

Notes



Your Wedding

at

Fairmilehead Parish Church



Minister:

Rev John R Munro
0131 446 9363
07946 051536

Assistant Minister:

Rev Hayley O'Connor
0131 623 6661

Church Organist

Claire Currie
0131 477 1151
claire_currie@btinternet.com

Flower Convener

Katherine Shaw 0131 445 5105

Church Centre Coordinator:

Stewart Morris
Fairmilehead Parish Church
1a Frogston Road West
Edinburgh
EH10 7AA
0131 445 2374
office@fhpc.org.uk

Registrar

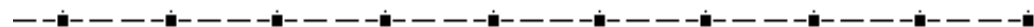
59/63 George IV Bridge
EDINBURGH
EH1 1RN
0131 220 0349

**The speeches**

The meal is followed by the speeches, although some now prefer to have the speeches before the meal to allow those who have to give a speech time to relax and enjoy the meal.

The normal format begins with the Best Man reading the cards and messages to the Bride and Groom. A toast is then proposed to the couple; often this is a friend of the Bride's family. A reply is made by the Groom, who goes on to propose a toast to the Bridesmaids. The Best Man replies on behalf of the Bridesmaids with an often witty (but not too embarrassing) reply. The last speaker is usually the Father of the Bride, who will say a few words and thank the guests for coming.

Traditionally the Bride and Groom leave for their honeymoon at some point in the evening, although some couples now stay to the end of the reception.










This is a guideline to help you plan your day, whether you decide to follow the traditions of a Scottish wedding is of course entirely up to you. We do hope, though, that it is an enjoyable day to remember for everyone.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Reception

The reception following the wedding ceremony varies greatly but the following list gives some indication of what you might expect.

-  Further photographs.
-  The bridal party receives the guests.
-  The wedding cake is ceremoniously cut.
-  A formal toast (without a speech) is proposed, usually by the MC.
-  A grace is said before the meal.
-  A meal for the guests.
-  A dance, disco or ceilidh for the guests following the meal.



The location of the reception is often a hotel but it can equally be a restaurant, or a town hall or church hall, where outside catering can provide the meal, some too providing the tables, chairs, cutlery and linen too.

A Wedding in a Church Congratulations to you both!

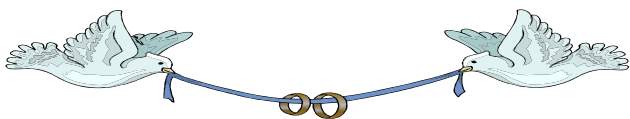
You have decided to hold your wedding in Fairmilehead Parish Church. A Church wedding however is different from a Civil Ceremony. A wedding in a church is set within the context of the Christian faith and we would expect those who want to be married in church to acknowledge this in their lives and by their actions. It is not necessary for couples to be members of the church at this stage, but you may wish to take steps towards becoming a member. Classes for new members are held twice a year, in the spring and the autumn. Please contact the Church Office if you would like to enrol for this.

The Parish System

Fairmilehead is part of the Church of Scotland, which operates as a Parish Church. We have a specially designated geographical area, which is our 'parish'. Normally we do not conduct the marriage of people outside our parish boundaries. However if a couple is resident outwith the parish and wish to be married at Fairmilehead then, the permission of the minister in whose parish you live should be obtained.

The Marriage of Divorcees

The Church of Scotland will marry people who have been divorced although it will be necessary to inform the Minister of this at an early stage.



Mixed Marriages

We are happy to perform a marriage for people from different Christian backgrounds and denominations; however, in the case of those with a Roman Catholic background special permission may be required either from the Roman Catholic hierarchy or your parish Priest.

Weddings Outwith the Church

Occasionally we are asked to perform weddings in houses or hotels etc. outwith the church buildings. It is only in exceptional circumstances that this can take place as the Minister has very little control of the proceedings outside of a place of worship.

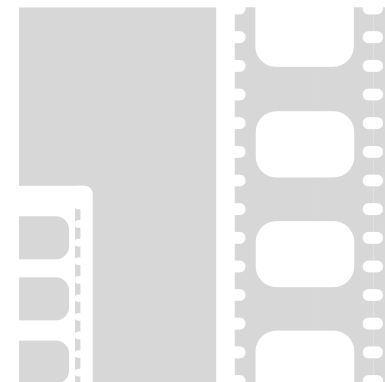
Naming the Day

It is important to contact the minister before other arrangements are made. If the Minister agrees to perform the ceremony then a date will be made in the Church diary and a deposit of £100 will be requested by the Church Office to cover expenses.

You should contact the minister approximately two months before the wedding to arrange the order of service. A brief wedding rehearsal usually takes place on the evening before the wedding.

Video Recordings

Video recordings are also allowed with the permission of the Minister. It is possible, however that it may incur an additional fee by the organist. Please consult the organist in this case.



Confetti and coins

The tradition of throwing confetti and coins is discouraged. Confetti at the church door is a form of litter. Biodegradable (rice paper) and natural rose petal confetti is now available as an alternative to traditional paper confetti. There is an obvious danger to children from passing vehicles should coins be thrown.

Fees

A wedding is a special day but unfortunately it is not without cost.

There is a deposit of £100 required on the booking of your wedding. The total fee for non-members is £300, to include the use of the church, the church officer and bell ringing. You should contact the organist directly to discuss his fee.

For members we suggest a donation of £100 with additional charges (where applicable) of £40 for the church officer and £6 for bell ringing. Once again members should contact the organist directly to discuss their fee.

We do not charge for the services of the Minister

Flowers

Most couples will want flowers at their wedding. The flowers for the Service should be arranged in consultation with the Flower Convener (page one). Flowers for the wedding will normally remain in the church for the Sunday Worship, after which they are distributed to the sick and elderly of the Parish.



Bell ringing

It has become a custom to have bells rung at the end of the wedding ceremony. This can be done at Fairmilehead but please make arrangements with the Church Office before hand.

Time-keeping

As we sometimes have more than one wedding taking place on the same day we ask that ushers should be in the church at least half an hour before the wedding. The Groom and Best Man should be in the church at least fifteen minutes before the ceremony. The Bride, of course will arrive on time!!

Photographs

It is permissible for photographs of the service and the signing of the Marriage Schedule to take place. Photographers are asked to consult the Minister about where and when this may take place.



Registration

The Registrar in whose district the Church stands keeps the legal record of marriage. The address of this is on page one.

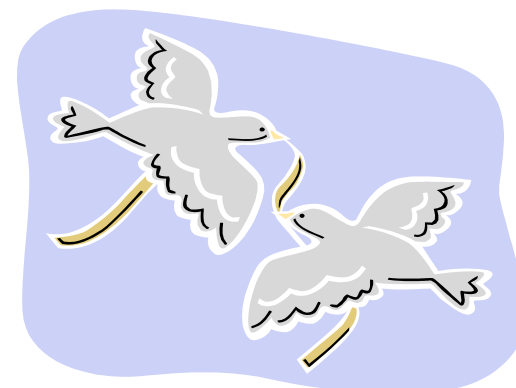
A month before your wedding the Registrar will require

- 1) A marriage notice for each of you (obtained from the Registry Office)
- 2) Your birth certificate
- 3) A registration fee

The Registrar, having ensured each of you is free to marry each other, will issue a Marriage Schedule. This Schedule must be obtained from the Registrar in person. On the wedding day the Schedule must be given to the Minister for signing.

A MARRIAGE CANNOT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT THIS.

After the wedding service, the Schedule is signed by the newly married couple, the officiating minister and two witnesses, who must be at least sixteen years of age. The Schedule must then be returned to the Registrar within three days. (usually by the Best Man).






The Wedding Ceremony

A wedding ceremony follows a special Order of Service. This is normally printed for the guests to follow. The Bride is traditionally escorted into the church by her Father, or someone else of her choice. The Groom and Best Man are already in position at the front of the church.



The service begins with a preamble, which speaks about the importance of Christian marriage.

-  Marriage is something that was formed in the mind of God.
-  Because it begins with God it is not something that should be taken lightly or from selfish motives.
-  It provides the intended setting for life-long companionship, comfort and joy

A hymn is then sung and we ask for God's guidance in prayer. The exchange of vows takes place, the couple facing each other. They may be made by reading them, or by repeating them after the Minister, or responding to questions put to them by the Minister.

The Ceremony of Rings then follows, in which wedding rings are exchanged as a symbol of unity. The Minister will say at this point: "By this sign, you take each other, to have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, for as long as you both shall live."

The couple then join hands and the minister declares them to be married "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."



Music and Readings

The couple may choose the hymns for the service although the choice of hymns/songs should be shared with the Minister before anything is printed. The Minister will suggest a choice of appropriate readings from the Bible and some other readings may be suggested to you. The music chosen at the beginning and end of the service should be chosen with the help and consultation of the organist, Claire Currie (0131 477 1151).

