



St Columba's Parish Church of Scotland, Glenrothes

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Getting Married in St Columba's

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Getting married

We believe in a God of Love. It is wonderful that you are considering a wedding in St Columba's Church. This leaflet provides information we hope will be useful as you plan your wedding.

Marriage is an important part of the Christian tradition. In John's gospel, one of the first stories about Jesus was at a wedding in Cana (John 2:1-12). Christian marriage is a wonderful sign of the couple's desire that God is part of the relationship. We believe that God offers us help, support and love to grow in love for each other and for God.

Planning

Most people plan weddings well in advance. Once we have agreed a wedding date, we will commit to that date, but we realise that your plans may change. Please let us know of changes as soon as possible.

You have a lot of control over the style and content of the wedding ceremony, including the vows that are used. Everything will be discussed with you as you plan the wedding.

The minister conducting the wedding will normally be Alan, who is the minister at St Columba's. However, circumstances change and it may be that Alan will ask another minister to conduct the wedding. If this happens, you will get as much notice as possible.

Preparing for being married

Even for couples who have lived together for some time, being married can be difficult. In the past, wedding preparation has often included discussions with the minister about married life and areas that can sometimes be problems. These discussions tend to be much less formal than in the past. However, you may find it helpful to have someone you can talk to in confidence about married life.

Music

Please contact the church organist (Eric Christie) to see if he is able to play for your service on the day. If you would like to provide your own music or musicians, please discuss this with the minister. Eric will be happy to discuss hymns and other music. Two or three hymns are normal, but not essential.

Flowers

You are responsible for the arrangement of flower displays in the Church. If you contact either the minister or the church office (752539) we can make arrangements for access.

Printing

If you are printing an order of service with words of hymns, please contact us about the correct wording for copyright statements.

Photographs/Video Recording

Please speak to the minister about photography or video recording.

On the day

You may exchange one ring or two, it's up to you.

Vows will be discussed during the planning.

The Groom should arrive at least 30 minutes before the service.

Fees

The wedding fees set in January 2017 are £200 for the use of the church, £61.50 for the organist and £40 for the church officer. There is no charge for the minister because he is paid a stipend. However, we don't want the cost to stop you getting married in church. Please speak to the minister if these fees might be a problem.

Legal Requirements

This section is very important. Your marriage will not take place unless the minister has a valid Marriage Schedule.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the correct procedures have been followed, but please ask if you have any questions.

Marriage Notice

You should apply to Registry Office about eight weeks before the wedding date. The registrar will ask to have all the relevant documentation six weeks before the wedding date, or eight weeks before if either of you have previously been married. From 2015, the absolute minimum is twenty eight days before the wedding date.

You will have to pay a fee to the registrar.

Details of documents required by the Registrar are to be found in the leaflet RM1 - Marriage in Scotland.

Once the Marriage Schedule has been prepared, at least one of you must attend the Registrar's Office in person to receive the schedule.

At the Wedding Rehearsal (normally one or two days before the wedding) the Marriage Schedule should be handed to the Minister - The wedding cannot proceed without it.

The marriage schedule must be returned to the issuing registrar within three days of marriage to enable the registrar to register the marriage. It is your responsibility to ensure the schedule is returned.

If you have any questions or concerns, even if they seem trivial, please discuss them with the minister.