

Contrast Video - Guide for Wedding Videographers

Establishing shots

You need establishing shots of the church – long shots and some slow zooms and pans. Establish the church in its context. Get some detail of the church too – gargoyles etc. Flowers in situ and some detail on the flowers. As you get more confident try using the manual focus on your camera to do close work, focus on front flower then behind and so on – watch gardening programmes for ideas. Flowers also give the viewer an idea of the season – so daffodils for spring, tulips for summer etc. A bee on a flower also says summer but don't worry too much chasing bees and missing the bride arriving!

Groom and best man / ushers

Generally the photographer (who you will have introduced yourself to) will be taking some 'comedy' shots of the groom, best man and ushers. An overused, but none the less very effective shot, is the 'reservoir dogs' shot of them all walking up to the church together. If you don't have this in the bag ask them to do it for you – walking up to the church side by side, groom in middle. Run this twice – once for long shots then once again for close ups of one and two people. In the edit you will slow mo, maybe black and white, with "Little Green Bag" playing underneath (check PRS – see later section).

It's a good idea to get all of the shots that the photographer does – they are 'in the bag' then and you can make money from print outs of these – they also tie the sequence together in the edit. Don't be lazy though and only shoot the photographs. They have paid the photographer for those and the 'story' is in how they were organised to get the shots, interaction between them, other guests arriving and watching the action and so on. Get lots of close ups, smiling, laughing and so on. Introduce some camera movement if the scene is quite static it will add to the drama – watch 'bargain hunt' type edits to see how this is done.



The kind of shots expected for groom / ushers – remember to shoot the surrounding action too, otherwise you just have the same shots as the photographer...