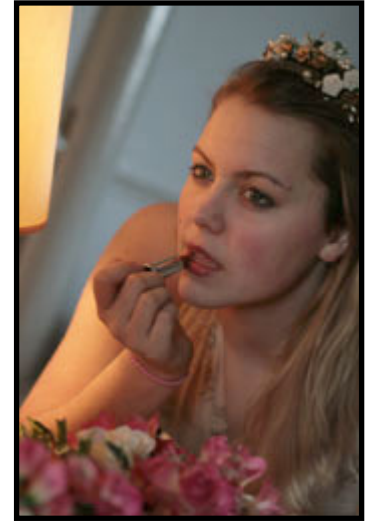


Here, to help you plan your wedding photography, are ten of the most popular shots that I take, together with some tips to help you look your absolute best on the day...

1 ...Beforehand

Making up can make a pretty picture, especially your lipstick.
TIP: it's worth some preparation of the area, especially if it's a busy room, to create a clear, uncluttered background.



Some brides, however, like to do this alone, in which case I can check up on your intended during his last hours of freedom...

Or I can go straight to the church, to photograph the guests as they arrive, all dressed up and tidy. These pictures can contrast well with shots taken at the end of the day...



2....Arrival at the church

Once the car door has been opened, it's nice to take a little time for this picture....so don't jump straight out! Long dresses and car doorways don't always mix so I give just a few suggestions as to how to achieve it gracefully.

TIP: I encouraged Claire here to keep her bouquet low ("it's not a microphone") and to spread her fingers out along the woodwork, rather than gripping that handle tightly.



3...In the porch



Now I'll ask you all to concentrate for a moment, so that all eyes are straight to the camera. Notice how I've asked the bridesmaids to face into the shot from each side...it makes a more interesting composition than a straight line of people.

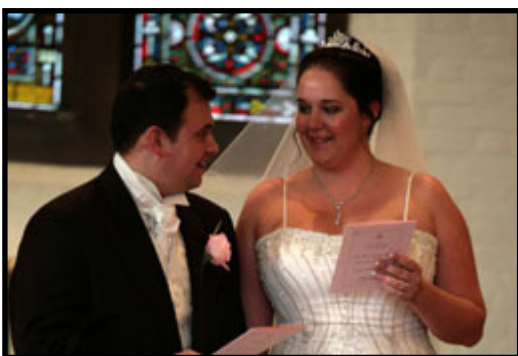
TIP: relax your grip on his sleeve; those creases will show!

4...During the service

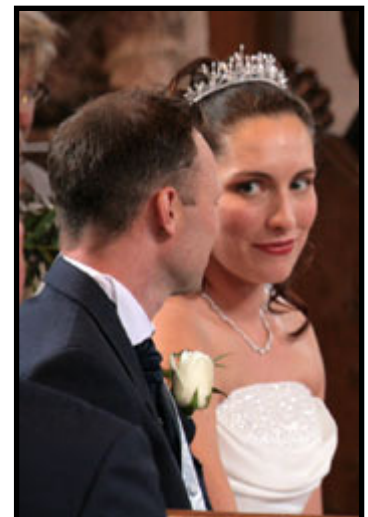
The amount of photography allowed during the service depends on the priest or registrar, but I have always found them to be really helpful if you take the time to ask first. I'll have planned my moves accordingly, sometimes hiding equipment in corners of the church or ceremony room so that I can move unobtrusively. Flash is usually out, but with professional lenses I can take high quality photographs in very low light. Some pictures will almost certainly be from the back of the church while, if allowed, I may sit in the choir stalls for part of the service. A civil ceremony generally allows more photography (and there is usually more light) but the same thing applies; be quiet and don't distract.



5...That first look



After your
vows...Wow!



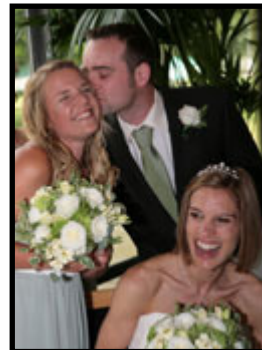
6...Signing the register



This is always a great shot because everyone is relaxed now. By law, I am not allowed to photograph you actually signing, so we "mock it up" immediately after with a blank page in the marriage register.

TIP: It's worth thinking ahead here about who you might like in these pictures: I'll start off with just the two of you, but then we can include bridesmaids, witnesses and perhaps the priest.

Another tip: Don't forget to take the top off the pen (and try not to lose control completely of your new husband!)



7...The procession

You're married! And processing down the central aisle. Everyone is looking at you. Everyone has a camera. You feel great!

TIP: IT IS NOT A RACE! You have all the time in the world. You will forget, and I will remind you, to stop every few paces, to smile at everyone, and then to look to my camera, for a long, slow glamorous shot.



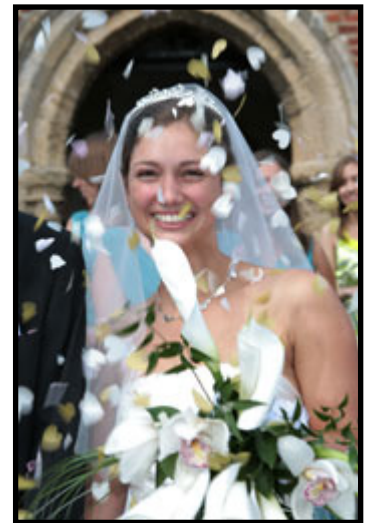
8...Outside the church



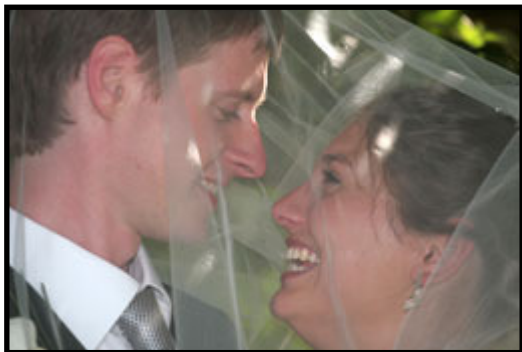
I'll be unobtrusive for your first few minutes of married life, perhaps snatching the odd shot in a shady doorway. But mostly I'll just let you be. When you're ready (and I'll wait for you to tell me) we can have a few informal photographs with your bridesmaids and any special friends. Then I'll merge with the crowd again while you chat. **TIP:** Enjoy it!

9...Confetti!

TIP: Keep looking up, as the confetti flutters down (and keep those flowers in front of you but low).



10...The happy couple



While your guests are enjoying their first drink, I often slip away with the couple for a few minutes. This is your own private shoot and it's always great fun, for me the absolute best bit of the wedding. We can take as long as you like, although I'll keep an eye on the time (remembering that your guests want to see you as well). **TIP** Tell me beforehand if you really don't like having your picture taken. I specialise in shy brides (and grooms) and I'll make sure we're well away from everyone. Then I'll ask you just to cuddle up, under a tree or on a bench somewhere. **Remember: You don't need to look straight to the camera to have gorgeous pictures.**

I hope this has given you some idea of the pictures that you might like on your wedding day. There are many, many other possibilities! Please feel free to ring me, on 07739 913696 or email mike@youmaynowkissthebride.co.uk if there is anything you would like to ask. *Mike*