



Possible Timings for a Church Service at 2pm

These timings will give you even longer to get ready in the morning and still enough time to enjoy a good party in the evening (especially with smaller guest numbers).

- 9.30am** Suppliers are welcome to arrive to set up decorations and start preparing the venue.
- 2pm** Church service begins. We would need you to let us know roughly how long the service is expected to last, however this would usually be around one hour. We would also ask that a member of the bridal party calls Dodmoor House to let us know when guests are leaving the church, so we can be ready and waiting for you to arrive, with drinks ready to flow!
- 3.30pm** This time could of course change, depending on how far the church is from Dodmoor. Depending on the time of the year (and the ever-changing weather!), we would greet you and your guests with drinks on arrival, either down at the lawn, at the entrance to the courtyard or inside the barn (we have gazebos and umbrellas in case of any rain!).
- The drinks reception would then take place where we initially greet you, and we would normally allow around 60-90 minutes for drinks and photos, giving you enough time to mingle with the guests and have some wonderful photos around the grounds. We have speakers in the barns and courtyard for your music or you could consider an acoustic set (there is power at the lawn for this!)
- 4.45pm** Guests would be invited to take their seats for the Wedding Breakfast. We would allow 15-20 minutes depending on the number of people.
- 5.05pm** Your caterer would serve the Wedding Breakfast in the Catesby Barn (or the Courtyard Barn if you choose to eat in there, however this barn can only seat a maximum of 58 guests). We would advise that the meal should last a maximum of 1hr 45 minutes (so either two courses for more than 75 guests or three courses for smaller numbers).
- 6.50pm** Speeches could be at the tables after the meal, we have a cordless microphone which you can use. You may decide to have speeches in the Courtyard Barn or outside in the courtyard, so evening guests can join when they arrive to the venue, rather than potentially arriving when you're still seated in the meal room. This plan would also help a band to set up earlier if needed.

7.20pm Tea and coffee can be set up in the Courtyard Barn or outside in the courtyard, served by your caterer. This allows the staff time to clear away the dining tables and for the DJ or Band to set up for the evening entertainment. The bar would also fully open as this would be the end of the no corkage period.

7.30pm Evening guests could start to arrive and mingle with the day guests in the Courtyard Barn or courtyard. You may also like to entertain the guests with a live acoustic set or have a photobooth set up in the Courtyard Barn ready as guests move through after the meal.

**8.30pm/
8.45pm** Guests could be invited back into the Catesby Barn for the first dance to kick off the evening, you could cut your wedding cake on the dance floor ahead of this. In the summer, you may decide to prolong the time outside in the courtyard slightly in the early evening before moving through for the first dance, while in the winter months, you could have a group sparkler arch instead.

If you have a band, you will need to check how long they take to set up (usually 60-90 minutes) and how long their sets are (often 2 x 1 hour). You will need to make sure they can be ready for your first dance by 8.45pm at the latest as our licence requires live music to finish at 11pm (although they are welcome to play a DJ set until the end of the evening at 12).

You may decide to have a photobooth set up on the mezzanine area, this would need to be in place before the dancing starts and stay open for the majority of the evening so that it is not being cleared up during the party.

9pm Evening food can be served in the courtyard, set up as a buffet in the Courtyard Barn or served from a van at the entrance to the courtyard. Evening food is usually available for 1-2 hours so you would expect the evening guests to go first as they will be hungry and the day guests will be peckish again around 9.30pm! We can have extra tables set up in the Courtyard Barn to allow informal seating for this.

**11.45pm/
12am** Last orders would be called at the bar and the bar and music would finish at midnight with taxis booked at 12.15am and guests to have left site by 12.30am. You would retire to the Honeymoon Suite and breakfast will be served to you there at 9am the next morning. We ask that you check out of the room by 10.30am the following morning please.

The venue is yours for the day and we are very happy to adjust timings to fit with your plans, we will discuss the specific timings for your day with you at your planning meeting but please contact us if you would like us to build a bespoke timeline for your wedding in advance of this.