

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH



GETTING MARRIED IN CHURCH:

If you are interested in getting married in Queensferry Parish Church, the first thing to do is to meet with the Minister to discuss the matter. He is available on Thursday evenings between 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. in the office of the Church. You don't need to be a member of the Church to be married in Church, but you must be able to take the vows sincerely and as before God. If either of you have been married previously, the Minister will need to know of this and he will want to consider the circumstances before advising you whether you may be married in Church.

Advice on Preparing for Marriage.

Legal Preliminaries

By law both of you are required to submit Marriage Notice Forms to the Registrar of the district in which the marriage is to take place. Birth Certificates (and in some instances certain other documents) must be taken to the Registrar. For a marriage in Queensferry Parish Church the Registrar is in the District Council Offices (the former Burgh Chambers) on the High Street. It is recommended that you see the Registrar **SIX** weeks before the wedding. You must arrange with the Registrar to collect the Marriage Schedule from the office a few days prior to the wedding.

The Marriage Schedule **MUST** be brought to the wedding, and it is requested that you give it to the Minister at the rehearsal.

N.B. If either or both of you live outside Scotland the regulations are different and you must get special instructions from the Minister or Registrar well in advance of your intended date.

The Marriage Schedule must be returned to the Registrar within three days of the wedding.

Meeting with the Minister:

The Minister will want to meet with you two or three times before the wedding to discuss details of the service. He may also invite you to attend a Marriage Preparation Class

Music

Unless it is a small wedding, you will probably want music and hymns at the Service. The Minister will arrange an organist for the wedding, but you may wish to meet with the organist to discuss your choice of music.

Timing

It is suggested that ushers arrive at the Church at least 30 minutes before the wedding, the groom and best man about 20 minutes before, bridesmaids 10 minutes before, and the bride 2 or 3 minutes before (to allow time for the official photographer to record her arrival).

The Marriage Vows:

The vows used are normally as follows:-

Groom: Before God / and in the presence / of our families and friends, / I / declare my love for you, / and give myself to you / as your husband. / I promise you my love, / my loyalty, / and my trust / for as long as we both shall live.

Bride: Before God / and in the presence / of our families and friends, / I / declare my love for you, / and give myself to you / as your wife. / I promise you my love, / my loyalty, / and my trust / for as long as we both shall live.

Alternatively, the Vows can be put in the form of a question -

“Before God and in the presence of your families and friends, do you, declare your love for etc.” To which the man replies “I do”. The equivalent question is then asked of the bride who makes the same answer.

Flowers

You may wish to decorate the Church with flowers. If so, this should be discussed with the Minister.

Wedding flowers are normally left in the Church and the Minister will arrange for them to be taken to sick or elderly members of the community. If, however, you have other plans for the flowers, let the Minister or Church Officer know.

Photographs and Video Recordings

You will probably want a number of photographs taken at your wedding, and rightly so. Wedding guests are asked to refrain from taking photographs in Church during the wedding. The Minister will give you a note to pass on to your official photographer regarding arrangements for official photographs and recordings.

Piper

You may wish to arrange to have a piper present. If so, **he should only play after the wedding**, and should not play immediately in front of the church doors. This is to avoid the pipes being in conflict with the organ.

Coins and Confetti

The Lane is too dangerous a road to have children scrambling for coins - so please don't throw coins from your car. We also prefer it if confetti is not used in the Church grounds.

Fees

The congregational board sets a minimum donation to cover all the costs, including the organist and Church Officer's fee. The Minister will advise you of this, and the donation should be passed to him at the rehearsal.

Honeymoon Abroad

If you intend to go abroad after the wedding the bride is advised to arrange to have a passport in her married name. The Minister can advise you how this can be arranged.
