



# Elopements at Dode

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



A photograph of a wedding ceremony taking place in a rustic, stone-walled church. The bride, wearing a white lace dress and holding a bouquet, is walking down the aisle towards the camera. She is accompanied by an older man in a dark suit and sunglasses. In the background, the wooden altar is decorated with a red cloth and a framed picture of a rooster. A large, modern, circular pendant light hangs from the ceiling. The walls are made of rough stone, and there are arched windows. The overall atmosphere is warm and intimate.

“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.

Elopements are held on Mondays to Thursdays, from late March through to mid December, offering a peaceful, unhurried alternative to the traditional weekend wedding. This midweek availability allows you to experience the magic of Dode in its most serene and undisturbed state—whether you're marrying beneath spring blossoms, in the golden glow of summer, the rich colours of autumn, or with a hint of festive sparkle in December.

***Elopement pricing start from £2,100***



# 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 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, It's 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 totally 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 here on this mound may well be the site of a moot or meeting place perhaps going back thousands of years.



# Unique and Beautiful





# Why Choose Dode?



- A romantic and magical 900-year-old Norman church, hidden in the heart of the Kent countryside
- Complete exclusivity – just one wedding per day
- Personal guidance from our experienced, dedicated wedding co-ordinator
- 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 ancient stone circle
- Free on-site parking for your guests' ease and peace of mind
- Beautiful nearby accommodation, including two charming purpose-built cottages within walking distance
- Doggy friendly meaning your special family members can join in the fun
- Transparent pricing with no hidden extras – what you see is what you get





# Ceremonies

For couples seeking stillness, beauty, and a love story told quietly.

Far from the expectations of tradition and the demands of a large guest list, elopement weddings at The Lost Village of Dode are designed for couples who want something more personal, more sacred—and entirely their own.

Hidden deep in the Kent countryside, Dode is a place where time stands still. Here, you'll find a peaceful, historic setting where nature, ancient stones, and candlelight surround you in gentle silence. Whether it's just the two of you, or you're joined by a handful of loved ones, your wedding will be entirely private, uniquely meaningful, and utterly unforgettable.

If you dream of a ceremony that feels intentional, spiritual, and truly heartfelt, eloping at Dode may be exactly what you've been searching for.

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 within the outside space of our sacred stone circle.

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.

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

## 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 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.

*An additional charge applies.*







Simply Magical



# Feasting for Two (or a few)



Elopements at Dode are not rushed affairs or fleeting moments — they are steeped in meaning, unrushed, and quietly magnificent. And just as the ceremony is crafted with care, so too is the meal that follows.

Whether you choose to share your vows alone or with a small circle of cherished guests, we believe your wedding day deserves a celebration — however intimate — that lingers on the tongue and in the memory.

Our in-house catering team specialises in beautifully prepared, seasonal fare, created with love. From romantic picnic hampers to enjoy on the lawn, to an elegant candlelit supper within the ancient flint walls of the Norman church, every dish is tailored to suit your style and pace of day.

We can provide:

- Handcrafted sharing platters with rustic breads, Kentish cheeses and garden produce
- Delicate canapés and sparkling toasts to mark the moment
- Three-course feasts for smaller gatherings, served within our onsite cottage
- Afternoon tea with vintage flair – perfect for post-ceremony serenity
- Seasonal picnic boxes to take with you as newlyweds, for a private hilltop feast

Whatever you choose, your wedding meal will feel deeply personal, thoughtfully made, and just right for the two of you.





# Extra little Things

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

## **Have a Celebration 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 circle of stones.

## **Have an owl 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.

## **Have Caricatures made 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.

## **Send Dode Christmas Cards**

to your guests & friends – a perfect reminder of a perfect day.

## **Fill Dode with bubbles**

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

## **Vintage Games**

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





# 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 together's, 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](mailto:enquiries@dodevillage.com)







# Accommodation

*At Dode we are proud of our two superb award winning 'cottages' built of oak to the highest specification in order 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.

Both cottages are available for hire (at additional charge) if required, with a minimum two nights stay.

Each is fully equipped with such things as an Nespresso coffee machine and new Bose surround system, with the 'Wedding cottage' even having its own internal Hot Tub, a 'must' for a fun get together on eve of the wedding.





# 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 16th 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 ”



# 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. Postcode: Da13 0xf

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## The Lost Village of Dode

Great Buckland  
Luddesdown  
Kent DA13 0XF

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