

Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

The **wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle** was held on 19 May 2018 in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle in the United Kingdom. The groom, Prince Harry, is a member of the British royal family; the bride, Meghan Markle, is an American former actress.^[note 1] On the morning of the wedding, Prince Harry's grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, conferred upon him the titles of Duke of Sussex, Earl of Dumbarton and Baron Kilkeel. On her marriage, Markle became known as Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Sussex.^[2] The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, officiated at the wedding using the standard Anglican church service for Holy Matrimony published in *Common Worship*, the liturgical text of the Church of England.^{[3][4]}

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Date	19 May 2018
Venue	St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle <div>Frogmore House (evening reception)^[1]</div>
Location	Windsor, Berkshire, United Kingdom
Participants	Prince Harry <div>Meghan Markle</div>

Contents

Announcement of engagement

Wedding

- Planning
- Venue
- Cost
- Wedding attire
- Wedding party
- Wedding service
- Family celebrations
- Music
- Guests
- Charitable donations

Coverage

Titles

See also

Footnotes

References

Externals links

Announcement of engagement

Prince Harry is the second son of Charles, Prince of Wales, and Diana, Princess of Wales. He and Meghan Markle, an American actress best known for her role in the Canadian-American legal-drama television series *Suits*, have been in a relationship since June 2016. The relationship was first acknowledged on 8 November 2016, when an official statement was released from the royal family's communications secretary addressing the "wave of abuse and harassment" directed toward Markle.^[5]

On 27 November 2017, Clarence House announced that Prince Harry would marry Markle in the spring of 2018.^[6] They were engaged earlier the same month in London, with the Prince giving Markle a bespoke engagement ring made by Cleave and Company, the court jewellers and medalists to the Queen, consisting of a large central diamond from Botswana, with two smaller diamonds from his mother's jewellery collection.^[7] At the same time, it was announced that they would live at Nottingham Cottage in the



Harry and Meghan attending church on Christmas Day 2017

grounds of Kensington Palace following their marriage.^[8]

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh expressed their delight at the news, while congratulations came in from various political leaders, including the British Prime Minister, Theresa May, and the Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn. After the announcement, the couple gave an exclusive interview to Mishal Husain of BBC News.^[8]

Markle is the second American^[note 2] and the first person of mixed race heritage to marry into the British royal family.^[9] The engagement announcement prompted much comment about the possible social significance of Markle becoming a proudly mixed-race royal.^{[10][11][12][13][14]}

The Queen consented to the marriage under the Succession to the Crown Act 2013, which allows the monarch to approve or disapprove marriages of the first six persons in the line of succession. Harry was fifth in line at the time of his

engagement.^[15] The Queen's consent was declared to the Privy Council of the United Kingdom on 14 March 2018.^[16]

Although Markle attended a private Catholic school in her early years, she did not identify as Roman Catholic.^[17] On 6 March 2018, she was baptised and confirmed into the Church of England by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby at St. James's Palace.^[18] The Church no longer denies marriage to divorced persons with a living spouse.^{[19][20]} After the engagement, Markle began the years-long process of becoming a British citizen.^[21] She will retain her U.S. citizenship during the process,^[22] but Kensington Palace have indicated that the decision on whether she will retain dual nationality has not yet been made.^[21] Retaining U.S. citizenship is expected to create tax complications^{[23][24]} and even expose royal finances to IRS scrutiny.^{[25][26][27]} The couple was invited to celebrate Christmas 2017 with the royal family at the Queen's Sandringham estate.^[28] The official engagement photographs were taken by Alexi Lubomirski, a former assistant to Mario Testino, at Frogmore House, and were issued by Kensington Palace on 21 December 2017.^[29]

To mark the wedding of Harry and Meghan, the Royal Mint produced an official UK £5 coin, showing the couple in profile.^[30] In May, a set of commemorative postage stamps, featuring the couple's official engagement photographs, was issued by Royal Mail.^[31]

Wedding

Planning

Unlike for the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton, the British government did not declare the wedding day of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle as a bank holiday.^[32] The wedding was on the same date as the FA Cup Final, which Prince Harry's brother William normally attends in his role as President of the Football Association.^[33] Holding the royal wedding on a weekend is a break with the royal tradition of having weddings on a weekday.^[34] On 12 February 2018, Kensington Palace announced that the ceremony would commence at 12:00 Middy BST.

Venue

The wedding took place on Saturday, 19 May 2018, at St George's Chapel, Windsor.^[35] The chapel was previously the venue for the weddings of Prince Harry's uncle, the Earl of Wessex, and his cousin, Peter Phillips, as well as the blessing for the marriage of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, Harry's stepmother.^[36]

Cost

The royal family have announced that they will pay for the wedding.^[37] The costs for the cake, the florist, and the catering have been estimated to be £50,000, £110,000, and £286,000 respectively,^[38] and the overall cost is expected to be around £32 million.^[39] The security costs are expected to be lower than those of the 2011 wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.^[40] The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has reportedly spent £2.6 million on cleaning the town and roads.^[40] It has been predicted that the wedding will trigger a tourism boom and boost the economy by up to £500 million.^[41]



St George's Chapel, Windsor

Wedding attire

The wedding dress was designed by British designer Clare Waight Keller at Givenchy.^[42] It was made of "double-bonded silk cady cushioned by an underskirt in triple silk organza" and had a boat neckline, long sleeves and sweeping train.^{[43][44]} The silk veil was 16 feet (4.9 m) long and was embroidered with 53 flowers, representing the countries of the Commonwealth.^{[43][45]} It was secured by a diamond bandeau tiara, made in 1932 for Queen Mary and lent to Meghan by the Queen.^{[43][46]} The centre brooch was a wedding gift from the County of Lincoln in 1893, until its alteration by Queen Mary. It is a platinum band, made up of eleven sections, a detachable centre brooch with interlaced opals and diamonds.^[47] The shoes were also from Givenchy, and had a pointed couture design.^[43] Other ensembles worn by the bride included white gold and diamond earrings and bracelet made by Cartier.^{[43][46][48]} Markle's hair was rolled up with "face-framing fringe tucked behind her ears,"^[49] and was done by Serge Normant.^[50] Make-up artist Daniel Martin did Markle's makeup for the occasion.^{[49][51]} The look was described as "a soft brown eyeshadow" with minimal makeup on the face.^[49] Her nails were painted in a "neutral pink-y beige" for the ceremony.^[52] The bride's bouquet, designed by Philippa Craddock, contained "forget-me-nots, scented sweet peas, lily of the valley, astilbe, jasmine and astrantia, and sprigs of myrtle."^[43] The flowers were chosen by the groom who handpicked forget-me-nots in honour of his late mother Diana, Princess of Wales.^{[43][53]}

Both Prince Harry and the Duke of Cambridge wore full dress uniform (including frock coat) of the Blues and Royals.^[54] The groom asked for the Queen's permission to keep his beard, as beards are only permitted under exceptional circumstances in the British Army.^[54] Prince Harry wore the star of the Royal Victorian Order, of which he is a Knight Commander, along with the ribbons of the Royal Victorian Order, Operational Service Medal for Afghanistan, Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and Army Air Corps wings.^[55] Prince William had gold aiguillettes, and wore the star of the Order of the Garter, the ribbons of the two jubilee medals, and his RAF wings.^[56]

The young bridesmaids also wore high-waisted silk dresses designed by Clare Waight Keller which had puff sleeves, while the pageboys wore uniforms that resembled the uniform of the Blues and Royals.^[57]

Men attending the wedding were required to wear dounge suit, while the attire for women included dresses and hats.^{[58][59]}

Wedding party

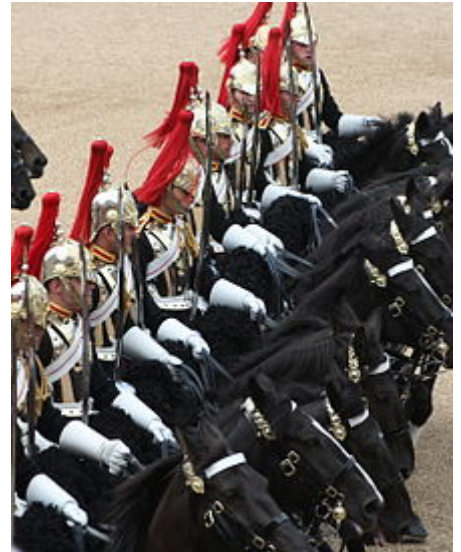
On 26 April 2018, Kensington Palace announced that Prince Harry had selected his older brother, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, as best man.^{[60][61]} There was initially no confirmation as to whether Prince William would miss the FA Cup Final, which he would normally attend in his role as President of The Football Association, or if he would be able to attend both the wedding and the football. A statement from Kensington Palace that the timing of the wedding would not clash with the match was released in December 2017.^[62] However, it was confirmed in March that the Duke would not be attending the final that day.^[63]

There were suggestions that the bride's friend Jessica Mulroney would be her maid of honour.^{[64][65]} In early May 2018, there was confirmation that there would be no maid of honour, and that the bridesmaids and page boys would all be children.^[66] A total of ten bridesmaids and page boys were chosen, with the bride and groom each selecting five: two of Markle's godchildren, seven-year old Rylan Ritt and her six-year-old sister Remi, as well as Brian, John and Ivy Mulroney, the three children of her friend Jessica Mulroney, were chosen by the bride, while Prince Harry's niece and nephew, Princess Charlotte of Cambridge and Prince George of Cambridge, as well as his godchildren Florence van Cutsem, Zalie Wren and Jasper Dyer, were selected by the groom.^{[67][68]}

On 18 May 2018, Kensington Palace announced Prince Charles would accompany Markle down the aisle, after she confirmed her father, Thomas Markle Sr., would not be attending the wedding due to heart surgery.^{[69][70]} The bride spent the night before the wedding at Cliveden House along with her mother, while the groom stayed at Coworth Park Hotel with his brother.^{[71][72]} Markle made her way to the church accompanied by her mother^[73]

Approximately 250 members of the British Armed Forces were involved in the wedding, the majority coming from units that have a connection with Prince Harry.^[74]

- Members of the Household Cavalry formed a staircase party at the chapel, and also rode as escort!^[note 3]
- Street liners came from:
 - 1st Battalion, Irish Guards
 - 1st Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles^[note 4]
 - 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps^[note 4]
 - Royal Navy^[note 5]
 - Royal Marines^[note 6]
 - Royal Air Force^[note 7]



Mounted soldiers of the Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons); the Blues and Royals, Prince Harry's old regiment, and part of the Household Cavalry, rode as an escort in the procession.

Wedding service

The wedding service was conducted according to the Christian liturgy for Holy Matrimony described in Common Worship of the Church of England, mother Church of the Anglican Communion^[4]

From 8.00 am, the public started to arrive at the grounds of Windsor Castle. The main congregation and the guests all started to arrive at the chapel at 9.30 am, followed by members of the Royal Family. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were the last members of the Royal Family to depart for the ceremony, as is tradition, arriving at the chapel at 11.52 am.^[75] Shortly after, Markle arrived with the party of junior attendants. She proceeded down the aisle followed by the attendants, where the Prince of Wales met her to escort her through the quire of the chapel. He accompanied her to the altar where Prince Harry was standing.^{[76][77]}

Prince Harry's maternal aunt, Baroness Fellowes, read a scripture lesson from The Song of Solomon in the Christian Bible. The Dean of Windsor, David Conner, conducted the service with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, performing the marriage ceremony. The sermon was delivered by The Most Reverend Michael Curry, presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church (the American member church of the Anglican Communion).^{[78][79]} Curry's 14-minute address, which quoted Martin Luther King Jr., emphasised the redemptive property of love.^[80] The Queen's chaplain, The Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, and the Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London, Anba Angaelos, offered the prayers.^[81]

In the marriage vows, the couple promised to "to love and to cherish" each other.^[82] This was sealed by the exchange of rings.^[82] The wedding rings were created by Cleave and Company, with Markle's ring being fashioned out of Welsh Gold and the Prince's ring made of platinum.^[83] After the signing of the registers, Harry and Markle together with the guests sang the national anthem. The couple paused briefly to bow and curtsy to the Queen before walking down the aisle.^[84] They were followed in procession by other members of the bridal party and their families.^[82] The couple shared a kiss on the steps outside the chapel.^[85]

Family celebrations

Following the ceremony, there was a carriage procession through Windsor. Two receptions were held; the first, for those attending the ceremony, was hosted by the Queen and took place in St George's Hall after the carriage procession. Singer Elton John performed for the guests and the groom and the Prince of Wales each gave a speech.^[54] A second reception at Frogmore House, for family and close friends and hosted by the Prince of Wales, occurred later in the day.^[78] Harry drove his new wife to the reception at Frogmore

in a silver blue Jaguar E-Type Concept Zero, with left-hand drive. For the evening reception, the Duchess of Sussex wore a halter-neck, open back dress by Stella McCartney and an emerald cut Aquamarine ring formerly belonging to Diana, Princess of Wales.^{[86][87]} George Northwood was her hairstylist for the private party.^[87] In a break with tradition, the bride reportedly made a speech at the event.^[54]

The wedding cake was a layered lemon and elderflower cake and decorated with peonies in shades of white and cream.^[88] The cake designer Claire Ptak, based in London, was chosen in March 2018.^[89]

Music

Two choirs, an orchestra and fanfare trumpeters provided music for the service. The orchestra was made up of musicians from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the English Chamber Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra. In addition to the Choir of St George's Chapel, the Kingdom Choir, a gospel group led by Karen Gibson, sang "Stand By Me" in what was described as "an incredible and powerful moment."^[90] The State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry, who played a fanfare, included Kate Sandford, the first female state trumpeter at a British royal wedding.^[91] The music was under the overall direction of James Vivian, the chapel's Organist and Director of Music; and the orchestra was conducted by Christopher Warren-Green.^{[92][93]}

The bride walked down the aisle to "Eternal source of light divine" (from the *Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne*) by Handel, sung by soprano Elin Manahan Thomas, with trumpet by David Blackader.^[94] Other music during the service included the motet "If ye love me" by Thomas Tallis; the song "Stand by Me" by Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller and Ben E. King, arranged for choir by Mark Delisser; and "The Lord bless you and keep you" by John Rutter. During the signing of the register, 19-year-old cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and the orchestra played *Sicilienne* by Maria Theresia von Paradis, Fauré's *Après un rêve*, and an arrangement for violoncello and orchestra of Schubert's *Ave Maria*. For the procession, the musicians performed the Allegro from the Symphony No. 1 in B-flat major by William Boyce and "This Little Light of Mine" by Etta James, Jester Hairston and Harry Dixon Loes.^[95]

Guests

In April 2018, it was announced that an "official list" of domestic and international political leaders was not required for the wedding and that Prime Minister Theresa May, Leader of the Opposition Jeremy Corbyn, and other leaders would not attend the ceremony. President of the United States Donald Trump and former President Barack Obama were also not invited.^[96] This is in contrast to the wedding of Prince Harry's elder brother, which had a large number of such guests due to his position as a future monarch.^[97] The decision not to invite political leaders to the wedding was taken in part because of the limitations of the venue, and also took into account Prince Harry's position as sixth in line to the throne.^[97] The only politician invited was the former Prime Minister John Major as he previously was "a special guardian on legal matters to Princes William and Harry after the death of their mother"^[54]

With a smaller ceremony and reception at St George's Hall, the guest list included approximately 600 people, most of whom have a "direct relationship" with the couple.^[98] Also, 200 close friends of the couple were invited to attend the evening reception at Frogmore House.^[1] Approximately 1,200 members of the public were invited to greet the couple outside the chapel in the grounds of Windsor Castle.^[98] The invitees outside the chapel were "people from charities, Windsor Castle community members, people from the royal households and the Crown Estate, and local school children."^[99]

Sarah, Duchess of York, the former wife of Prince Andrew, was invited to the wedding even though she had not been invited to the weddings of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011, Peter Phillips and Autumn Kelly in 2008, or Zara Phillips and Mike Tindall in 2011. However, she was not invited to the evening reception at Frogmore House hosted by Prince Charles and was reportedly "deeply upset" by her omission.^[100]

Amongst the non-royal guests were Markle's *Suits* co-stars Patrick J. Adams (with wife Troian Bellisario), Gabriel Macht (with wife Jacinda Barrett), Sarah Rafferty, Rick Hoffman, Gina Torres and Abigail Spencer; actors George Clooney (with wife Amal Clooney) and Idris Elba, actresses Oprah Winfrey, Priyanka Chopra and Carey Mulligan (with husband Marcus Mumford), television host

James Corden, tennis player Serena Williams (with husband Alexis Ohanian), David and Victoria Beckham, musicians Elton John (with husband David Furnish), James Blunt, Joss Stone, and rugby players Jonny Wilkinson and James Haskell. Harry's ex-girlfriends Cressida Bonas and Chelsy Davy were in attendance as well!^{[101][102][103][104]}

The only foreign royal guests at the wedding were Prince Harry's friend, Prince Seeiso of Lesotho, and his wife, Princess Mabereng^[105]

Charitable donations

In April 2018, the couple requested that, rather than sending wedding gifts, people should make a donation to one of seven charitable organisations, none of which they had a formal association with!^{[106][107]}

- CHIVA (Children's HIV Association) The small charity supports more than 1,000 young people living with HIV in the UK and Ireland.
- Crisis: The national homeless body works with thousands of people a year to help rebuild their lives.
- The Myna Mahila Foundation The organisation, based in Mumbai, helps empower women through offering stable employment and breaking cultural taboos around menstrual hygiene. Myna Mahila also teaches women life skills such as maths, English and self-defence.
- Scotty's Little Soldiers The charity supports children who have lost a parent while serving in the British Armed Forces.
- StreetGames The organisation uses sport to help young people and communities become healthier and safer.
- Surfers Against Sewage The national marine conservation body works to protect oceans, beaches, waves and wildlife.
- The Wilderness Foundation UK Vulnerable teenagers from urban communities are taught about the great outdoors and rural employment opportunities.

Coverage

Coverage of the royal wedding was shown on BBC One, ITV, Sky News, CNN (International) and E! (Europe) in the UK.^[108] In the United States coverage aired on CBS, NBC, ABC, E!, PBS, BBC America, TLC, FOX, and HBO.^[109] CBS will broadcast the programme in Canada, while TVNZ screened it in New Zealand along with SBS and Nine in Australia.^{[108][110]} The wedding was also streamed live online on YouTube via the British Monarchy's official The Royal Channel!^[111]

Huw Edwards hosted coverage for BBC TV with Desert Island Discs host Kirsty Young and BBC Radio 2 DJ Dermot O'Leary. The BBC Radio coverage was co-hosted by Chris Evans and Scarlett Moffatt.^[112] Phillip Schofield and Julie Etchingham hosted coverage for ITV.^[113] Kay Burley, Anna Botting and Alastair Bruce, among others, hosted coverage for Sky.^[114] CBS's coverage began at 4 a.m. EDT with CBS Presents "The Royal Wedding".^[115] Gayle King provided commentary during the broadcast. ABC began its coverage at 5 a.m. EDT with a special edition of Good Morning America.^[116] NBC aired the ceremony at 4:30 a.m. EDT with a special edition of The Today Show.^[117] The pay subscription network HBO hosted a live broadcast titled "The Royal Wedding Live with Cord and Tish!" starting at 7:30 a.m. EDT.^[118] The parody hosts were Cord Hosenbeck and Tish Cattigan, the alter egos of actors Will Ferrell and Molly Shannon. BBC America provided a live and simulcast of BBC ONE's coverage, albeit with limited commercial breaks.^[119]

It also aired on the Republic of Ireland's national broadcaster RTE.^[120] Sinn Féin TD John Brady said "As an Irish Republican living in a so-called 'Republic' I totally oppose RTE using my TV license money to broadcast the wedding of a privileged English monarch [sic]."^[121] Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile also spoke against the broadcast. A group called "Anti Imperialist Action Ireland" also opposed the broadcast.^[122] RTE defended its decision, citing "huge public interest" and that the coverage was being provided for free.^[123] The ceremony was also carried live by RTE's commercial rival TV3, which simulcast the coverage of ITV.^[124]

18 million people were reported to have watched in the UK, making it the most watched event of 2018 for the UK.^[125]

Titles

Traditionally, royal princes have been awarded peerages prior to their marriages; this occurred with both of Prince Harry's uncles, the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex, as well as his elder brother, the Duke of Cambridge.^[126] Hours before the wedding, Prince Harry was granted the titles Duke of Sussex, Earl of Dumbarton, and Baron Kilkeel, and Markle assumed the style "Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Sussex" upon marriage.^[2]

See also

- List of royal weddings

Footnotes

1. Prince Harry's full name and title appeared as *His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales* on official statements and wedding invitations. Markle's name appeared as *Ms. Meghan Markle* on official statements and wedding invitations.
2. American Wallis Simpson married Edward, Duke of Windsor in 1937, after his abdication, becoming the Duchess of Windsor, but without the style 'Royal Highness'.
3. Prince Harry served as an officer in the Blues and Royals
4. Prince Harry served with these units in Afghanistan
5. Prince Harry holds the appointment of Commodore-in-Chief Small Ships and Diving.
6. Prince Harry holds the appointment of Captain General Royal Marines
7. Prince Harry holds the appointment of Honorary Air Commandant RAF Honington

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Externals links

- [Official Website of the Royal Wedding 2018](#) on the [Official Website of the British Royal Family](#)
 - [BBC Coverage](#)
 - [Royal Wedding – Order of Service in the Church of England](#)
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