

# Frequently Asked Questions

## HOW DO WE BOOK HOMME HOUSE FOR OUR WEDDING?

If you would like to book Homme House get in touch to check availability for your chosen date. We are happy to reserve the date for one week while you contact either the Team Ministry or Herefordshire Registry Office (see below) to confirm their availability for the date and time of your choosing. We then ask for a payment of 25% of the venue hire (weekend wedding) or the 4 hour hire (weekday wedding) as a Booking Fee. We then ask for the following payments:

**Weekend wedding:** further 25% deposits 12 months and 6 months prior to the wedding, 25% balance 2 months prior to the wedding.

**Weekday wedding:** balance 3 weeks prior to the wedding.

The fee for any accommodation, furniture and other equipment booked is payable 3 weeks prior to your wedding. We accept payment by cheque or bank transfer.

## HOW DO WE BOOK A LOCAL CHURCH WEDDING?

St. Bartholomew's Church on the edge of the Homme House Estate and the Parish of Yatton & All Saints Church are both nearby. To book either for your marriage you will need to contact the Rev. Val Tait:

Telephone Number: 01531 634 035, Email: [valtait@live.co.uk](mailto:valtait@live.co.uk)

The Ledbury Group Ministry are very happy to marry couples not resident in the area at St. Bartholomew's Church, but monthly service attendance for six months is necessary during the planning of the wedding to establish a qualifying connection (parents can attend on behalf the couple).

## WHAT SPACES ARE LICENSED FOR CIVIL CEREMONIES?

Homme has 4 spaces licensed for civil ceremonies:

For an inside ceremony: the Dining Room is licensed for a maximum of 110 guests. The Panelled Room is licensed for a maximum of 80 guests. The Hall is licensed for a maximum of 25 guests.

For a garden ceremony: the Summerhouse is licensed for a maximum of 12 guests inside and 110 guests outside in the walled garden. Ceremonies can also take place on the main lawn, with the signing of the Register in the Panelled Room.

## HOW DO WE BOOK A CIVIL CEREMONY AT HOMME HOUSE?

You will need to contact the Herefordshire Registry Office team:

Address: Janet Abel, Herefordshire Register Office, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford HR1 2PJ

Telephone: 01432 383261

Email: [registrars@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:registrars@herefordshire.gov.uk)

There is lots of useful information relating to a civil ceremony on the Herefordshire council website. You can only reserve a date and time until 12 months ahead - it can then be confirmed and officially booked at the 12 month stage.

## WHAT DOES THE VENUE FEE INCLUDE?

The venue fee includes exclusive hire of the 4 reception spaces (Hall, Panelled Room, Dining Room and Library), the use of the Bridal Suite and adjacent Bridal Drawing Room for preparations, and the use of the surrounding gardens including croquet lawn, rose garden and walled garden with Summerhouse across the period of your wedding. The venue fee also covers a wedding preparation booklet as well as all the support and advice you need from the team at Homme to plan your wedding.

## WHAT DOES THE VENUE FEE NOT INCLUDE?

It does not include any fees for the church or registrar, accommodation, catering, marquee/canopy or the hire of the wedding breakfast furniture, linen, glassware and tableware.

## HOW DO YOU DEFINE THE HIRE PERIOD FOR A WEEKDAY WEDDING?

We normally define the start of the hire period from one hour prior to the ceremony or service to allow for preparations and arrivals. The end of the hire period is defined by the departure of the last non-resident guest. In our experience it is worth allowing at least 30 minutes for leisurely goodbyes at the end of the wedding.

## WILL WE HAVE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE VENUE ON OUR WEDDING DAY?

Absolutely. Our policy is to offer couples exclusive use of the house and grounds for the entire period of their wedding.

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## HOW MANY GUESTS CAN WE INVITE?

Our dining room seats a maximum of 80 for a wedding breakfast. If you plan to have more than 80 guests for your wedding breakfast you will need to hire a marquee. For both options, the evening dancing takes place inside the house, which has a maximum capacity of 130 guests.

## WHAT TIME CAN WE START SETTING UP FROM?

You are welcome to start making deliveries and setting up from the day before your wedding (09:30 for a weekend wedding, normally 15:00 for a weekday wedding). We have several drinks fridges and a cold room in which to store flowers and cakes. The Bridal Suite is available for hanging up your wedding dress to ensure that it is pristine and uncreased on your wedding day.

## IS HOMME HOUSE EASY FOR GUESTS TO FIND?

Yes. The entrance gates for the Homme House Estate are beside St. Bartholomew's church in the centre of Much Marcle. A private drive leads through our parkland and past lakes before a left turn leads up to the car park and house.

Entrance postcode: HR8 2LY (use 'St. Bartholomew's Church Much Marcle' for satnav)

We provide directions to Homme House to include when wedding invitations are sent out.

## IS HOMME HOUSE ACCESSIBLE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT?

No, but transport connections to Homme are excellent. The M50 and A40 are only 15 minutes away and there is a mainline train connection to Birmingham and London in Ledbury, only 5 miles from Homme House.

There are a number of good local taxi firms serving the area; we supply a list of recommended companies in our wedding preparation booklet. Pre-booking taxis is important as high local demand can otherwise leave guests stranded (non pre-booked pick ups and those arranged for after midnight are often charged at a higher rate).

We can also recommend companies for coach hire to transport guests in groups. A 32 seater coach is the largest that will fit through our entrance gates.

## IS THERE PARKING AVAILABLE FOR OUR GUESTS?

Homme has a car park with space for around 60 cars adjacent to the house, with a drop off area immediately outside the house itself. Guests are welcome to leave their cars overnight for collection the following day.

## DO YOU HAVE PREFERRED SUPPLIERS?

Over the last 10 years we have developed relationships with excellent local suppliers whose contact details are included in our wedding preparation booklet. These suppliers do not pay us commission - they are included simply for their skill and professionalism. We are happy for you to use other suppliers for your wedding should you choose to. We have designated, preferred suppliers for the provision of a cash bar and for fireworks (see below).

## CAN WE CHOOSE OUR OWN CATERER?

Yes, you are welcome to use a caterer of your own choice. If they have not been to Homme before we ask that they do a site visit before your wedding so that we can ensure the catering runs smoothly on the day. When comparing and choosing caterers remember to confirm whether their prices include provision of the service, tableware, glassware and linen that will be required in addition to the food itself.

## CAN WE BRING SUPPLIERS SUCH AS PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR PRE-WEDDING VISITS?

Absolutely. It's a good idea to suggest a pre-wedding visit to Homme for any suppliers who have not been to Homme before so that they can make optimum use of the space on your wedding day. Just contact us in advance to arrange a suitable time.

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## WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR FURNITURE?

Limewashed chivari chairs are offered for hire for an indoor ceremony and/or wedding breakfast at the price bands stated, with other chair styles available (pricing on request). High chairs can be hired on request. Outdoor bench seating and/or chairs are available to hire for an outdoor ceremony at the prices stated in this booklet.

Several different table layouts are possible for the wedding breakfast in the dining room depending on numbers, including a layout with 8 ovals (seating up to 80) and a traditional layout with curved top table in the dining room's beautiful bay window area and 6 further ovals (seating up to 70). The cost for any furniture hire will be included in the final accommodation invoice, to be settled during the build up to the wedding.

## DO YOU HAVE A CAKE STAND?

Yes. We have an ornate marble table which you are welcome to use for displaying your cake, as well as round and square 16 inch cake stands, a table cloth and cake knife.

## HOW CAN WE DISPLAY OUR TABLE PLAN?

We have a wooden easel which will accommodate anything up to just below A0 (portrait) or A1 (landscape).

## CAN WE PROVIDE OUR OWN DRINKS FOR OUR WEDDING RECEPTION?

Absolutely. You are welcome to arrange your own drinks and have them delivered the day before your wedding so we that we can chill them for you in our drinks fridges. We do not charge corkage. If you plan to provide drinks in the evening following the caterer's departure it is important to plan how they will be served and arrange appropriate glassware.

## CAN WE HAVE A CASH BAR IN THE EVENING?

Yes. The contact details of our designated licence holder are included in the wedding preparation booklet. A fee of £100 is charged to staff the bar, and Herefordshire pub prices for drinks. The bar operates on a cash and card basis. Our licence allows the bar to open from 13.00, with last orders at 23.20 for a 23.30 closure.

## WHAT IS YOUR POLICY ON MUSIC?

If you decide to have musicians for the ceremony or evening celebrations it's useful to confirm their requirements for things such as space, furniture, power or a place to change and store kit. We will do our best to accommodate any requirements. Reception music in the garden is acceptable under Planning Regulations as long as it is not amplified (no power). Music and dancing in the evening must take place inside the house and end by 23.45.

## HOW DO WE BOOK A MARQUEE OR CANOPY?

A recommended marquee and canopy supplier is included in the wedding preparation booklet. Your chosen contractor will need to liaise with your chosen caterer on specific requirements for furniture and cooking equipment. Marquees are possible from mid April to mid October.

## WHAT TIME CAN THE EVENING CELEBRATIONS GO ON UNTIL?

The rules of our license state that evening music must end by 23.45 and any guests who are not staying overnight must have departed the venue by 00.15.

## CAN WE BRING A PET?

Due to the presence of other animals and livestock on the Estate we are unfortunately not able to accommodate pets other than assistance dogs.

## ARE WE ALLOWED TO USE CONFETTI?

Absolutely. We are very happy with the use of confetti inside and outside the house provided that it is biodegradable and light coloured (dark colours sadly stain both the floors and furnishings of the house). Unfortunately we are not able to permit the use of confetti cannons.

## CAN WE HAVE FIREWORKS IN THE EVENING?

Absolutely. We have an excellent designated partner for fireworks whose contact details are included in the wedding preparation booklet. Their displays use predominantly, but not exclusively, low noise fireworks and finish by 22.00 for the consideration of local livestock and our neighbours.



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## ARE WE ALLOWED TO USE CANDLES?

You are welcome to use candles in the Dining Room and in the garden providing they are safely contained within heatproof containers.

## WHERE CAN OUR GUESTS SMOKE?

Urns are provided in the main garden and under the portico outside the front of the house for smokers.

## IS THERE A DRESSING ROOM AVAILABLE FOR THE BRIDE & BRIDESMAIDS?

Yes. Our beautiful Bridal Suite is tucked away from the other accommodation within a private part of the house. It is bright and spacious, and makes a great space for getting ready as a group and for pre-ceremony photographs. The Bridal Suite has a bedroom with four poster bed and en suite bathroom as well as its own private dressing and drawing room, with tea & coffee making facilities and fridge to chill food and drink to enjoy while getting ready.

## IS THERE ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE AT HOMME HOUSE?

Yes, for up to 32 people, as follows:

The main house (sleeps 18-20) offers a stunning Bridal Suite and 8 other double, twin or family bedrooms accommodating up to 20 in total.

Our Coach House (sleeps 8-10) offers 4 ensuite double/twin bedrooms and 1 double sofa bed in a separate house with its own kitchen, living room and courtyard garden, ideal for the groom and family if you wish to accommodate both sides of the wedding party the night before the wedding.

Our rustic Summerhouse (sleeps 2), available May-September, offers 1 double bedroom with a separate dedicated bathroom building.

The onsite accommodation can be reserved for your exclusive use but there is no obligation to use it. All accommodation is priced at £72 per person per night including continental breakfast and is available from the Thursday-Saturday nights of the weekend of your wedding. A cooked breakfast is available on the morning following your wedding, and is priced at £12 per person.

## WHAT ARE THE CHECK IN & OUT TIMES FOR GUESTS STAYING AT HOMME?

Accommodation rooms are available for use from 15.00 on the day of check-in. Earlier check in the day of a wedding is usually possible to allow settling in prior to the proceedings. Check-out is at 12.00 on the day of departure.

## WHAT FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR GUESTS WHO ARE STAYING?

There are guest kitchens in both the main house and the Coach House which we keep stocked with tea and coffee making supplies. Each also has an iron, ironing board and hairdryer for guests' use. Towels and toiletries are provided.

## WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR BREAKFAST?

We provide a continental breakfast in your private kitchen on the morning prior to and of your wedding day for anyone who has stayed at Homme House the night before.

On the morning following your wedding we serve breakfast in the main Dining Room at the time of your choosing. You just need to let us know how many guests would like a continental or full english breakfast the week before your wedding, along with any specific dietary requirements. A continental breakfast is included in the B&B price. A full english breakfast is an additional £12 per guest.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PACKING UP AFTER THE WEDDING?

Departure time on the day following your wedding is 12:30 (check out for accommodation is 12:00) so there is plenty of time for a leisurely breakfast and packing up. We are happy to deal with recyclable waste, but ask that any disposable decorations and their packaging are taken away.

## IS THERE ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE NEAR HOMME HOUSE?

Yes, there is plenty of local accommodation, including several B&Bs in Much Marcle village and the Premier Inn which is only 5 miles from Homme House. We provide a full list of our recommended accommodation in the wedding preparation booklet. Accommodation does get booked up quickly so we advise guests to make reservations early.

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## **WHAT FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR GUESTS WITH DISABILITIES?**

Homme has a ramp for wheelchair access to the main reception rooms, and a separate wheelchair friendly toilet with rails and tap extensions available as required. Unfortunately due to the historic nature of the house we do not have a lift for access to the first and second floor accommodation. Please contact us to discuss arrangements for disabled guests with specific requirements such as large mobility scooters, which we will do our best to accommodate.

## **WHAT IS YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY?**

We have Facebook and Instagram profiles on which we love to post a short piece on each wedding which takes place at Homme, as well as images of decorations and special details of the day. This acts as a lovely record for us and wonderful inspiration for future brides and grooms at Homme. We will of course respect your wishes if you do not want your wedding to be featured.

## **DO YOU OFFER A WEDDING PLANNING SERVICE?**

Homme House is a family home run by a family team - owners John & Jocelyn, and their son Charlie and his wife Sarah, who were themselves married at Homme in 2009.

From first visit to wedding day we are on hand to guide, advise and support in the preparations for your wedding day. On booking we provide a wedding preparation booklet containing useful contacts and information to make the process of planning your wedding at Homme as smooth and easy as possible. We also schedule get togethers in the build up to the day, including a planning meeting 2-3 months prior to the wedding when we discuss the plans in detail to ensure that everything goes smoothly on your day.

## **DOES HOMME HOUSE PROVIDE SOMEONE TO OVERSEE THE WEDDING DAY?**

The family is on site and on hand throughout the wedding to ensure everything runs smoothly, and we are always available behind the scenes to help with requests that may arise. However, we feel strongly that your wedding should be a private gathering in a space that is yours, so recommend electing someone from your wedding party to act as a 'Master of Ceremonies' to announce key moments during the day such as the wedding breakfast, cake cutting and first dance.