



St Columba's Parish Church of Scotland, Glenrothes

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Getting Married in another venue

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Getting married

We believe in a God of Love. It is wonderful that you are considering a wedding by the minister. 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.

Getting married in another venue

Christian weddings are usually conducted in churches, but they are now often in hotels or other venues. By asking a minister, you are asking for a Christian wedding, but this does not mean a long and complicated service. The minister will work with you to find what is appropriate.

We are a parish church, which means that we have a special relationship with people living in the South Parks, Ribleton, Part of Warout, Viewfield, Stenton and Finglassie areas of Glenrothes.

Before agreeing to conduct the wedding, the minister will probably ask to meet with you to talk about your plans. This discussion is not intended as a test or an obstacle. It's just helpful to meet and talk things through.

You may be asked why you would like the minister of St Columba's to conduct your wedding. This might be because you have an existing relationship with St Columba's church or because you live within the parish. You may also be asked if you have considered getting married in the church. Even if you don't live in the parish of St Columba's, it may still be possible to get married by the minister.

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. We no longer have a set series of meetings to discuss married life. However, Alan is available if you would like to talk in confidence about any questions or concerns you may have.

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

Because the minister of St Columba's is a parish minister, there is no fee for the minister to conduct a wedding. However, a donation to St Columba's Church is welcome. If a retired minister is asked to conduct a wedding, then a fee may be payable.

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.