

Vedic
Marriage
Ceremony at
Hare Krishna
Mandir

2013

WEDDING SERVICES

International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acarya - His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Bhaktivedanta Manor, Hilfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, Herts, WD25 8EZ , WD25 8DT for SAT NAV
Telephone: (01923) 851002,851000 email: info@manorweddings.org
Fax: (01923) 851006

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Conditions of having a Wedding at Bhaktivedanta Manor

The following information must be taken into consideration before booking the wedding:

- No Smoking in Temple building, grounds or car parks
- No Dhol, pop, rock, bhangra, garba, or movie songs
- No drinking of Alcohol or taking of any intoxicants
- No shoes to be worn in the Temple Building
- No outside foods or drink are allowed to be brought into the Temple building, grounds or car parks
- No confetti in or outside the Temple (Rice or Flower petals can be thrown)

In completing the following booking form you are agreeing to the above conditions: -

Brides Name:.....Grooms Name:.....

Contact Name:.....Relationship:.....

Address:.....

.....Post Code:.....

Tel No: Home.....(Bride/Groom) Mobile.....(B/G)

Work:..... (B/G) E mail:.....

Date of Wedding.....Day.....Morning/Afternoon.....

*Cost of Wedding Ceremony is £4880 - Temple Room Number of Guests(if known)
£5800 - Marquee

Cost of catering @ £8.95 per person (50 minimum)

**N.B. Balance of Wedding Ceremony should be paid three months before the date of the wedding*

Would you like to hold your civil marriage/registry at the Manor, Yes No

Deposit of £.....date paid..... Payment of £.....date paid.....
Received by..... Received by.....

Payment of £.....date paid..... Payment of £.....date paid.....
Received by..... Received by.....

Signature (Of Groom, Bride or Parents).....

ISKCON Wedding Representative Name and Signature:.....

The temple reserves the right to make changes to the terms and conditions of weddings at Bhaktivedanta Manor. The temple will make reasonable efforts to notify the families of such changes.

Vedic Marriage Ceremony

Listed below is a summary of the ceremony

PLEASE NOTE THAT SLIGHT VARIATIONS MAY OCCUR TO THE ORDER OF THE CEREMONY DUE TO FAMILY TRADITIONS AND RESPECTIVE PRIESTS.

1. Ganesh Puja - Worship of Lord Ganesh by the bride.
2. Milni - This is to welcome the groom and his family as they arrive. Once the groom has taken his place, the bride, usually accompanied by her maternal uncle, is invited to take her place.
3. Anterapat - A cloth is placed between the couple.
The Brahmin (priest) will perform the Sanskrit Mantra and the cloth will then be removed.
Traditionally this is the first time the couple will have seen each other.
4. Introduction - A brief explanation of the meaning of a Vedic marriage.
5. Achaman - Holy water from the Ganges is used to cleanse and purify
6. Civil Marriage - Registration of Marriage
7. Kumbha Sthapana - The Brahmin (priest) invites Lord Vishnu to join the ceremony. He then explains the 'definition' of the marriage and its commitments as outlined in the Vedic Scriptures.
8. Sankalpa - The Brahmin announces where, when and between whom the marriage is taking place.
9. Hastamandap - The Brahmin performs the ceremony to unite both families
10. Kanyadan - This is the most important part of the ceremony.
 - The Bride's father gives her away to the Groom's family.
 - This is considered the greatest Dana (gift).
 - The act is confirmed by the exchange of garlands between the bride and groom.
11. Havan - A fire Sacrifice (Havan) is performed by the priest
12. Purnahuti - Final offerings are made to the Sacrimonial fire
13. Mangal Fera - The fire (Havan) is considered the witness to the whole ceremony. The ceremony here consists of the couple walking around the fire four times, which represents the four aspects of life.
 - a) Dharma - Religious Duties
 - b) Artha - Economic Development
 - c) Kama - Fruitive Work
 - d) Moksa - Liberation
14. Mangal Sutra - Similar to concept of the English Wedding Ring - a golden necklace is presented on a coconut by the Groom's mother to the Bride.
15. Kum Kum - The Husband puts red coloured Kum Kum on the parting in the hair of the bride.
16. Sapta-Padi - The couple receive blessings from the priest and everyone present.
17. Darshan - At this stage the curtains in the temple are opened to reveal the beautiful deities of Sri-Sri Radha Gokulananda, Sri-Sri Sita Rama Laxman Hanuman and Sri-Sri Gaura Nitai.
18. Kansar - This is an exchange of Sweets between the couple as a symbolic gesture that they will provide for each others needs and prosperity in their household life.

19. Ashirwad - Blessings from the bride and groom's family that concludes the wedding ceremony.

As part of the purification of the wedding ceremony we ask both Bride and Groom to refrain from eating non-vegetarian food and taking intoxicants for at least 48 hours before the wedding ceremony.

It is also recommended for the Bride and Groom to fast on the day of the ceremony, if necessary Ekadasi Prashad can be eaten.

N.B. The above ceremony fulfils all the requirements of a Vedic marriage ceremony. Other aspects of a marriage ceremony that may be in specific family traditions should be performed before arriving at Bhaktivedanta Manor. If further clarification is needed, please consult your allocated wedding priest. Your priests name and number can be obtained from the Wedding Office (please see the separate sheet for these numbers).

Registry Marriage at Bhaktivedanta Manor

Please note that the Hare Krishna Temple is a registered building sanctioned under the Marriage act to perform civil marriage.

If your intention is to have the registration as parts of the ceremony please follow the steps listed below to ensure the successful completion of your civil ceremony:

Please inform your local registry office of your intention to have a registry marriage at the Temple at least 8 weeks before your wedding.

Your local registry office will ask you if you regularly worship at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

Please give our reference - (M) 42878 (Temple First Floor and Ground of Bhaktivedanta Manor, Hilfield Lane, Aldenham, Watford, Herts, WD25 8EZ)

All registry offices have a reference book; we are registered as Bhaktivedanta Manor in Letchmore Heath.

Your local registry office will require proof of your identity e.g. Passport, Birth Certificate or Driving License.

A period of 8 weeks will be required by your local registry office before issuing you with papers enabling us to conduct your civil marriage ceremony.

Please DO NOT post the papers. You may bring the papers prior the wedding to be stored in our safe or alternatively present them on the wedding day to be handed to the Registrar. **(PLEASE NOTE THAT WITHOUT BOTH SETS OF NOTICES OF MARRIAGE FROM THE REGISTRY OFFICE WE WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PERFORM YOUR CIVIL MARRIAGE).**

Both partners will require a witness to sign the actual marriage certificate, which will be issued to you at the end of your ceremony at Bhaktivedanta Manor.

There is no additional charge for a Registry Marriage as it is included in the 'Wedding Ceremony' package.

Some Things For The Wedding Families To Bring Or To Arrange

These following items are required for the ceremony and should be brought or arranged by the wedding families

- **Mangal Sutra** (Brought by the groom as his gift to the bride)
- **One Cloth for Anterapat.** This is to screen the groom when the bride comes into the temple room
- **One Cloth** (at least 2m long and approx 8inch wide). This is to tie the bride and groom together (granthi bandanam). This can also be the Grooms Dupatta with Brides Veil.
- **Twenty Pan leaves (nagarwal pan).** Four Pan Leaves are for the coconut and seven are for the seven steps. Please ensure that they are fresh.
- **Five types of whole fruits.** This is part of the offering for the sacred fire. Please bring a few of each type.
- **Five types of whole vegetables.** This is part of the offering for the sacred fire. Please bring a few of each type
- **A person who can act as the representative of the Bride or Groom to liase with the Wedding Manager.** As the main family members are involved in the ceremony they are not free to liase with the Wedding Manager and so there needs to be a dedicated person who can play this role.
- **Three coconuts *For Pooja***

What does the wedding cost?

Cost of wedding ceremony in 2013

For prices for other years please speak with the booking office

- £4880 for a Temple room booking
- £5800 for a Marquee booking

There are three parts of our service that make up the cost of the wedding.

Wedding Ceremony. This has a standard price depending on whether the wedding is in the Temple room or in the wedding marquee (during the scheduled period). Please see page 9 to see what this includes

Catering. The second part of the wedding cost is dependent on the number of guests who will be catered for. You will pay a set price per person. Please see page 14 to see what this includes

- Price per person - £8.50

Includes 12 items meal, plus good quality plates, spoons and cups. Due to Temple policy we only use Biodegradable disposals. The minimum number of guests we cater for is 50.

Additional services. There are a number of additional services that we can arrange for you such as:

- Snacks.
- Servers (for guests numbers over 250, an additional 12 servers will be required)
- Extra items for the main meal
- Fresh flower arrangements
- Marquee furniture
- Decorated Ox cart

What we include in the wedding ceremony price

The wedding service we provide for you includes:

Priest - The priest selected will generally be according to our rota. For weddings booked a year in advance we will try to arrange for the priest of your choice as far as possible however this cannot be guaranteed.

Civil Marriage - the Authorised person will conduct your civil marriage according to the law of England and Wales. At the end of the ceremony we would provide you with a certificate of marriage. Please note we do not perform civil partnership marriage.

WE DO NOT CONDUCT CIVIL MARRIAGE EXCLUSIVE of THE VEDIC CEREMONY

Use of Temple Room and Marquee (allocated time in summer) - For most of the year the weddings will be held in our Temple Room however during the summer the ceremony may be held in our hired wedding marquee

Seating in the Temple hall. We will normally provide for 46 chairs for the elderly and disabled. The remainder of the space available will be laid out with cushions. When the temple room is full then we will provide some additional chairs in the reception room for viewing the wedding via a plasma screen.

In the Wedding Marquee. We can provide seating for up to 400 guests. Normally these will be arranged in theatre style around the mandap stage.

Flowers

- **Garlands for the bride and groom.** These will normally be red roses and white chrysanthemums. Other flowers can be selected in consultation with the temple florist. There will also be 3 extra garlands for Poojas.
- **Flower arrangements for the dining hall.** (These are only provided if full catering is part of your ceremony) We will provide twelve small flower arrangements for decoration of the head table and some of the other dining tables. Generally these flower arrangements will be red and white but should you require a specific colour scheme this can be arranged with the temple florist.
- **One large Mandap arrangement.** This can be placed on the front or back of mandap.

12 Servers - The servers will transfer the food preps from the Kitchen to serving areas. They will serve the meal and clean up afterwards.

Brides changing room - We provide a room for the bride to change in and to use as her waiting area until she is called for the ceremony. Using this room for your individual and couple photographs is at your discretion and dependant on other time factors. Please note that we do not provide a separate room for photography and your photographer may need to bare this in mind when deciding what additional equipment he should carry. The grounds can be used for photography-weather permitting.

Weddings held in the marquee

As there is such a demand for weddings at the Manor, in the summer we have arranged a marquee to hold the ceremony and following meal. The Marquee is very popular and is less restrictive in the numbers of guests that can be invited. As there are additional costs associated with the hiring and setting up of the marquee the price for the wedding during this time is slightly higher.

In addition to the service we offer for a temple room wedding listed above the marquee will have:

- **Silk lining and chandeliers**
- **The Mandap will be mounted on a raised stage.** This will be located in a central position along the largest side of the marquee.
- **Some tables for the elderly and disabled**

The Mandap will be mounted on a raised stage. This will be located in a central position along the largest side of the marquee.

Some tables for the elderly and disabled

How many guests that can be invited?

There is a minimum number for catering arrangements of 50 guests.

Temple Room - 250

Marquee - 400

Timings

To know what time the various aspects of the day are please check the following table. You will need to know whether your wedding is in the morning (am) or afternoon (pm). You will also need to know whether your wedding is being held in the Temple or the Marquee.

	Temple Wedding AM	Temple Wedding PM	Marquee Wedding AM	Marquee Wedding PM
Guest Arrival time	10.00am	3.00pm	9.30am	3.30pm
Ceremony begins	10.30am	3.30pm	10.00am	4.00pm
Ceremony ends	12.30pm	5.30pm	12.00 noon	6.00pm
Wedding Feast	12.45pm	5.45pm	12.15pm	6.30pm
Bride, Groom and guests departure	2.30pm	7.30pm	2.30pm	8.30pm

Invitation Cards

When inviting your guests please inform them to arrive only 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the ceremony i.e:-

- 10.00 am or 3.00 pm for a wedding in the temple room
- 9.30 am or 3.30 pm for a marquee wedding

For example if your wedding is scheduled to start at 10.30am then your guests should be asked to arrive at 10.00am

A comprehensive Itinerary is available from the Wedding Office.

N.B Please note that the evacuation time for Temple Room Weddings is not negotiable as the Temple Room has to be prepared for Aarti.

Deposits, payments and cancellations

At the initial phone inquiry we will pencil in your provisional wedding date in our diary. We then allow you 10 days to confirm your booking with the initial deposit

N.B. If after this date your booking is not confirmed and it will be cancelled.

Deposit Amount: £1008 (non refundable)

Final Payments of Cost of Ceremony:-

- £3872 for a temple room booking (2013)
- £4792 for a marquee booking (2013)

N. B. The final payment of the wedding ceremony should be paid 3 months prior to the wedding date. It may be difficult to have all information to hand to settle everything at this time. In these circumstances all extras (e.g. flowers, snacks, catering etc) should be confirmed one month before the wedding date. The balance (e.g. flowers, snacks, catering etc) should be settled 2 weeks before the ceremony takes place.

On receipt of these amounts (Final Payments of Cost of Ceremony and Extras), preparations will be underway and it will not be possible to issue any refunds.

Who is who on the wedding team?

Wedding Director: Trinadapi Das (trinadapi@krishnatemple.com:mobile 07920061957)

Wedding Planner: Tulsi Seva Devi Dasi (info@manorweddings.org), Tel: 07723052624) is responsible for keeping the diary of wedding dates, arranging bookings and going through the steps and terms and conditions of the temple wedding service. Payments and deposits will be given to the Assistant Wedding Planner.

Wedding Manager: Reena Patel (email:reena@krishnatemple.com, Tel: 07792495628) is responsible for the smooth running of the actual wedding day. As well as keeping an eye on the proceedings of the day she will coordinate with the wedding families to arrange dining layouts, serving arrangements, snack arrangements, guest greeting drinks etc.... Just prior to the wedding the coordinator will meet the families and go over what is needed to be brought and ensure everything has been understood (please call to arrange meetings two months and then again one month prior).

Catering Manager: Lalita Sakhi Devi Dasi (Tel day 01923 851011) is responsible for the preparation of the meal according to the selected menu and numbers of guests. If there are any additional food preparations required such as extra items for the main meal or providing snacks as guests arrive this should be done in consultation with the Wedding Manager and with the catering Manager.

Head Florist: Lalita Sakhi Devi Dasi (lalita.sakhi@pamho.net, Tel: day 01923 851011) is responsible for the Garlands and flower arrangements in terms of quality, quantity and colour preferences

Civil Marriage- Kamlesh Krishna Das (Kamlesh Patel) responsible authorised person
Any enquiries concerning your civil marriage may be directed to the RAP on 07740868434 or email: kam.patel@riverbournegroup.com

Priests: Are responsible to perform the ceremony according to the principles of a traditional Vedic wedding and according to standards adopted by ISKCON. Any information required about the ceremony should be sought from your allocated priest. If any side of the marriage couple is unfamiliar with a traditional Vedic ceremony it would be advantageous to arrange a meeting with your priests prior to the wedding to familiarise yourselves with the service.

Priest numbers. Please consult with the Assistant Wedding Planner to find out who is your priest on your day.

Aniruddha Dasa	07940 140721	anidas108@hotmail.com
Arjuna Dasa	07868 709259	khem108@gmail.com
Jaya Krishna Dasa	07808 166779	jayakrsna108@hotmail.com
Kamal Dasa	07951 992322	kamalje@gmail.com

Wedding Menu

1.
Basmati Rice
2.
Dhal *OR* Khadi
3.
Puri
4.
Far Far
5.
Matter-Paneer *OR* Undhio *OR* Mixed Veg
6.
Dry Potato with Pepper (Subji)
7.
Salad with Dressing *OR* Sambharo *OR* Chilli & Carrots
8.
Kachori *OR* Dhokra *OR* Dahi-Vada
9.
Chutney
10.
Gulabjamun *OR* Mohan-Thal *OR* Sweet Rice *OR* Srikhand
11.
Drink - Lime & Mint *OR* Orange *OR* Apple *OR* Mixed Fruit Punch
12.
Mukhwās.
Digestive aid, after meal spice

We can provide additional items for your meal if you wish.
Please discuss your requirements with the catering Manager

Additional services

Welcome Snacks and Refreshments

If you wanted to provide drinks or snacks for your guests when they arrive, the following items can be arranged:

Water and drinks.

Providing hot drinks. This could be Masala tea, Barley cup, yogi tea etc. Please discuss this with the Wedding Manager and the Catering manager

Providing snacks. Etc. Please discuss this with the Wedding Manager and the catering manager

For information about the prices for the snacks please speak with the catering Manager or the Assistant Wedding Planner.

Please note that if snacks are ordered for guests as they arrive, the numbers catered for should be the same as the number of guests scheduled to attend the wedding. This is to avoid any embarrassment should the snacks finish as a consequence of more guests wanting them than planned.

Additional flower arrangements

As mentioned previously we provide the garlands for the bride and groom as well as a number of small table arrangements if you have catering.

Some further flower options you may want to consider could be:

- Button Hole flowers
- Bouquets
- Fresh flowers on the Mandap
- Larger flower arrangements for the dining area

A Flower Info document can be obtained from the 'Wedding Services' office.

Bullock Cart Ride

If you wanted to start off your marriage with some additional auspiciousness you could select the option of visiting the goshalla-temple farm by ox cart. There you could feed the cows with some vegetables and take Krishna's and the cow's blessings before being delivered back to your waiting car and future life.

Please contact the 'Wedding Services' office for availability.

Dining Arrangements

Temple room wedding dining arrangements

Dining indoors.

- a) A table is set for the Bride and Groom and accompanied by 20 guests.
- b) There will be further 5 tables available seating 36 persons set out in the dining room.
- c) 30 Chairs will be provided in the centre of the reception as well.
- d) Some guests may be obliged to eat buffet style in the various public spaces we have.

Dining Outdoors.

In Good weather we would recommend the wedding party and guests take advantage of the Manors beautiful and peaceful gardens by taking the wedding meal outside.

N.B. The specific dining requirements can be discussed in consultation with the Wedding Manager.

Marquee wedding dining arrangements

The marquee wedding enables us to offer you a number of dining options.

* Please note that we do not provide a table for all the guests during the meal

A normal arrangement would include the following:

Head table. The numbers provided for should be in consultation with the Wedding Coordinator however the maximum we can accommodate on the Head table is 24 persons.

There will be extra tables which will seat 44 persons.

The remaining guests would be able to take their meal eating buffet style or by using the outside gardens and spaces

Extra table options

In a wedding in the marquee there is the option of hiring additional tables (which the wedding department can arrange on your behalf) if you wanted more of your guests to be seated at a table. We can fit up to thirty five round tables, each seating ten persons, in the marquee making a total seating arrangement of three hundred and fifty persons. For specific table options please consult the Wedding Manager.

If you would like more information about hiring extra tables please discuss this with the Wedding Manager for costs and considerations.

Family Members Form

(Please complete IN CAPITALS and return this form to your Priest on your wedding)

Full name of the Bride (and middle name if any).....

Full name of the Groom (and middle name if any).....

Date and time of your wedding.....

Civil Marriage? Yes / No

Names of Witnesses.....

.....

Bride's Family

Father.....

Mother.....

Kanyadan to be performed by.....

Mama.....

Boys for Mangala Fera - (1)..... (2).....

(3)..... (3).....

Sakhi (Best Girl).....

Esteemed or elderly relatives.....From.....

.....From.....

Groom's Family

Father.....

Mother.....

Best Man.....

Esteemed or elderly relatives.....From.....

.....From.....

The vows for the Bride and Groom

At the time of Kanyadan you will both be making vows to each other. The Priest will say them for you, phrase by phrase, and you will repeat after him. You may wish to become familiar with them by reading them beforehand.

The Priest will chant the traditional vows in the original Sanskrit and ask the couple to follow him, phrase by phrase, in repeating the English translation:

The Groom is asked by the Bride's parent or guardian: "_____has been in my care for a long time, and now, on this day, I am giving her into your care. Do you accept her as your wife?"

The Groom replies: "Yes, I accept_____as my wife. I shall care for her throughout our life together. We shall live together peacefully, and there will never be any separation"

The Priest then asks the Bride: "Will you accept_____as your life's companion. Will you serve him always, and help him in all his activities?" The Bride replies: "Yes, I accept_____as my husband throughout my life. There shall never be any separation between us, either in happiness or distress. I shall serve him always, and we shall live together peacefully"

The couple then exchange garlands, and joining right hands speak the following vows: The Groom first says to the Bride: "Aum.Oh Virtuous One, I take your hand for good fortune and prosperity, so that together we may attain to old age in happiness. God has united us for the performance of our duties as householders." I am the Sky, you are the Earth; I am the Seed, you are the Bearer; I am the Mind, you are Speech; I am the Words, you are the Melody."

Bride and Groom then say to each other: "Aum.I knowingly respect you as you knowingly respect me. May we remain together, listen to joyous sounds together. May we always experience well-being, and, speaking loving words, may we remain together for a hundred autumns"

"Aum. I accept you as my partner in life. I will not keep anything from you, even my thoughts. I will share with you all that I enjoy, and together we will persevere on the path of Dharma." This completes the Vows.

Is there anything we have to learn?

No. You may familiarise yourself with the vows but everything you need to say or do will be instructed to you by the priest during the ceremony. In essence, the bride and groom simply sit within the mandap and allow the ceremony to happen around them. But if you wish to learn how to sip Ganges water for instance, or familiarise yourselves with the ceremony, or even rehearse it, you may contact the priest.

Modifications to our weddings services

The temple reserves the right to make changes to the terms and conditions of weddings at Bhaktivedanta Manor at any time. If possible the temple will make reasonable efforts to notify the families of such changes.