

### AS SOON AS YOU DECIDE YOU ARE GETTING MARRIED:

- Decide on the type of ceremony i.e. civil or religious. If civil, decide between a licensed venue and register office
- If you choose a civil ceremony, provisionally book the Registrars for a licensed venue or register office. If you choose a religious ceremony contact the church
- Book reception if in a different location to the ceremony
- Check legal requirements such as residency and documents required (see page 45)
- Establish a budget for the whole event
- Make a provisional guest list so that you can estimate numbers for both the ceremony and reception – this will help you choose the right size and style of venue according to numbers and budget
- Arrange wedding insurance

### 12 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Arrange to give notice for a civil ceremony or if the church have advised you to do so (see page 44)
- Book photographers, florist, transport etc (see the adverts on pages 61 to 67)
- Start looking for your outfits!
- Choose your key supporters – such as witnesses, best man, bridesmaids, ushers
- Book Honeymoon – if you wish to travel in your new name, you can change your passport up to three months before your wedding (see page 55)

### 6 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Choose a style of cake and order
- Start looking for outfits for attendants. Don't forget the Mums – they may like to liaise to make sure their outfits don't clash, or worse still buy the same thing!
- Order invitations and other stationery. Check the address details for the location carefully - an incorrect postcode could send all guests using sat nav to the wrong place!
- Discuss your flower requirements with your florist
- Start choosing music and readings for your ceremony
- Decide on catering and discuss with caterers or venue if applicable
- Compile a gift list

### 3 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Buy rings
- If you haven't done so already, send out invitations, keeping a list of who you have sent them to
- Book accommodation for yourselves if necessary
- Organise accommodation for guests if required
- Apply for your passport if you are changing your name upon marriage or civil partnership and wish to go on Honeymoon in your new name (see page 55)
- Arrange for any visas and vaccinations required for the honeymoon
- Discuss hairstyles and make up with stylists and arrange trial runs for both

### 2 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Arrange planning meeting with the Registrar or Minister
- Choose thank you gifts for your wedding party
- Arrange table decorations and décor for the reception
- Confirm numbers and menu
- Hold hen and stag parties

### 1 MONTH TO GO:

- Finalise numbers
- Make a seating plan
- Arrange final fittings
- Remind key guests of their duties on the day, such as speeches

### 2 WEEKS TO GO:

- Wear shoes around the house to break them in
- Order foreign currency for honeymoon if required
- Double check all clothes and accessories
- Collect any stationery such as place cards

### 1 WEEK TO GO:

- Final phone calls to check suppliers
- Check travel documents for honeymoon

### THE DAY HAS ARRIVED!

- Make sure you eat breakfast
- Leave the best man, bridesmaids, ushers and Registrars to do their jobs
- Most important of all, relax and enjoy your day!