



Secluded - Silent - Sacred

The Lost Village of Dode is undoubtedly one of the most exclusive and sought after wedding venues in Kent



“Dode... a jewel in our lonely Countryside”

Arthur Mee, The Kings England

About Us



Its unique marriage room, built over 900 years ago is small in scale and suitable for parties of up to a maximum of 40 guests for the ceremony, people that are truly special to you as a couple.

Ceremony prices start from:

- £1,700 – Handfasting / Renewal of Vows
- £2,400 – Elopement
- £2,950 – Wedding
- £8,495 – All day Wedding & Reception



A bit of History



If you would learn of history – of a fragment of rural history in these hidden vales of Kent – come with me to this ghost Village of Dode – so wrote Donald Maxwell – 1926.

This Little Norman building is a rare and magical place indeed, looking almost exactly as it did over 900 years ago when it was first built in the reign of William Rufus, the son of William the conqueror. As you stand beneath the massive stone arch, you stand where, over 900 years ago, a Priest told of the death of Thomas Becket. As you sit beneath the sturdy oak roof, you sit where almost exactly 650 years ago the Villagers prayed for their loved ones as the black Death swept England. You are in their space within the four walls which they knew. Dode is more than an ancient building, for it is a far older place than perhaps we can imagine, its beginnings go back into the mist of time. If you walk into the meadow surrounding the building, you will see that it is built on a substantial mound, which is man-made.

The hill which surrounds and shelters the building has been known from time immemorial as Holly Hill and it is approached by a narrow roadway which goes nowhere. Its ancient name is Wrangling Lane. Here then are the clues to a site of deep antiquity, for Holly Hill is a corruption of holy hill and the name Wrangling Lane indicates that on this very mound, there once, perhaps going back thousands of years, may well have been the site of a moot or meeting place.

Unique and Beautiful



Why Choose Dode?

- A romantic and magical 900-year-old Norman church, hidden in the heart of the Kent countryside
- Perfect for small weddings and elopements
- Complete exclusivity – just one wedding per day
Personal guidance from our experienced, dedicated wedding coordinator
- Seasonal wedding feasts crafted by our trusted in-house caterers, using the finest locally sourced ingredients
- Breathtaking photo opportunities throughout the historic grounds, wildflower meadows and a circle of ancient stones
- Free on-site parking for your guests' ease and peace of mind
- Beautiful onsite accommodation, including two charming purpose-built cottages within walking distance
- Dog friendly, meaning your special four-legged family members can join in the fun
- Transparent pricing with no hidden extras – what you see is what you get



Ceremonies

At The Lost Village of Dode we are licensed to hold civil wedding & registered partnership ceremonies for up to 40 guests.

Couples can legally wed in not just one, but two extraordinary spaces—each rich in atmosphere and soul. Exchange your vows within the weathered walls of our medieval Norman church, its flickering candlelight and ancient stone steeped in centuries of silent witness. Or choose the open embrace of the great outdoors, where the standing stones of our sacred circle rise from the earth, offering a powerful and elemental place to begin your journey together.

Both spaces are fully licensed for legal marriage and civil partnerships, allowing you to say “I do” in a way that truly reflects your spirit—traditional, spiritual, or something uniquely your own.

The church has an in-built sound system to enable us to play your chosen music for your ceremony although live music is permitted if required.

Our wedding coordinator will book your wedding ceremony on your behalf with the Kent Register Office. All you need to do is select the date and time you wish to get married.

A pack containing everything you need to know for the ceremony will be sent by the Registry Office once they have received the initial paperwork from our wedding team and after making contact with yourselves.

Please note that there will always be a charge made to you by the Register Office to perform a marriage ceremony at Dode over and above the venue hire fee.

Hand Fasting

Provide a talking point for years to come and some of the most beautiful and unusual photo opportunities with an open air “blessing” in our ancient circle of stones.

This is the ideal opportunity to round off your formal ceremony with a meaningful, spiritual blessing, which dates back to long before marriages as we understand them today were formalised.



Receptions

Receptions are held within the beautiful 900-year-old church for a maximum of 42 guests. Should you require a larger venue for your evening event, we can recommend alternative reception venues nearby for up to 100 guests.

A choice of 3 very different and delicious menus is available if you book in for one of our package options. Vegan and vegetarian options can also be catered for.

This service meal is overseen by our experienced in-house caterers, leaving you to relax and enjoy your evening.

Music can be played via our in-house sound system, or we can advise with regard to all aspects of live music.





Simply Magical

Extra little Things

You may wish to consider these extra little things to help make your wedding truly memorable...

Hand Fasting Ceremony

Provide a talking point for years to come and some of the most beautiful and unusual photo opportunities with an open air “blessing” in our circle of stones.

An Owl to deliver your Wedding Rings

It comes as a total surprise to your assembled guests as a beautiful barn owl swoops low over their heads to deliver the rings to the best man.

Live Musicians

Walk down the aisle while our in-house harpist, violin-guitar duo or singer plays your favourite song.

Vintage Games

Entertain your guests with a selection of nostalgic vintage games in our grounds which young and old alike will enjoy.

Fill Dode with bubbles

We can't have confetti in the straw (although it's ok outside) but we can fill the Church with bubbles as you both leave as a married couple.

Caricatures of your Guests

Give your guests a unique present of a caricature drawn by Richard Nairn, something to always remind them of your special day.





Catering

The sharing of food is an important part of any celebration. Here at Dode we have a superb team of in-house caterers who offer a selection of three very differing menus (plant-based options available) although specific requirements in terms of your banquet can of course be catered for.

As part of our 'Banquet' package we encourage couples to attend a free tasting day with our caterers so that their precise requirements can be met.

Given the age of the building and the setting, hog roast banquets prove a very popular choice although the choice is of course yours.

Drinks packages are available although couples are free to provide their own drinks free of corkage charge, alternatively and now proving very popular vintage drinks vans provide a talking point which can be tailored to your specific requirements.



Private Hire



Although primarily a wedding venue, Dode can also provide the ideal location for private parties and events for up to 50 people.

Dode can be hired privately either for the day, afternoon or just an evening. Its ancient building and spectacular 2 acres of grounds provide a memorable and unique venue for family get togethers, birthday parties, anniversaries etc. In fact, any occasion where an intimate gathering of those who are close to you is required.

So, if you are looking for a venue with a difference please do get in touch for a bespoke quote: enquiries@dodevillage.com





Accommodation



At Dode we are proud of our two superb award winning 'cottages' built of oak to the highest specification to celebrate the turn of the 21st century but in a style that complements both the setting and their ancient neighbour.

Beautifully crafted in English oak and with traditional materials and ironwork the retreats were specifically designed to offer unparalleled views and complete serenity in this most remote of Kentish locations.

Each cottage is fully equipped with the 'Wedding Cottage' having its own inside hot tub, a 'must' for a fun get together on the eve of the wedding.

Both cottages are available for hire at a special price for our wedding couples, with a minimum two nights stay. For an even longer stay, please ask for our mini moon offer.



Testimonials

“ We would just like to say a big thank you for everything. Yesterday was a fantastic day and we couldn't have asked for a better time!

Matti & Patti Pope ”

“ A place that words cannot do justice. Tranquil Atmospheric Beautiful. A place that will live in our memories for as long as we live. Staying over the night before our wedding on my own was so peaceful and relaxing and staying the night of our wedding was a dream. We returned a year and a day later to renew our vows and experience this wonderful place yet again.

Mr & Mrs Horsfall ”

“ We had an amazing day! Our ceremony was perfect, in a beautiful setting and our guests were enchanted by the church. Mary, Doug and the other staff were helpful from beginning to end. They accommodate requests and made everyone feel very relaxed! If we could do it all over again tomorrow we would! Thank you For making our day so special.

Terry & Steph Ponter ”

“ From the moment we stepped into the church at the Lost village of Dode we knew this was the place for us. All of our guests at our wedding commented on how unique and perfect the venue is - not many people can say they got married in a 1000 year old church with straw on the floor. You can tell Dode has been so lovingly restored by its owners - all the details in the church are absolutely stunning. Doug and Mary made everything so easy and they were very flexible with what we wanted, they were always available to answer any questions we had. If you are looking for a unique and beautiful venue in an intimate setting then Dode will be absolutely perfect!

Kate & Toby Lockyer ”

“ What can I say about this place? It is truly magical, we had our wedding here on December 1Gth and it is a day I will never forget, a beautiful building with a kissing bough, and lit torches on the wall, amazing atmosphere and true authenticity. We followed the ceremony with a hand fasting and again a wonderful experience despite the rain. As my friend said to his son, “you will go to many weddings in your life but never will there be another like this.

Karen & Jim ”

A close-up photograph of a person's arm with a detailed tattoo of a crown or crest. The arm is holding another person's hand. The background is a rough, textured stone wall with some green moss or ivy growing on it.

How to find Dode

Turn off the A228 at Cuxton and proceed along Bush Road. At the junction take the left fork, signposted Luddesdown. follow this lane and watch out for the signpost indicating great Buckland.

Before reaching Great Buckland there is a 'no through road' sign to the left signposted 'The Village of Dode'. This is the lane leading to Dode, which is on the right after half a mile or so.

The Lost Village of Dode

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