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PHOTOGRAPHY



Wedding Photography Price Guide 2017 & 2018

And photography faq

Rev 2016 10b

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About GWS Photography

Grahame Smith, photographer for GWS Photography has been around weddings since the late 1980's.

But choosing a photographer is more than just choosing the guy with the camera. On your wedding day, most vendors turn up, do their job over an hour or so and leave you to get on with your day.

A good professional photographer could be with you from early in the morning until possibly late at night.

Being there for you, helping to make every section of the day run as smoothly as possible, just as you'd imagined it would.

Grahame has build a solid reputation on being a friend on the day, as much as being a great photographer.

The duties performed by GWS over the years at weddings go way beyond what is in the remit of the average photographer...

...GWS Photography aren't your average Wedding Photographers.

*On the official side of life, Grahame is qualified as member of the **Master Photographers Association**, as well as also having gained similar qualifications with The Royal Photographic Society and The Society of Wedding & Portrait Photographers.*

The packages

We create wedding photography packages to suit every couple's special day.

The following pages show some example packages, most include some style of printed album as we believe after paying lots of money for your wedding day, it's good to have a physical reminder, not just a DVD or USB stick.

But please get in touch if you would like us to build a package unique to your wedding day, even if it is digital only.

We do short digital packages from £690, but these are sometimes only available out of summer month weekends.

I am more than a Photographer... I am a Master Photographer

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The Special

The Special - £950

Every season we plan to bring something special to our packages, maybe a crazy offer or a new product. This time it's a fantastic album package at an excellent price.

Pre-wedding shoot
Coverage from prep to bride & groom pics before meal
Gorgeous 10x10" acrylic photo cover album
(10 spreads / 20 pages to hold around 50 photos)
Full copy of photos & HD slideshow
(Photos social media sized and sent digitally)
Online web gallery for 30 days

*You can add a 35 print (3.5x2.5") Mini Print Box
with USB Set and hi-res files for only £130

Package come with a voucher worth £30 off any wall mounted product mentioned on our "After The Wedding" page excluding standard canvases.

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Essentials

Essential £790

Pre-wedding shoot

Coverage from prep to bride & groom pics before meal

FREE A4 book with the highlights of the day

Full copy of photos & slideshow

(Photos social media sized and sent digitally)

Online web gallery for 30 days

**Option to upgrade to a 12x12" 30 page acrylic photo cover album
for only £260—saving £100*

Essential book set £960

Pre-wedding shoot

Coverage from prep to bride & groom pics before meal

Deluxe boxed book & USB set

(Book has 20 spreads / 40 pages and holds around 45 photos)

Full copy of photos & slideshow

Online web gallery for 30 days

Both Essential packages come with a voucher worth £30 off any wall mounted product mentioned on our
“After The Wedding” page excluding standard canvases.



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Complete

Our most popular package

£1200

Pre-wedding shoot

Coverage from prep to 5pm (on average)

12x12" Photo acrylic cover album

30 page album (15 leaves) holds around 50-70 photos

Online web gallery for 30 days

Full copy of photos & slideshow
on luxury USB stick in presentation box

This package come with a voucher worth £50 off any wall mounted product mentioned on our
"After The Wedding" page excluding standard canvases.

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Premium

£1400

Pre-wedding shoot

Coverage from prep to 5pm (on average)

12x12" Photo acrylic cover album
40 pages (20 leaves) holds around 70-80 photos

Two Memento 6x6" parents books

Five mini soft books

Online web gallery for 30 days

Full copy of photos & slideshow on luxury USB stick in
presentation box

This package come with a voucher worth £60 off any wall mounted product mentioned on our
"After The Wedding" page excluding standard canvases.

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Up to 1st Dance ?

Around 75% of the weddings we shoot are only up to around 5pm. We can cover up to the 1st dances—and beyond if that's what you really want. We like to discuss this in person. But 95% of all the photos that are chosen by our couples to go in their album are from the coverage up to 5pm. All the emotional, loving and beautiful parts of the day are all covered before the wedding breakfast.

Sometimes we are asked to stay for the first dances and couples pay good money for the added extra, but then no-one is actually dancing. We'll do whatever our couples ask, but as I've said, we prefer to discuss this in person as we feel we can give you the amazing wedding coverage you want without having to pay a photographer up to 9pm ish.

Every photo in this brochure is taken from sections of the day that can be covered before 5pm.

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Lots of samples in our shop on Dunbar High Street

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After the Wedding... Adorn your own wall !

We have more than just albums available, and we couldn't list them all here, so we have included a few of our favourite and most popular add-on products. We have most of these to see & touch in our shop so you can see the quality of all these lovely items.

Foam Board Prints: A great way to have a huge print of your favourite wedding photo. Available in various matt or gloss finishes. 30"x30" is only £160. We have samples in our shop for you to see.

Gallery Print: Similar to the foam board prints. But made specifically to be hung up and shown off forever. Very tough, and easy to hang up. We have one to show off in our shop. The 20x16" size is £120, 36x24" is £250

Box Frame:

An amazing alternative to traditional framing or canvases. A beautiful gloss photo, mounted inside a deep wooden frame. Prices from £160 (20x16"). On show in our shop too.

Alumini Print: A gorgeous wall hanging metallic photo. We have one to show off in our shop and they are gorgeous. Your favourite wedding photo printed on aluminium and glossed over to give it a Wow! Sheen. Size is 20x16" is only £140.

Standard canvases: Available from 16" right the way up to 36", we have quite a few in our shop to view. Nice and simple and prices from £59

Acrylic Gallery: Sheen, gloss & style. An amazing product. Prices are reasonable too for such a high end piece. The 20x16" size is only £160

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Explanations and further possibilities...

• *Pre-wedding shoot*

A catch up & chat, nice and informal. Lasts about an hour and we'll talk about the wedding photography, while we take some easy photos. You get to see how I work, I get to see how you look and act in front of the camera. These sessions really do help make the wedding day a lot easier. Perfect for those that "hate getting their photo taken" ... right guys ? :)

• *Proof Books*

Why not have every single photo from your day printed and put together in a proof book ? We can do 2 versions, both excellent value at £90. Good for parents too.



• *Post Wedding Shoot*

Lets get dressed up again, and do a brided & groom photo session, away from the time restraints & stress of the wedding day. We can go to the beach, up a mountain... wherever you want some dramatic extra wedding photos. We always try to offer this service as a free extra to all packages that come with 1st dance options.

• *Bespoke Packages*

We want to give you the package that suits you. You might want coverage from prep to 1st dances but no album—no problem, we can do that (£1100 by the way), or maybe you are going for the mid-week short-shoot but still want the luxury Book/USB set—no problem. Whatever you have in mind, let us know and we can design a service with the right products to suit. All the packages listed here are just examples—but they are the most popular ones we do.

• *The Process, what happens next ?*

Once you know you want to book us, and of course you do, you're far too sensible to go to anyone else :), it's very easy to get the whole thing wrapped up.

We have two choices of payment & deposit process...

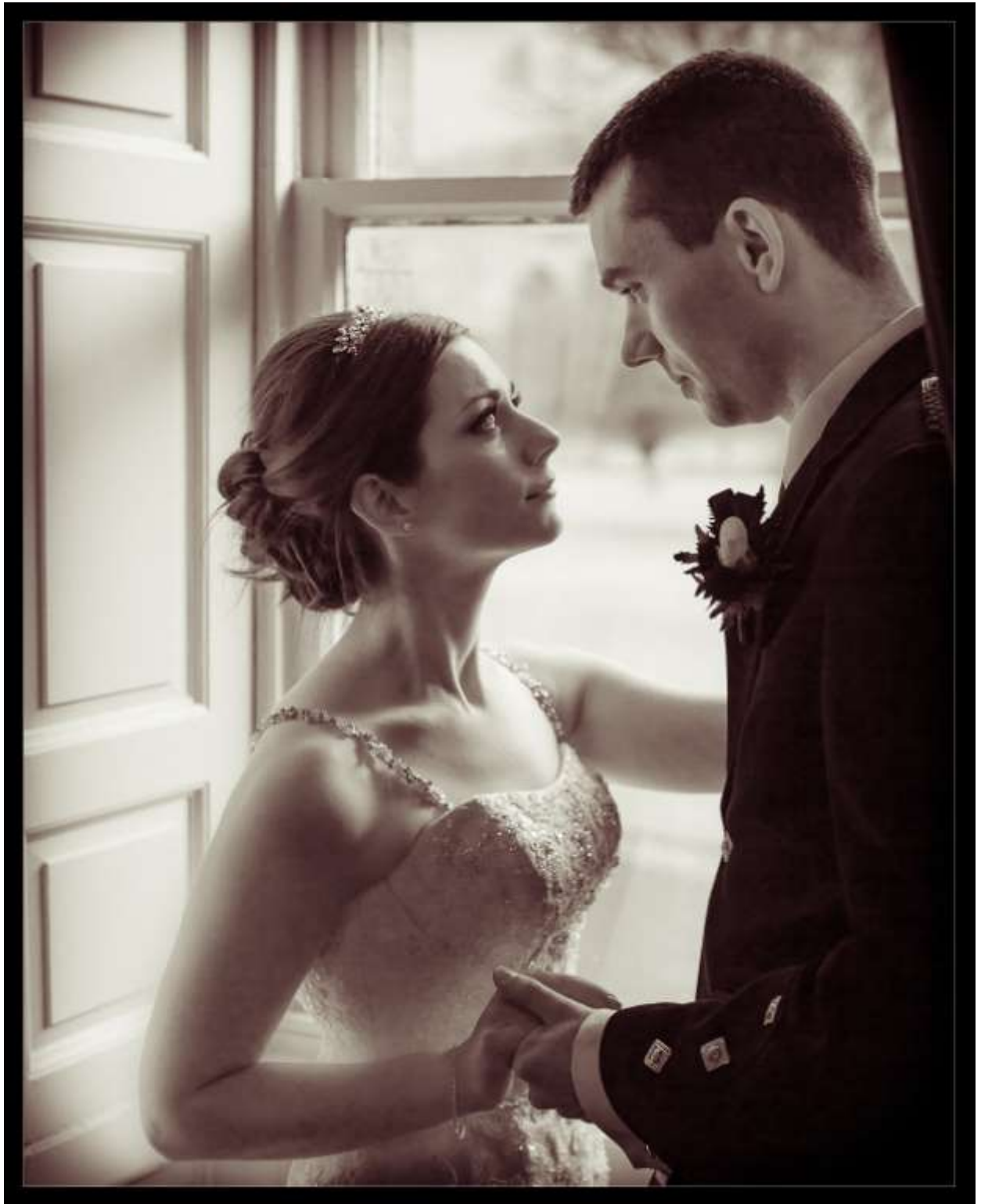
- 1) £100 deposit with the balance of your package paid in full 2 weeks before the big day.*
- 2) 30% deposit , then 2 weeks before the big day 66% of the balance, with the rest of the balance of your package paid when the photos are ready to go in your Gallery. EG our popular Complete package at £1200. A deposit of £240, then 2 weeks before the wedding you pay £643, and then when the photos are ready you pay the remaining balance of £317.*

In either case, many couples pay the balance up as the day draws nearer, but so long as the above dates are met we're good with that.

We'll be in touch a lot in the weeks close to the big day, then afterwards you will have your digital copies of all the photos within 2 weeks.

If you are picking an album, and once you have selected your favourite photos to go in it, it takes about a month at the lab to get them made up.

All in all a very easy, and quick process. There's no having to wait months to see your photos. So the next step... get in touch and say "We want to book you !"



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Things to ask about when booking a wedding photographer.

I'll try to be as impartial as possible here, just offering free advice to couples that are looking to book a wedding photographer. Things to ask and think about.

The main one is very easy...

Book me !! Book Me !! Lol

But seriously, have a look through these, and if you have any further questions, drop me an email or **phone and I'll answer any questions I can.**

Like most professions, sports, hobbies, jobs : You **don't get judged on how you perform on a good day**, when everything is going your way, that would be too easy. You are judged on how you perform on a bad day, or a difficult day, when something could trip you up do you have the ability to still perform at your best ? An experienced wedding photographer will have come across most situations, and will know how to deal with them – or even help prevent them from happening.

Insured : Make sure the photographer is insured. They will need their own gear insured obviously, but also public liability. If someone was to trip over a camera bag or the likes, it could get nasty if the photographer has no cover.

Back Up Equipment : You never know what could go wrong with camera gear, even pro level , so spare cameras, lenses, flash etc are essential. **Makes & models of camera aren't that important, but check the person you hire has a contingency plan for when things WILL happen. It's all fine having a £5k camera but that can still get knocked out your hand or a strap breaks during the wedding ceremony. They can't just turn round and apologise for having no photos.** Eeeek.

Meet up with the photographer. : **It's always best to meet up in person whenever possible with the photographer.** Make sure you get on with them.

Smart : If having everyone look their best on the wedding day is important to you, make sure the photographer **you hire isn't going to turn up in jeans & T, looking like they've just fell out of a tree :**)

Part Time or Full Time : Is the photographer committed to the task at hand. Anyone can take great pictures, and people doing it as a hobby, or a weekend job can often take as good a picture as any top pro, but will they have the time to get your photos back to you quick enough ? Ask how long it will be before you see your finished portfolio. I personally know many photographers that take amazing photos, but they admit to having no time to do their hobby properly.

Memory card loss or damage : What happens when the cameras memory card is lost, damaged or goes faulty during or even after the wedding ? Until you get your finished photos what happens if disaster strikes those digital files before the job is 100% finished ? Ask the photographer if they have a workflow in place that protects their clients photos from the time they take them to having them stored for the long term. **Believe me... many** photographers have NO back up or disaster policy—and I know of people who have had their photos all lost before they got to see any of them.

Experience : Ask potential photographers how many weddings they have covered, how many do they do each year, how many different venues they have shot at. A lot of new photographers have web sites with only a few photos that are taken at training courses with models for brides. This is fine for someone starting out in the business , but they should make you aware that this is the case. Ask to see finished albums. Have they got lots of different weddings on their web site gallery ?

But relax ! : Most good photographers – if not all pros **have answers to many of these and more "tasks"** , it might well be that uncle Bob that has offered to take your photos for free might well be experienced at this kind of task handling , but please just make sure, that whoever takes your big one-off special **wedding day photos is up to the task, whether it's me or not – ask the questions when you meet photographers "What if..."**

Hints & Tips for your wedding day (photography based)

Photography options

Do you want photo coverage of just "The Essentials"... the arrivals at the ceremony, the family group shots and some great bride & groom portraits? Or do you want to extend coverage to the 1st dances? The most exciting shots are always covered in The Essential packages, but a lot of couples like extra coverage to include the start of the evening reception.

We get asked all the time "what's best", but it really is down to the couple. Budget comes into it as well. But some couples have to think about what their evening guests are like at dances. If, after the 1st dance the couple and the guests just sit and have a drink for a while, there will be no photo opportunities and no point in paying for extra coverage. On the other hand, a big bunch of guys & gals enjoying the band/disco can make for some great pictures. Adding coverage to the 1st dances does add to the cost, as it can double the time that a photographer is available for you.

Have a look at what wedding pictures you have liked in the past, and see how many include dancing shots. Most of the wow photos are probably taken during the day, but some couples like to see the first dance photos as a reminder of that part of the day too.

Celebrant & photos

Always ask whoever is conducting your ceremony about their thoughts and rules on photography. **Some church ministers don't allow any photos during the whole ceremony, others have slightly easier rules. But ask anyway. As a professional, I will always work within the rules given, but I always try to stay as discrete as possible.** Some celebrants are put off from previous bad experiences where photographers have spoiled the day (their words not mine). **Ask anyway, as if you want lots of loving photos during the vows, gazing into each other eyes as you say "I do" ... check we're allowed to.**

The nice photos

Lots of couples (probably most actually) book their photographer as they like their portfolio of photos, the style and the lovely bride & groom pictures. This happens a lot with us too, but couples have to bear in mind, while **photographs aren't the be all and end all of a wedding day... we get one chance to get this day captured for ever.** **There are some weddings where the couple will want to spend every minute with their friends and think, "the photos we have so far will be fine."** . But if between the couple and the photographer, a little time and thought doesn't get put into small sections of the day, you might miss out on those special shots. I always make sure I'm working with the couple, never demanding too much or taking over the day, but I'll sometimes ask nicely **"It's a lovely sky out there, can we do 10 minutes...?"**

At most weddings there is usually around an hour to get the photos taken. This includes any formal & family group **shots as well as the nice bride & groom pics. It's amazing though how fast that time goes so we all have to have a game plan ready, and use the time as best possible.**

We always work with you and advise on how best to use the time to suit your day.

"UnPlugged" Ceremony (Guests popping up at awkward places with cameras and iphones)

This can be especially bad if you are planning a nice church wedding, or in any venue really where you've dreamed about and planned that lovely walk down the aisle. Your official photographer for the day will have some shots lined up to get a beautiful shot as you slowly make your way down the aisle to stand beside your fiancé. But lots (lots and lots and lots!) of these and similar shots are spoiled by guests jumping out with iphones and the likes. Instead of being there, at your wedding, feeling the love. They want to watch it through the back of their phone. Fair enough, it's the modern way, but guests have to realise couples pay a lot of money for photography, and some of the photos they pay for are lost to "Pal Paperazzi".

Some couples do actually tell guests these days that their wedding is "unplugged". No iphones or photos other than the official photographers. Guests are requested to just enjoy the day.

(Google Unplugged Wedding – or check our Blog about it on our website)

You'll never stop everyone snapping away all day, and you probably shouldn't try to either, but throughout the planning of the day, the invites, and even asking the Celebrant on the day to remind guests to "please no photography until after the ceremony" or the likes.

Formal list options

This is one of the most important photography sections of the day, as it dictates what kind of photos and how long we get for the bride & groom alone time. Give some thought to how many family/formal photos you want. The more guests there are and the more photos chosen, the longer this section of the day will last.

It's very easy at the planning stage to think "I want a photo of with every family member there..." but bear in mind a set of around 12 photos can take up to an hour, so it's best keeping these photos to a sensible size, otherwise you can spend all afternoon standing smiling and not enjoying your day.

I have a basic lists to start with, and then the couple sometimes tweak the list to suit personal family arrangements. Some only really want a few quick photos here so they can mingle and just let the day happen.. others give the photographer a list that can take over an hour to get through.

Quite a few couples skip the extended families section, and others add in extra shots if there are any parents re-married/separated etc.

- 1) Everyone (if feasible , and location/weather allows, as this can take a lot of time)
- 2) Wedding party with parents
- 3) Brides direct family (parents and bros & sis plus partners)
- 4) Bride's parents (with & w/o groom)
- 5) B&G and both sets of parents
- 6) Groom's parents (with & w/o bride)
- 7) **Groom's direct family**

Then... B&G portraits

The above list relies on the family formal group shots running to time, no-one wandering off for a ciggie or pint when they are needed for a photo, no Auntie Mavis cuddling you and telling you how beautiful you look for 20 minutes, even though you will be – she can tell you that over dinner :)

We usually do these formal photos 5-10 minutes straight after the end of the ceremony. This 5-10 minutes gives people a chance to come and say hello, cuddle you etc. Then I'll call everyone across to wherever we are setting up.

Any other shots, family groups etc can be taken when we get back from our B&G shots, before going in for wedding breakfast if there is time so we get the important 1st relaxed photos of the new Mr & Mrs.

Other nice shots to try to get in here are bride and her best pals, groom and all the kilties and the likes. There's always some "Oh can we get one with..." So if we know as many of these in advance, I can make sure we don't forget about them.

It's always a tricky one to advise what is best for each couple. It depends on what you want and what your album to look like. No one ever looks at wedding photos and says "wow, stunning!" at a family group shot – it's the lovely bride & groom photos that give the wow factor. It's nice to have a photo with mum & dad, but very rarely will auntie Jessie or cousin Bob want a copy of the photo with them and another 20 people in it J

Some couples give us a list of 20, 30 up to 60 odd photos of family & friends shots they wanted, partly because they felt they should and it was *normal*, but that means no time for any relaxed & loving newly wed photos.

Some couples go the other way and have no formal/group shots. These days everyone has a camera or iphone with them, and if they want a photo with the bride, they'll get one for sure throughout the course of the day.

An average 2pm ceremony start wedding runs like this...

2:00-2:45 Ceremony : 2:45-2:55 champagne reception & cuddles from everyone : 2:55-3:30 formal family shots : 3:30-3:40 comfort break : 3:40-4:30 Bride & 4:30- 4:45 Chill out with guests, anybody else want a pic with bride & groom ? Then call in for line up and wedding breakfast.

The logo for GWS Photography features the letters 'GWS' in a large, light blue, cursive font. To the right of 'GWS', the word 'PHOTOGRAPHY' is written in a smaller, black, uppercase, sans-serif font.



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