

YOUR ESSENTIAL 2021 WEDDING GUIDE

by

MATTHEW
RYCRAFT
PHOTOGRAPHY





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MATT RYCRAFT

Photography & art has been in my family for 3 generations. I was using my first camera at eight years old & haven't had one out of my hands since.

With a relaxed but professional style, I'll guide you through your wedding day. I blend into the background capturing those natural moments, so you'll barely notice I'm there.

Once the wedding photographs are ready you'll be invited to my studio for your amazing viewing, seeing your wedding photographs for the first time, picking and customising your beautiful wedding album.

"Matthew is amazing at what he does and was highly professional throughout the day. His pictures blew us away and his dedication to getting the perfect shot for

LUCY HOGAN

**MATTHEW
RYCRAFT**
PHOTOGRAPHY

Tel : 01704 741111

Email: enquiries@matthewrycraft.co.uk

Web: www.matthewrycraft.co.uk

Socials: [@matthewrycraft](https://www.instagram.com/matthewrycraft)

CAPTURING THE STORY OF YOUR DAY

When you hire a professional photographer for your wedding you are not only hiring someone to take pretty pictures but also a person who tells a story.

I take the time to really listen to you and your love story. I will know the people and moments that are most important to capture on your wedding day and will take gentle care to create an atmosphere where your story can unfold. Always in the background, observing and guiding, I document your story in such a way that when you see your photographs you will be able to truly relive the beautiful and unique story of your wedding day.

Here at Matthew Rycraft, you're a friend, welcomed into the Rycraft family with open arms. I am here to help through your wedding process, timings, suppliers, styles and recommendations. I'm just a call or email away.

Matthew Rycraft's AWARDS & CREDITS

2020 SLR Lounge UK TOP 100

2019 GoHen Top UK 50

2018-19 English Wedding Awards Finalist

2015-17 Wedding of the Year Winner

4 SWPP & WPPI Print Awards

Over 11 Magazine Front Covers

Planning Tips



PLAN EARLY

You might have summer 2022 in your mind as the ideal wedding date, but don't think that means you have to wait two years before you start planning. The earlier you get onto it, the easier, and less stressful it will be as your day approaches. Having a clear plan before you start will help you keep on top of everything and be sure that you don't forget something important.

NAIL THE BUDGET

Don't spend anything until you've set a realistic budget that won't stretch you too far. It's a common mistake to forget all the little extras, too – for the budget to work, you need to factor in every detail. Don't forget to account for additional costs like dress alterations, gifts and beauty expenses. These can all add up!



HELPING HANDS

Although it's your big day, your friends and family will be more than willing to help and will want to be involved in the planning. By getting help from people you trust, you're more likely to feel that you can be honest if things aren't exactly as you want them!



Planning Tips



THE GUEST LIST

Sorting the guest list early is important so you can then focus on finding the perfect venue that will cater for your chosen number of guests. Costs per head will most likely be your biggest expense, so don't be guilt-tripped into inviting people you don't want to come. It's the biggest and hardest decision in the whole planning process, but it has to be yours and your fiancé's decision only.

BOOK THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Your wedding album is how you'll relive the cherished memories of your day, so don't underestimate the importance of a good photographer. Research carefully and find someone who understands exactly what you want. Engagement shoots are a great idea too, because you'll get to know your photographer better as well as practise your poses!



LOTS OF LISTS

With a million and one suppliers to deal with, each with different payment deadlines, it's impossible to keep track of everything by yourself. One of my top wedding planning tips is to sit down with your fiancé, make a budget spread sheet of forecast costs and actual costs as well as when payments are due, and list what things are left to do.



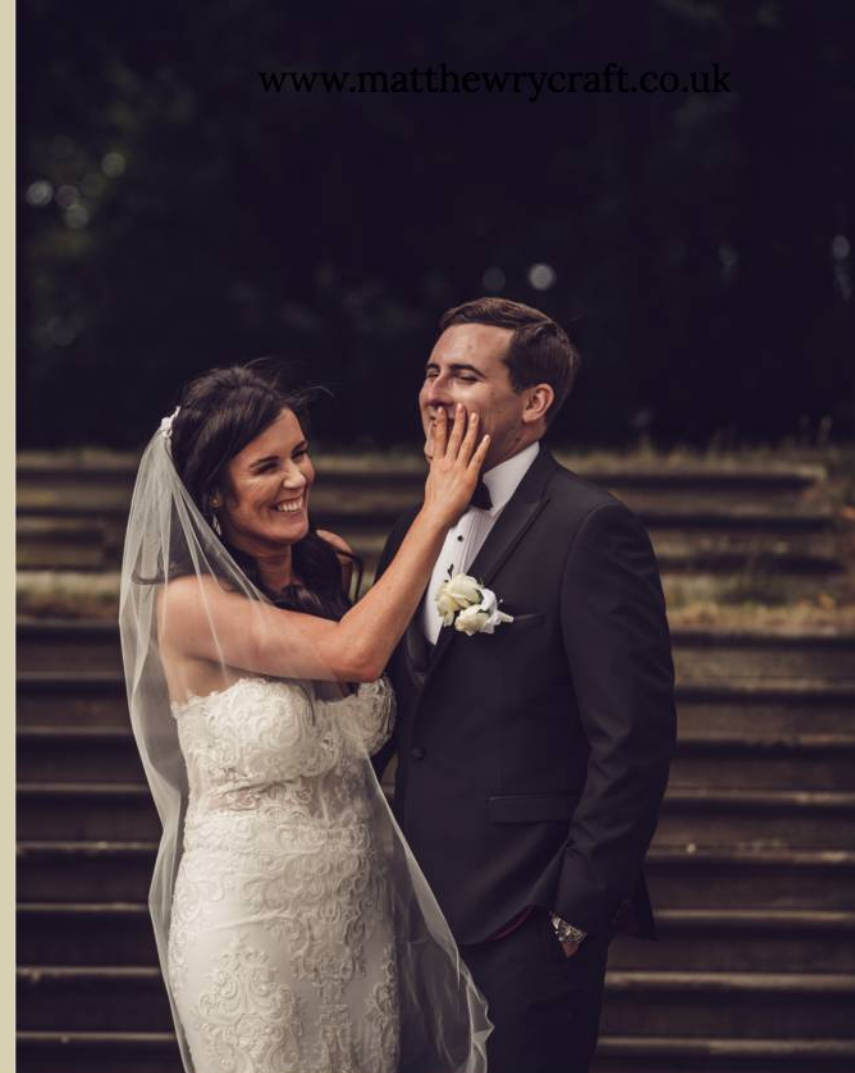
It pays to have the best

While you can get a good deal with a photographer who's new to the industry, you do need to find someone you trust to get it right. Perfection comes with experience. You have one chance to get the wedding photographs you have dreamed of. This is one purchase you can't cut corners on.



Browse your photographer's portfolio

Look through the portfolio of the photographer you're considering. You won't just be looking for examples of the weddings they've captured. You'll also be looking at their different styles and approaches. When you find the photos that resonate with you, you've found your style and perfect photographer.



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Creative experience

A professional photographer will know exactly when to photograph your groom as he first sees you walking down the aisle, how to achieve the perfect confetti shot, and what to do in the event of rain. A creative, flexible and experienced approach often results in the most breath-taking and brilliant wedding photographs.



Create a shot list

If you've got your heart set on certain shots, like couple's portraits at sunset or a sparkler send-off photo, then you need to talk it through with your photographer. A pre-wedding shoot to help you both gauge what kind of shots you want. It makes taking the photos on your big day that bit quicker and more efficient.

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PRICING & PACKAGES

My most popular wedding photography package is £1900, covering all day wedding photography 9pm, includes all your images edited, delivered digitally at the highest resolution.

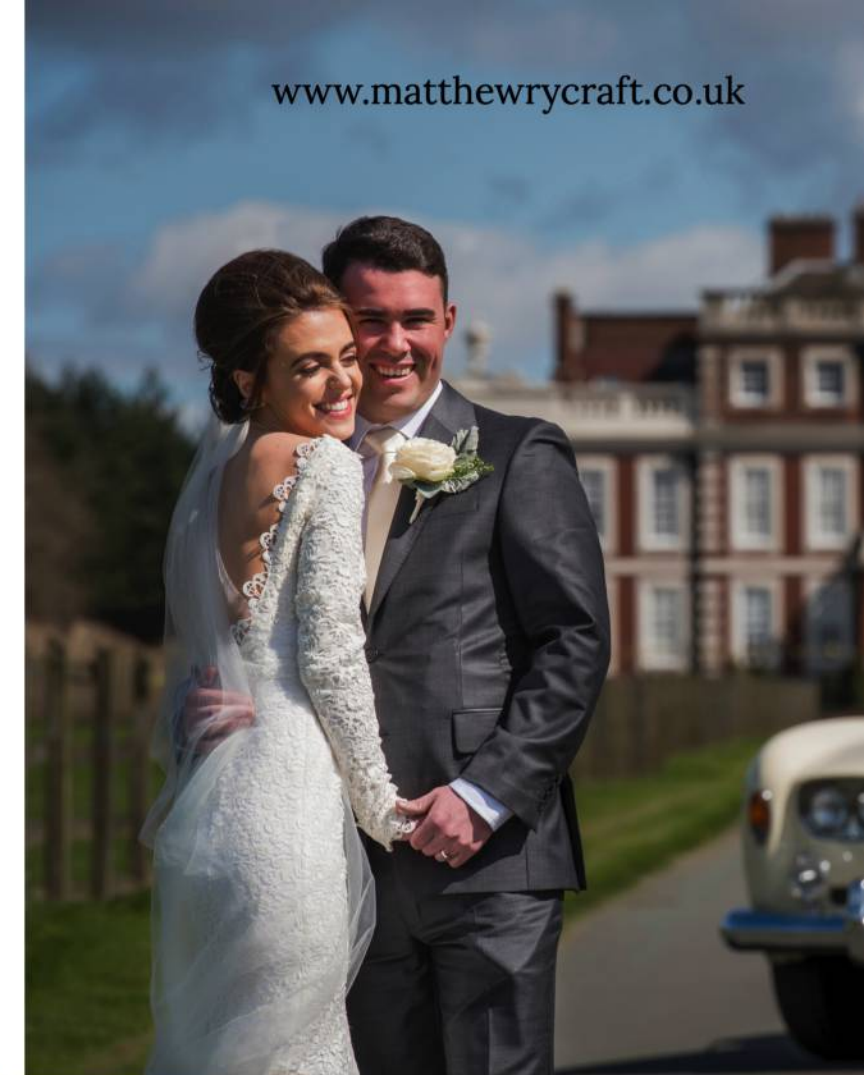
Wedding album services start from £2200 should you want a beautiful Italian wedding album.



WEDDING ALBUM £ 2 2 0 0

- Bridal Preps to 1st Dance
- 20 Page Basic Wedding Album
- Online Gallery to Share
- In Person Consultations
- All Your Digital Images
- Images are of Highest Quality
- Movie Slideshow
- Includes Traveling
- On Day Location Visits

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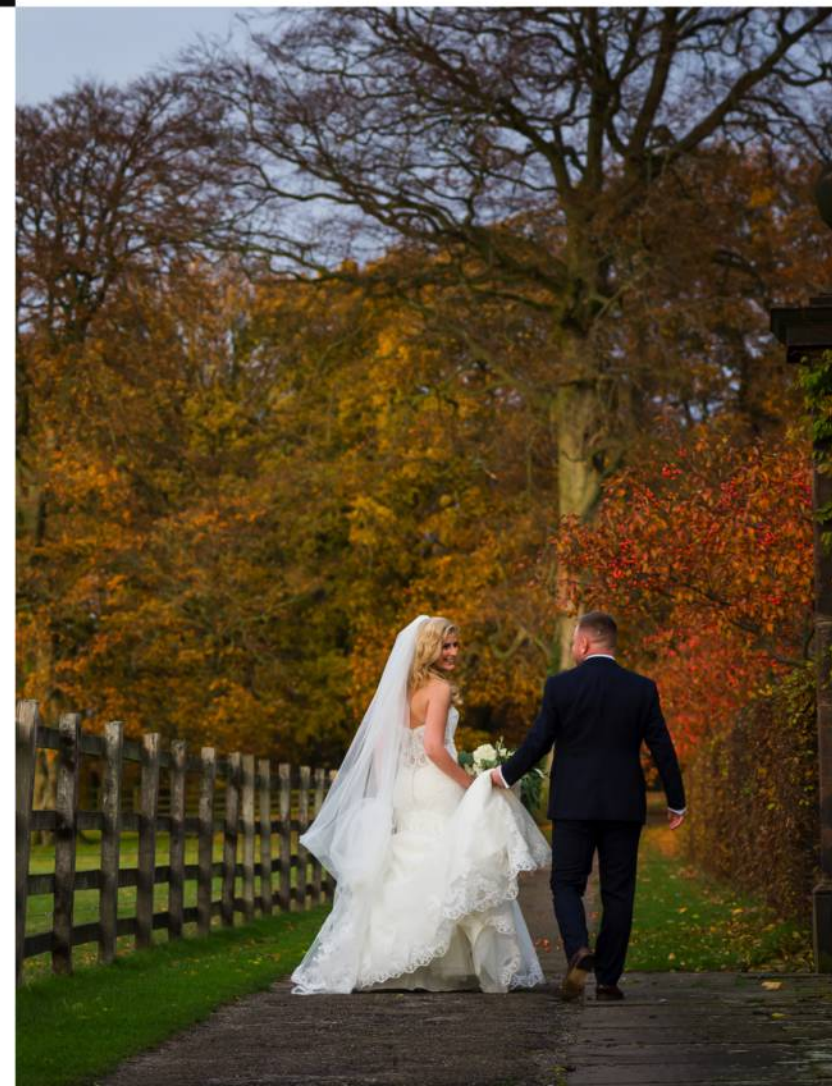
DIGITAL ONLY £ 1 9 0 0

- Bridal Preps to 1st Dance
- Online Gallery to Share
- Webcam Consultation
- All Your Digital Images
- Images are of Highest Quality
- Movie Slideshow
- Includes Traveling
- On Day Location Visits



VIDEO & PHOTO £ 3 2 0 0

- Bridal Preps to 1st Dance
- Full Day Photo & Video Service
- In Person Consultations
- All Digital Images
- 2 Wedding Films
- Movie Slideshow
- Iconic Duel Service
- 1 Supplier



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Brides Survival Kit



- Spare Backup Jewellery
- Baby Wipes
- Band Aids
- Deodorant
- Super Glue
- Eyelash Glue

- Small Mirror
 - Sewing Kit
 - Lint Roller
- Baby Powder
- Clear Nail Polish
- Spare Lipstick



- Nail File
- Body Lotion
- Mints
- Spare Bottle of Champagne
- Paracetamol

Brides Survival Kit



- Pocket Tissues
- Sunglasses
- Cotton Swaps
- Eye Drops
- Safety Pins
- Pepto-Bismol

- Nail Clippers
 - Hair Ties
 - Hair Clips
- Pocket Hairspray
 - Lip Gloss



- Hair Brush
- Water
- Granola Bars to Snack On
- Personalised Champagne Flutes
- Dental Floss



ALBUMS vs DIGITAL FILES

What would it feel like to hold a custom made wedding album in your hands, telling the story of your wedding day? Then to share this story with your children and grandchildren as it's handed down generations?

A wedding album can really tell the story of your wedding day, rather than flicking through some digital images on your phone. These heirloom pieces are the beginning of your legacy. And allow you to bring your love story to life and share it with family & friends. All my packages include your digital images, but take a look at my wedding album packages too.

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How much of the day do you want covering

This comes in two parts. Firstly, make sure you are happy with the timings your photographer will be there in the day. Will they arrive early enough to capture your 'getting ready' moments? Will they stay for your first dance? If you're having fireworks or sparklers, do you need to book an extra hour to allow this? Plan ahead to make sure all your special moments are covered.



Ask to see a complete wedding

If you love their work and meet up with them then make sure you ask to see two or three completed wedding albums that were given to the couple. You are looking for consistency – you want a whole album that's amazing and tells a beautiful story, rather than just four or five impressive photos.

Would you recommend them

Ask yourself 'would I recommend them to a friend?' If the answer is yes, then get them booked.

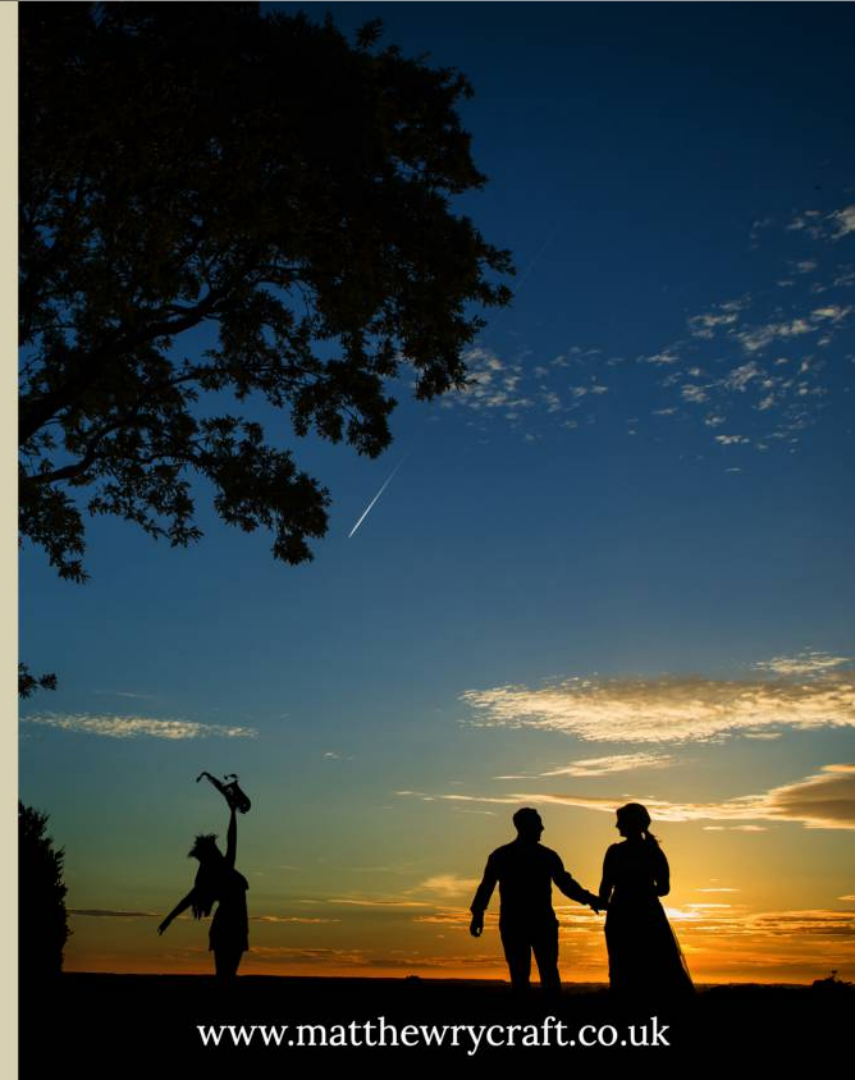
Ensure you pick a wedding photographer that you love, someone you trust and would like to spend the day with. Also a photographer you know will capture the day how you want it captured and will present it beautifully.

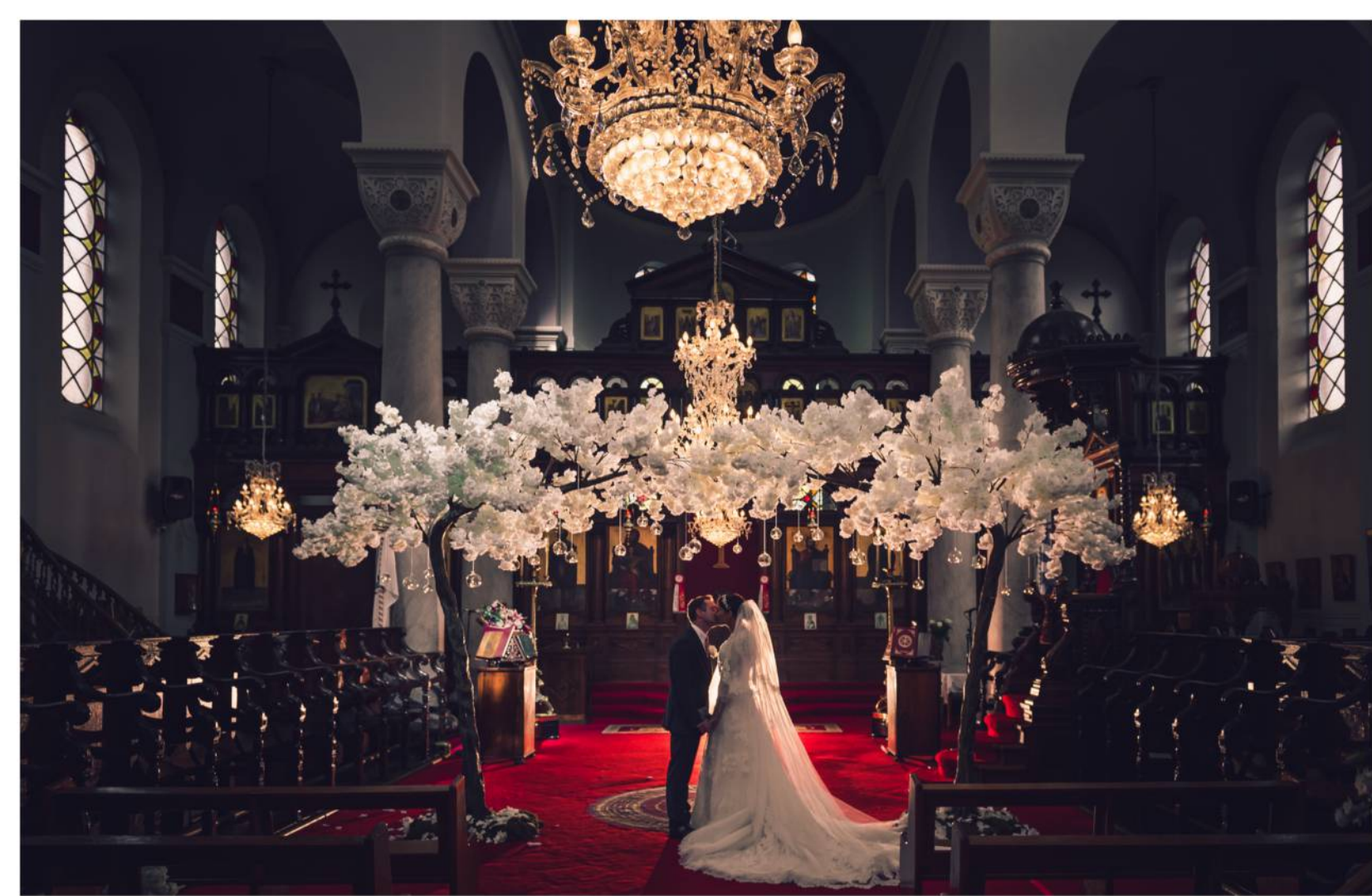


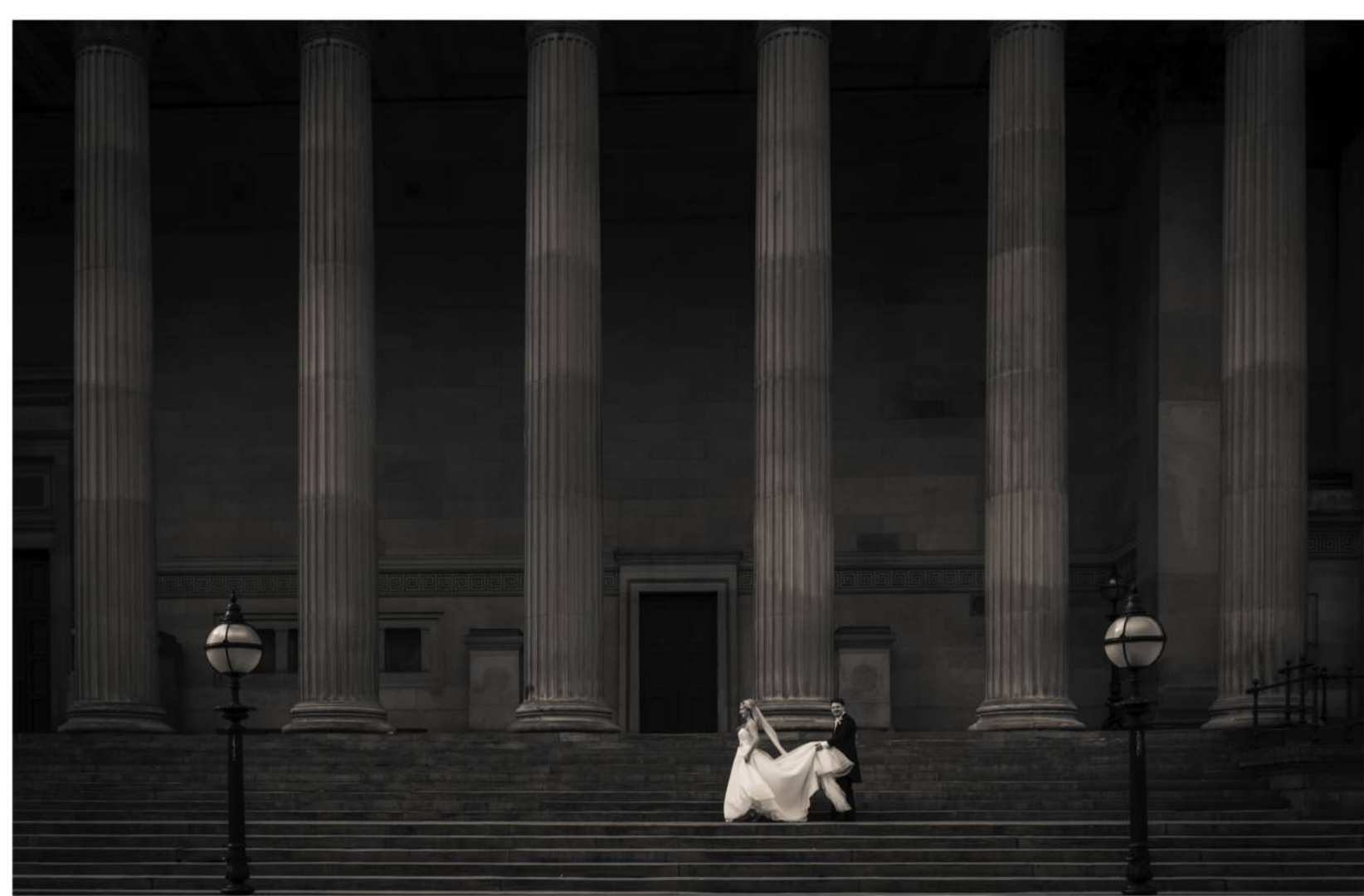
Book early

Top wedding photographers in the UK can be booked not just months in advance, but years.

Many will be taking bookings for one to two years in advance – popular summer weekends in peak season will be quickly booked up. If you are planning your wedding and have your date set, then now is the time to find your wedding photographer and get them booked as quickly as possible.







Matt Rycraft's Timeline



BOOKING

The best time to book a photographer is right after you book your venue. You want to get comfortable with your photographer and allow time to have a conversation about your vision and specific needs for your photography. Our booking fee is just £200 to secure your day.

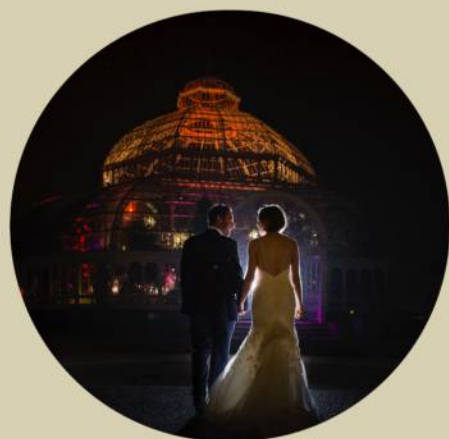
ENGAGEMENT

It's a good idea to get your engagements sessions booked right away. Most people aren't used to being photographed professionally so this is a wonderful opportunity for the bride and groom to get comfortable in front of a camera. Think of this as a trial run with the end result being



FINAL STUDIO MEETING

This is great chance to run through any photographs you have seen you would like re-creating, and also run through your family photo list. Take with you your final rundown of timings from your wedding venue, so I can build a schedule of the day.



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WEDDING

This is the day. No matter how stressed you are, we are here to calm you and take care of you. We'll capture your day, your story, your life. Whether your family views your photos in a month or 50 years from now, they'll see your entire story.

PREMIER STUDIO VIEWING

After returning from your honeymoon, we will sit down for your slideshow premier and final design review. Here we will talk about what wedding album options are available and take a look at your possible album image choice.



"Matt Rycraft first and foremost, is a bloody nice bloke. Great to talk to, great to listen too, and makes you feel warm and welcome as soon as you meet him."

ANDREW HENDERSON

"Could not recommend Matthew enough! His photography skills are unbelievable and he captured our wedding day perfectly. Our album is amazing and we have had so many compliments."

NICOLA STREET

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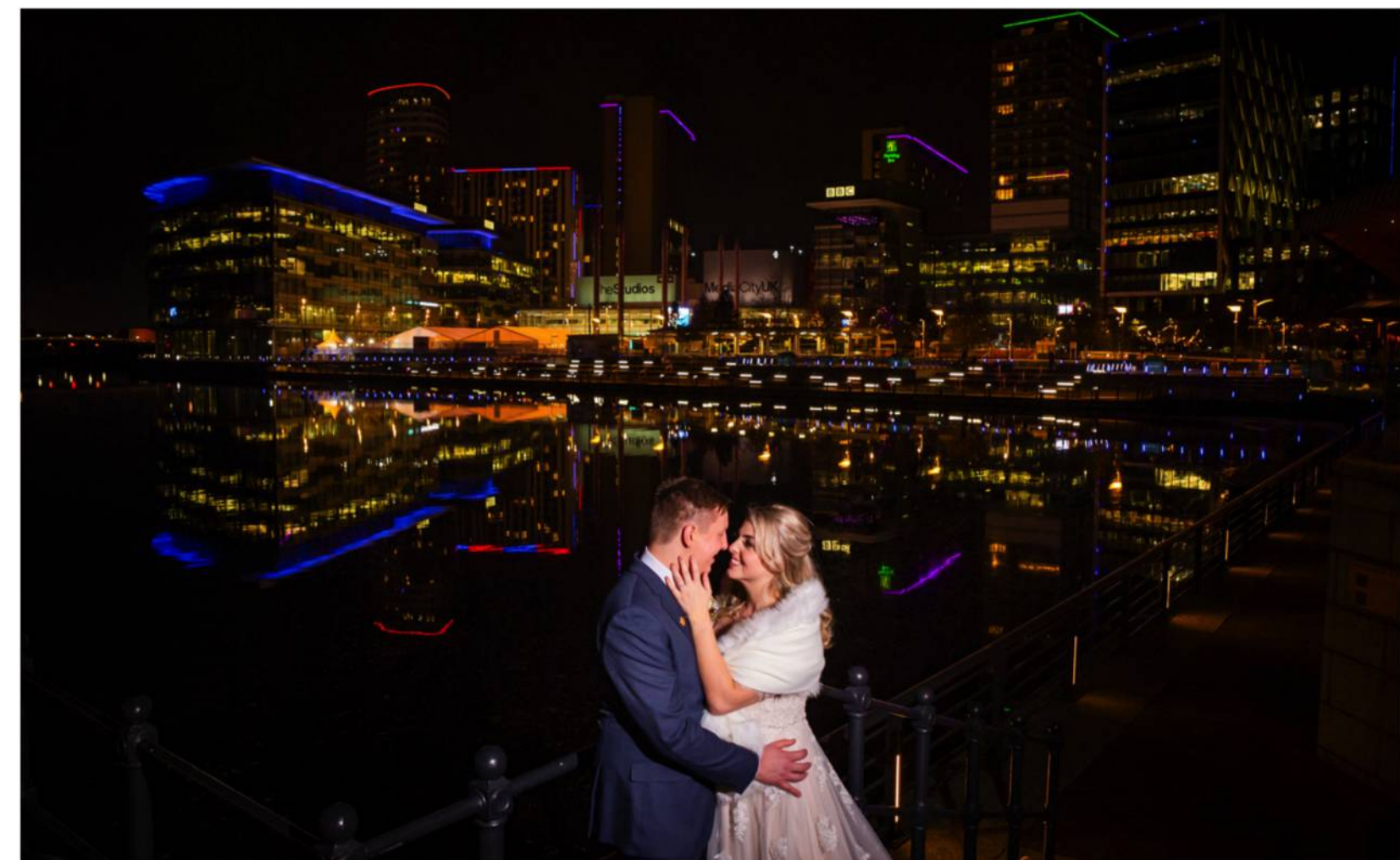
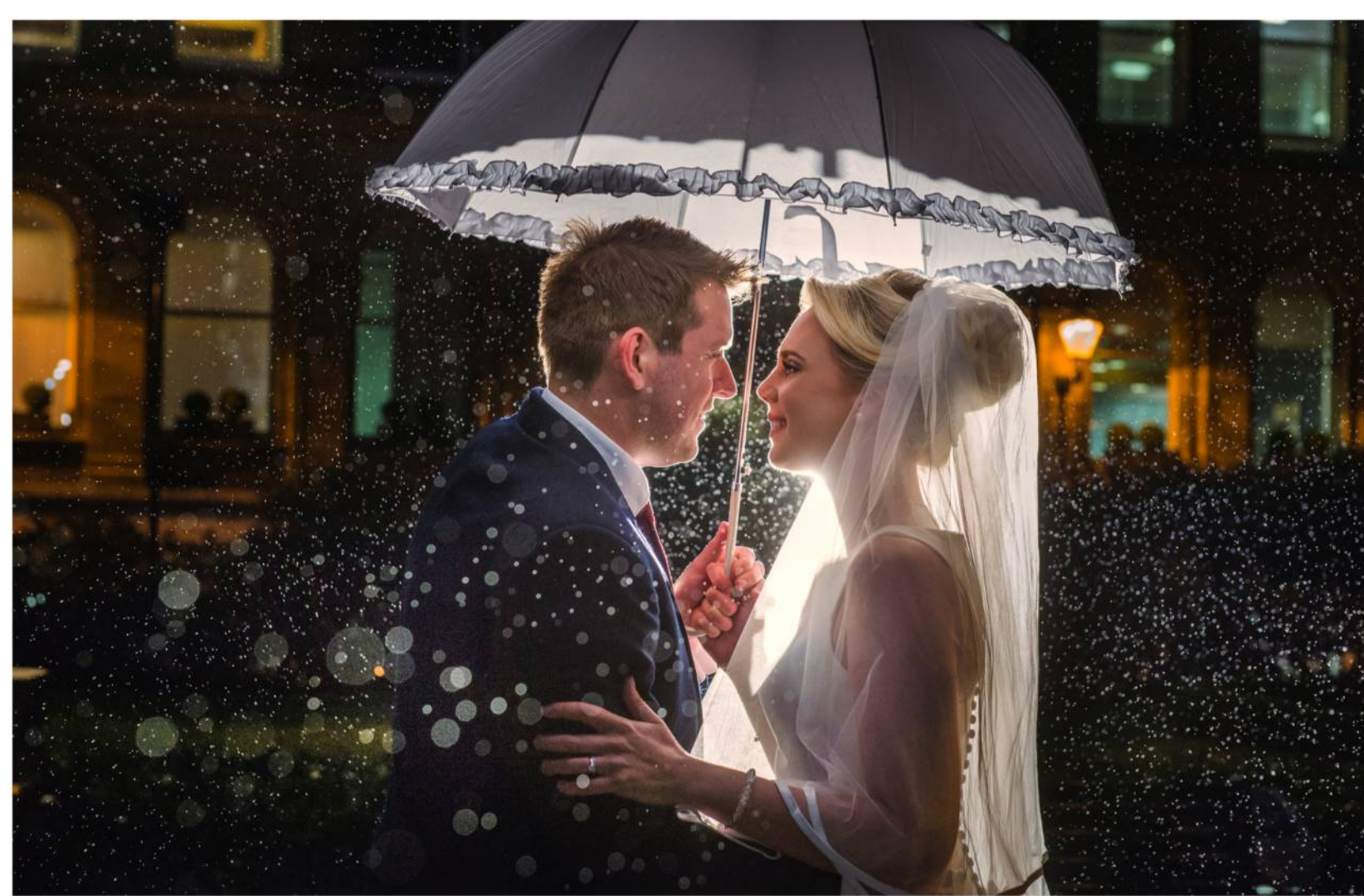
Morning Checklist

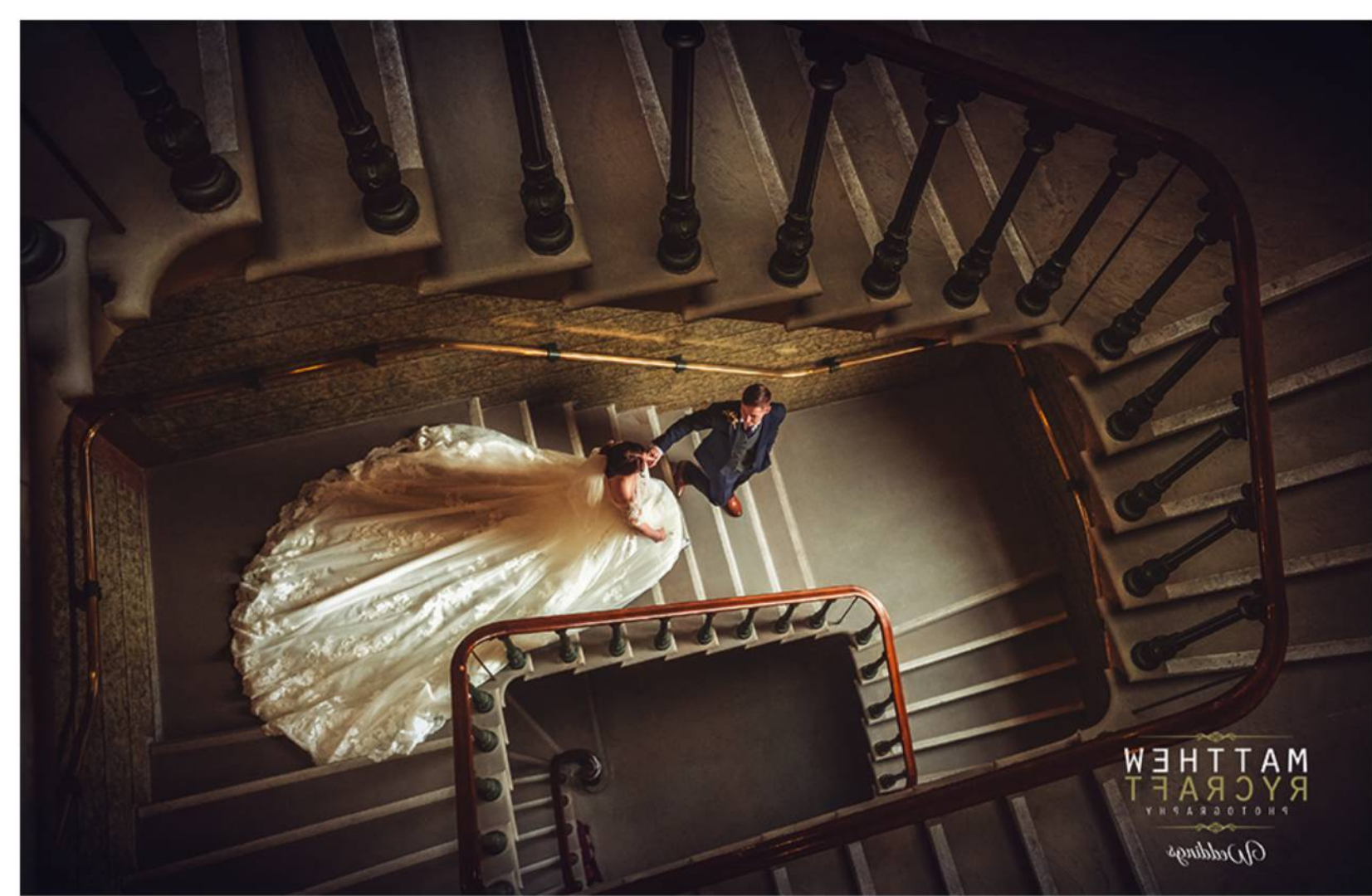
- Wedding Dress
- Veil & Headpieces
- Shoes
- Garter
- Jewellery
- Perfume
- Wedding Rings
- Speeches
- Wedding Music



Cont.....

- Bouquets
- Bridesmaids Dresses
- Purse or Clutch
- Gifts
- Emergency Kit
- Lipstick
- Fresh clothes for the morning
- Snacks
- Wedding Vows
- Decorative items for your photographer





Preferred Wedding Vendors



DRESSES & FLOWERS

liverpoolbridalboutique.co.uk
boutiquebrides.co.uk
philiparmstrong.com
fbl25years.co.uk
josephmassieflowers.com
klfloralartistry.co.uk

WEDDING CARS

magnoliaclassics.co.uk
birkdaleclassics.com
regalweddingcars.co.uk
tarletoncarriages.co.uk
centuryweddingcars.co.uk



MAKEUP & HAIR

katehayesmakeup.com
ladymuckcrosby.co.uk
flossyandleigh.com
[@katiebishopmakeup](https://www.instagram.com/katiebishopmakeup)



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Preferred Wedding Vendors



SUITS & ENTERTAINMENT

whitfieldandward.co.uk
noblefox.co.uk
reputationmenswear.co.uk
themacbros.com
thelivepianoexperience.com
thedeltatones.co.uk

VENUE DRESSING & CAKES

redeventscreative.co.uk
bigeventgroup.com
flowerfashion.co.uk
liverpoolcakecompany.com
clairesouthernmacarons.com



STATIONARY & OTHERS

birkdalecheese.com
thepaperdoll.co.uk
girlonsax.co.uk
rocksforfrocks.co.uk



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WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

I have created a wedding plan checklist to help you through your wedding journey. On the next few pages we cover the most popular items to confirm and think about during your wedding planning.

I hope you have found this guide helpful and makes your wedding planning easy and most of all enjoyable. My details are below should you want to get in touch.

Matthew Rycraft

www.matthewrycraft.co.uk

matt@matthewrycraft.co.uk





PRE VENUE

- Determine Your Budget
- Create a Pinterest Board Full of Inspiration
- Start Writing Your Guest List (This helps with size of venue)
 - Decide on the time of Year
 - Choose Your Theme
- Consider Wedding Insurance



18-14 MONTHS

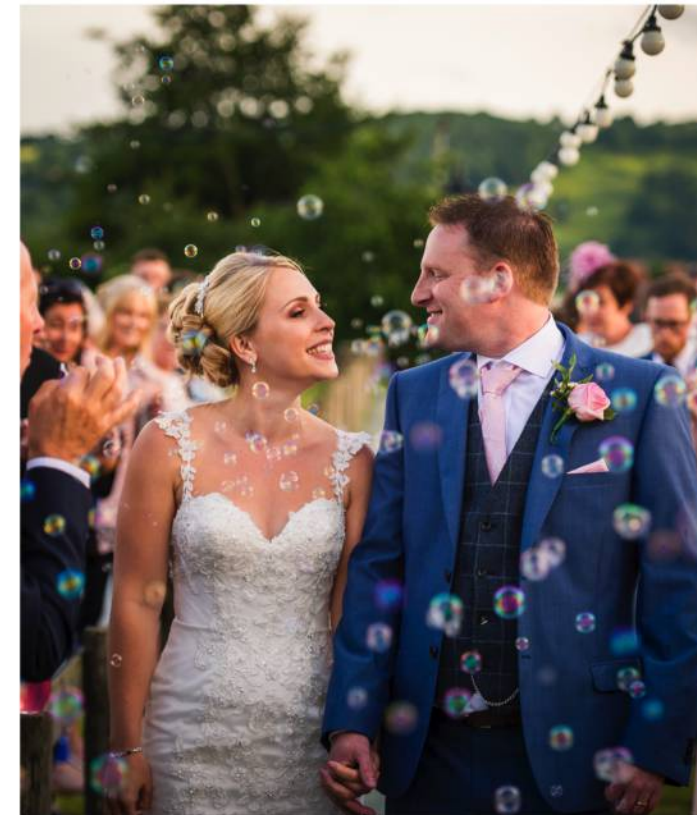
- Put together a Comparison List of Suppliers
 - Book a Photographer and Videographer
 - Book a DJ or Wedding Band
 - Book Caterers if Needed
 - Book Your Florist
- Book Wedding Dress Appointments
 - Book Your Honeymoon
- Start The Groomswear Search
- Book Your Hair & Makeup Artist
- Book Accommodation For Immediate Family

12 MONTHS

- Start a Fitness & Diet Plan
- Register Your Intention to Marry
 - Send Out Your Save the Dates
- Share Accommodation Information To Guest
 - Buy Your Wedding & Bridesmaid Dress's
- Book Your Bridal Suite/Overnight Hotel Rooms
- Order Your Wedding Stationery and Invitations
 - Book Venue Dresser
 - Book Guest Entertainment: PhotoBooth, Chocolate Fountain etc
- Start Planning Your Stag & Hen Dos
- Create a List of Suppliers & Payment Due Dates

24-20 MONTHS

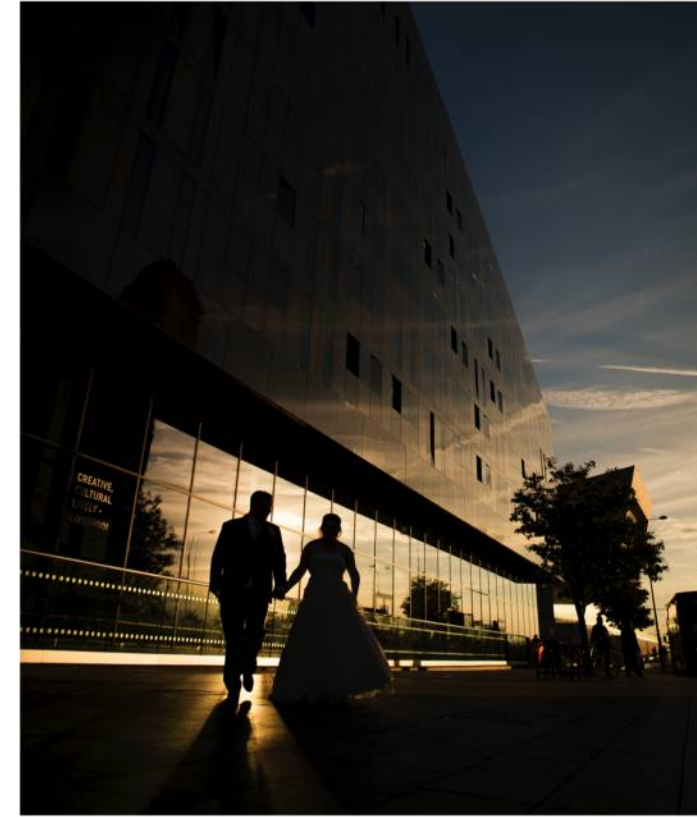
- Start the Search for your Perfect Wedding Venue
- Provisionally Book a Venue and a Date
- Check Whether a Registrar or Church is Free On Your Wedding Date
- Confirm Your Wedding Venue
- Appoint Your Wedding Party
 - Start Searching for Local Wedding Suppliers
- Start Honeymoon Shopping
- Secure Wedding Insurance





9 MONTHS

- Meet With Your Florist
- Find & Book a Cake Maker
 - Book Your Transport
- Create A Wedding Website
- Send Your Wedding Invitations
- Buy Your Accessories Shoes, Necklaces, Headpieces etc
 - Wedding Dress Fittings
- Book Your Stag & Hen Dos
 - Order Wedding Rings



3 MONTHS

- Host Your Stag and Hen Parties!
- Finalise Your Timings for The Day
- Check if You Need Another Dress Fitting
- Meet With Your Photographer to Confirm Shot list & Timings
 - Create Your DJ/Band Play List
 - Choose Your First Dance Song
- Decide If you need Any more Guest Entertainment
- Consider Upgrading your wedding Album Package
- Start to Consider Paying Supplier Balances
 - Book Hair & Make Up Trial
- Consider a Next Day After Party at Your Parent House



6 MONTHS

- Have Your Final Menu Tasting
- Build & Buy Your Bridesmaids & Groomsmen Gifts
 - Buy Gifts to Give to Parents During Speeches
 - Order Wedding Venue Decorations
- Check Your Budget in on Track
- Consider Ceremony Readings
 - Book a Pre-Wedding Shoot



1 MONTH TO GO

- Book Final Dress Fitting
- Finalise Your Guest Numbers
- Confirm Running Order of The Day
- Finalise Details with Suppliers
 - Finalise Speeches
 - Finalise Seating Plan
- Confirm Ceremony Readings
- Cross Reference your Supplier List



1 WEEK TO

- Collect Wedding Dress's & Suits
 - Collect Stationary
 - Pick Up Wedding Rings
 - Book Grooms Hair Cut
 - Start Packing Your Honeymoon Suitcase
- Delegate Wedding day Duties
- Book Nails to be Manicured
- Start Packing Your Overnight



AFTER YOUR BIG DAY

- Have an Amazing Honeymoon
 - Write Thank You Cards
- Arrange a Photograph Viewing Day
- Collect Your Amazing Wedding Album
- Arrange To Show Your Friends & Family Your Wedding Slideshow & Album





CONTACT MATT

Thank you for taking the time to read my wedding guide, I hope it gave you lots of inspiration.

My photography packages range from £1900 to £3200 depending on the style of wedding album and volume of pages. I also have a great Videography & Photography service.

If you would like to arrange a consultation to view my wedding albums and work in person, please get in touch or visit my studio.

TELEPHONE
01704 741 111

WEBSITE
www.matthewrycraft.co.uk

EMAIL
matt@matthewrycraft.co.uk

SOCIALS
[@matthewrycraft](https://www.instagram.com/matthewrycraft)

STUDIO ADDRESS
Studio 4
15a Liverpool Road
Birkdale
PR8 5PL

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Weddings

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