

Getting married in Church

Let us assume that you are reading this leaflet because you are planning to get married and would like to get married in Church. The Minister & Kirk Session are pleased you are considering beginning your marriage in Church and welcome your interest. This leaflet is provided to try and help you decide if getting married in Church is what you want.

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

To begin with, let's start with the obvious.

A Christian ceremony performed in Church in the presence of God, in which two people enter into a commitment to each other.

This is what in brief getting married in Church means.

Church weddings are Religious Ceremonies, the Christian Church frequently speaks of marriage as "a holy estate instituted by God."

When people get married in Church they make promises to each other, in the presence of God, that speak of their desire to be publicly known as committed to each other, and to seek God's blessing for their marriage.

A big undertaking for sure!

Often folks ask family and friends to be present and part of such a special occasion. At some weddings just a few are present.

The Minister will do everything he can to secure a suitable service for you and to promote a lifelong happy marriage.

WHAT ARE THESE VOWS I HAVE TO TAKE?

The vows are quite straightforward, and can be taken in one of two ways.

a) You can repeat the vows after the Minister who will say them in short phrases. A commonly used form of the vows is as follows:

"I, A... now take you B... to be my wife/husband.

In the presence of God, and before these witnesses I promise to be a loving, faithful and loyal husband/wife to you until God shall separate us by death.

b) The vows can be put in the form of a question from the Minister to which you give the answer "I do."

The most commonly used form for this is as follows:

"Do you A... now take B... to be your wife/husband, and do you promise, in the presence of God, and before these witnesses, to be a loving, faithful & loyal husband/wife to her/him until God shall separate you by death?"

WHERE CAN I GET MARRIED?

Marriages are normally conducted by the parish minister in either of the parish churches:

St. Modan's Church in Benderloch & Ardchattan Kirk by Loch Etive.

IS THERE A PARTICULAR DAY THAT MARRIAGE IS CELEBRATED IN CHURCH?

The simple answer is no! We will always try to accommodate your wishes.

There are certain days in the year however when marriages are not possible.

To avoid disappointment please don't make any arrangements until you have spoken to the Minister.

I AM NOT A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH, DOES THIS MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?

You do not need to be a Church Member to be married in Church.

I AM NOT A RESIDENT OF THIS PARISH, DOES THIS MATTER?

If you live locally outwith the parish bounds & are not a member or adherent of this congregation the Minister has to contact your parish minister to consult about any proposed wedding.

I'VE BEEN MARRIED BEFORE, DOES THIS MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?

The first thing to do is to tell the minister so that an informed discussion can take place. As every couple's circumstances are different there is no short answer to this question. Please be assured that the Minister wants to know and to work with couples in an understanding and appropriate way. So DO ASK the Minister!

I DO WANT TO GET MARRIED IN CHURCH. WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

The next step is to speak to the Minister who will be happy to meet with you.

The Minister will do everything he can to offer you confidential advice and guidance in any matter concerning your wedding and marriage.

Why not 'phone and make an appointment?

I'M STILL A BIT CONFUSED & I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO NEXT?

Please don't put this leaflet down yet! Maybe you should chat this over with the Minister. Why not arrange to meet?

IF YOU WISH FURTHER INFORMATION then please contact the Minister:

The Rev. Jeff McCormick. Tel:- 01631 710 364.

A GOOD TIME TO PHONE is VESTRY HOUR,
most Mondays 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.