

What is Love and Cherish about?

We might prepare for our wedding day for a year or more. Church, reception, clothes, honeymoon all take time, effort and money to arrange. Preparing ourselves; knowing what we want; knowing who we want; understanding commitment; overcoming disappointment; giving and accepting love, all take many years to understand and are hardly ever finished. These are a few of the aspects of being in a permanent married relationship that we can't get "off the peg". Its not easy to do well. It's difficult to keep doing well.

Love and Cherish provides some ways of looking at Marriage and allows couples to explore, alone or with others, some techniques for communicating with their partner.



Love and Cherish is run as a charitable trust.

About Us

Love and Cherish was originally devised by Churches Together in Fareham who recognised that Christian churches should work together on all that they share in common- such as marriage.

Individual Churches continue to provide aspects of marriage preparation according to their specific requirements. **Love and Cherish** does not seek to duplicate this but provides a programme that is common to all the Christian churches.

Those who have prepared and present the weekends have many years experience in being married and in sharing a few of the techniques available to help couples say "

Booking your places

To book places on Love and Cherish please use the booking form on the website

www.loveandcherish.org.uk

Alternatively a paper booking form is available from your church.

Otherwise contact the administrator:
Email: admin@loveandcherish.org.uk

The list of dates is provided with this leaflet or on the website. Do book early for the greatest choice of dates.

June 2009 vi



A guided exploration
for engaged couples



Getting Married in Church

What is "Love and Cherish"?

Love and Cherish is for couples to explore together what Marriage means for them. It runs over just one weekend from Friday evening to Saturday lunchtime. It is not residential. Up to 6 couples with a facilitating couple discuss in the group and privately a range of topics about Marriage, including:

- Really Knowing each Other
- Tools for Communicating
- Exploring inner Hopes and Ambitions
- Resolving Conflict
- The Meaning of Commitment

Although about half the time couples participate in a group there is absolutely no need for couples to do or say anything they do not wish to:



NO Having to say what is private
Role plays
Test!

For the other half of the time couples discuss topics on their own, well away from anyone else. This is a rare opportunity for you to focus on what your marriage is all about; - you and your relationship.

Who is the weekend for?

The weekend is open for any couple who intend to get married. Couples who marry in church will be encouraged to use the weekend as part of their preparation.

Who runs the weekend ?

The weekend is presented by trainer couples who between them have many years experience in working with couples preparing for marriage.

How much does it cost ?

There is no cost to you. In most cases the weekend is arranged for engaged couples through the church in which they are to be married. The cost of the programme is then included in the fees for the wedding ceremony.

Time and place

The programme normally runs every month. However there is usually a high demand and so couples are advised to enrol 6 months to a year before their wedding day. The weekend session is held in one of the churches in central Fareham and runs from 7.30 pm to 10 pm on a Friday. Then from 9.30 am, finishing at 1 pm, on Saturday.

After your wedding

Once you are married your church would love you to keep in touch as you settle in to being a married couple. The churches are there to be a support for you in your everyday life and at special occasions such as baptisms and Christmas. They also provide a range of support for families.



Special Circumstances

If your circumstances make participating in the session difficult then it may be possible to assist; mention this to the church coordinator.

Already wise?

Couples who have been together some time also find the weekend enjoyable and valuable. The topics and private talking points provide the opportunity to review or uncover differing assumptions!

Delighted participants have included couples who have been

- ◊ together for up to 15 years,
- ◊ widowed and are remarrying,
- ◊ happily married 25 years.