rob Parsons, published by Hodder; *Man to Man About Woman* by James Dobson, published by Kingsway; *The A-Z of Marriage* by Mike and Katie Morris; *Looking Up The Aisle* by Dave and Joyce Ames of Mission to Marriage.

It is even better to go on a marriage preparation weekend or weeknight course together. Some organisations which run these were affiliated to Marriage Resource, before it closed as a charity in 2006, and are listed in our Directory pages on this website.

Some churches offer to prepare couples for marriage when the couple are being married somewhere else. Examples are Holy Trinity Brompton, Brompton Road, London SW7 1JA Tel: 020 7581 8255 Email: reception@htb.org.uk; Queen's Road Baptist Church, Wimbledon, London SW19 Tel: 020 8947 8995; St Thomas Crookes, Sheffield Tel: 0114 267 1090 ewmail: admin@stthomas.solis.co.uk; Kings Church Medway, Chatham (contact John Whitcombe, Tel: 01634 580602); Witney Community Church (contact Geoff Norridge, Tel: 01865 2974000); St Helen's Ore, Hastings (contact Mrs B I Wood (Tel: 01424 430703); Ivy Cottage Church, Didsbury, Manchester (contact Graham Derbyshire Tel: 0161 434 8108); Thomas A Becket Northaw & St Andrew, Cuffley, Herts Tel: 01707 883604), Amblecote Christian Centre (contact Mrs Anne Cook tel: 01384 377120); Woodford Christian Life Church, S Woodford, London (contact Eric & Rita Beaumont Tel: 020 8989 3418) and All Saints, Aston, Sheffield (contact Peter Lewis tel: 07751 858453).

Further details about marriage preparation courses can be found on the page Marriage Preparation 1 – How It Can Be Done on this website.

Marriage preparation is most enjoyable and hugely worthwhile. The expenditure involved is very small compared with the cost of an average wedding and is an important investment for the future. Every couple needs it, however much in love they are.