



# LILY LOVES

wildly beautiful blooms

## Hints & Tips

Ok, let's get down to business straight away and talk about a subject we all like to avoid - money. I often get asked what is the 'right' amount to spend, and in short there is no such thing, this is completely personal to you. That being said, keep it in proportion to your day and the rest of your spending and align it accordingly. I've worked on weddings that have had a £15k budget and equally, a simple and humble budget of £200 where a bouquet and buttonhole is all that is required. But roughly about 10% of your overall budget works.

Also, ask yourself how important flowers are to your day. For some, this is a must have, for others, it's just not something that they see as important. If you're reading this though, I suggest that it's the former - so let's help you a bit here:

### How to save money:

**Bouquets** - think about how you can use your them to decorate your wedding reception room. After the ceremony is over, there's a lot of socialising to do, a meal and quite often a party and the bouquets usually get left on the side to wilt and can be a bit of a hinderance. We always recommend using vases at the reception for your bouquets so that when you arrive there you can place them in them to rehydrate and also they will decorate a windowsill, bar, cake table etc to save you having flowers in these places also. Nothing fancy, just simple glass vases, appropriate to the size of the bouquets.

**Church/ceremony flowers** - if you're having large designs for the ceremony, think about where else they can be used. The ceremony table flowers can be used to double up as the top table flowers and the pedestals/urns can adorn the entrance of your reception. Equally a broken arch can be moved to another entrance. There will be a charge for us to do this, but it will be a lot cheaper than paying for more designs. I recommend that we move the items for you, or someone you trust and that is reliable and with appropriate transport!

**Table flowers** - consider gifting your table flowers at the end of the day to double up as decoration and thoughtful 'thank you's'. Quite often couples want to thank bridesmaids, mum's and other significant people that have helped organise their day, so why not use your flowers. Simply write a note and leave it on their place setting asking them to take the

flowers on the table home with them at the end of the day. There are arrangements that are suitable for this and we can talk you through this and give you ideas and suggestions.

**Season** - really consider and respect the season you are getting married in, this will also help with keeping the cost down. If you're getting married in spring, embrace all that it has to offer - spring flowers such as tulips, anemone, ranunculus, narcissus, lily of the valley are all beautiful flowers that are grown in the UK and easily obtainable which will help with cost. Work with nature, not against it. If you're a dahlia lover, then late summer is the time to get married - these will be almost impossible to get in February.

**Keep it local** - wherever possible source flowers that are locally grown. Not only is this better for the environment, less air miles and fuel costs, but you'll be supporting British growers and you can choose the best flowers the season has to offer. Sometimes it's even possible to 'pick your own' flowers and work with a local flower farm to do this.

**Venue** - work with your surroundings, not against them. If cost is a priority then try and choose a venue that is naturally beautiful and doesn't need much 'help'. For example, old churches and barns are beautiful in their own right and need less decoration than a huge white marquee or modern hotel/hall.

I really hope this has helped a little, we will gladly book a consultation with you to discuss your wedding flowers, this will be an initial chat on the phone and then if you would like to proceed with the booking, we will arrange to meet in person where possible. If you would like to make an enquiry for Lily Loves to design your wedding florals, we will need the following information from you:

- ~ Your wedding date
- ~ Venue and location
- ~ Theme, style and floral requirements
- ~ Estimated budget

Thank you so much, we can't wait to hear from you

Love Ailsa x