Application for Marriage Blessing

St Ursula's Church (Anglican/Episcopalian)
Jubiläumsplatz, 3005 Bern
Church Office: tel: 031 352 8567, email berne@anglican.ch

Blessing of Marriage (religious ceremony) Place:	Time:	Date:
ABOUT YOU	**Man**	**Woman**
Full name (Name)		
Is this the name on your birth certificate?	yes/no	yes/no
If no, what has changed?		
Age on Wedding Day		
Are you single, widowed or divorced?	single/widower/divorced	single/widow/divorced
Occupation (Beruf)		
Address		
Father's full name (+ 'deceased' if he has died)		
Father's Occupation (Beruf des Vaters)		
(The details above are for the wedding records)		
Date of Birth (Geburtsdatum)		
Date & place of Baptism		
Date & place of confirmation		
Are you related to each other?	yes/no	
If yes, how?		
If you have been married before (*) is it	once/more than once	once/more than once
Telephone		
Email		
Date & place of civil wedding		
Address after marriage		
	Signed (Unterschrift): Date:	Signed (Unterschrift): Date:
* If you have been divorced, specific permission will be required for the marriage blessing to take place. A deposit of 200Fr is payable on booking (100Fr will be refundable on cancellation, if at least 1 month's notice is given)		
Deposit received:	*Signed:*	*Date*

Please note that no photographs or films may be taken during the marriage blessing. You are very welcome to take as many photographs as you wish after the service has finished.

St Ursula's Church, Berne

Weddings in Switzerland

St Ursula's Church in Bern is the English speaking Anglican/Episcopalian (Church of England) church for Bern and the surrounding area, which includes quite a lot of Switzerland and even a small part of France. We conduct weddings in and beyond our surrounding area, in English or, provided a bi-lingual minister is available, in English and German (or in English and French).

Before conducting a wedding, we need to have a completed booking form with full details about the couple concerned. Whenever possible, we would expect to meet the couple beforehand to talk about marriage and about the wedding ceremony. (Exceptionally, this might be possible by email.)

Only **civil weddings** are recognized in Switzerland, that is to say that only a civil registrar can register a wedding at a Register Office (Zivilstandsamt); however, many couples have a religious ceremony afterwards, not necessarily on the same day, or even in the same month. Most people regard the religious ceremony as their 'wedding day', and see the Zivilstandsamt only as a necessary civil preliminary. It is of course possible to have the civil ceremony in another country, and then come to Switzerland for the 'church wedding'.

Any 'wedding' we do in Switzerland is technically a 'blessing of a civil marriage' according to Church of England rules. We normally use the appropriate service from *Common Worship* .

There are no **parish boundary rules** in Switzerland (at least as far as weddings are concerned) and it is normal for couples to select their church and, to a lesser extent, their officiating minister/priest. The minister would normally come from the same denomination as the chosen church, but it is not essential, although it is probable that the minister should come from a Swiss based church that is part of the Swiss Council of Churches (as we are). The usual procedure is that the couple book the church, and ask permission to have a visiting minister. The church then sends a form (in French or German as the case may be) to the couple, or sometimes to the chosen minister, which has to be filled out and returned to the church concerned.

The Civil Ceremony must be booked with the local register office. A directory of Zivilstandsaemter in Canton Bern can be found at: http://www.pom.be.ch/site/index/pom_mip_index/pom_mip_zbd/pom_mip_zbd-zivilstandsaemter.htm

Couples must ascertain what the Cantonal residence requirements are, and comply with them. Unless both have good German (French in the Romandie) the services of a registered interpreter would be needed for the civil ceremony. (Some register offices will accept someone with good translation ability who is not registered; and occasionally registrars who pride themselves on their ability to speak English may translate for themselves.)

The chosen Church must be booked locally (St Ursula's www.stursula.ch; email: bern@anglican.ch). There are English Churches at Wengen and Zermatt that can be used for weddings (details from the Intercontinental Church Society http://www.ics-uk.org/). It may be possible for weddings at these churches to be taken by a seasonal chaplain, when there is one in residence.

The website of the Diocese in Europe www.europe.anglican.org/admin/hb4_sup7.htm gives further information about the legal aspects.