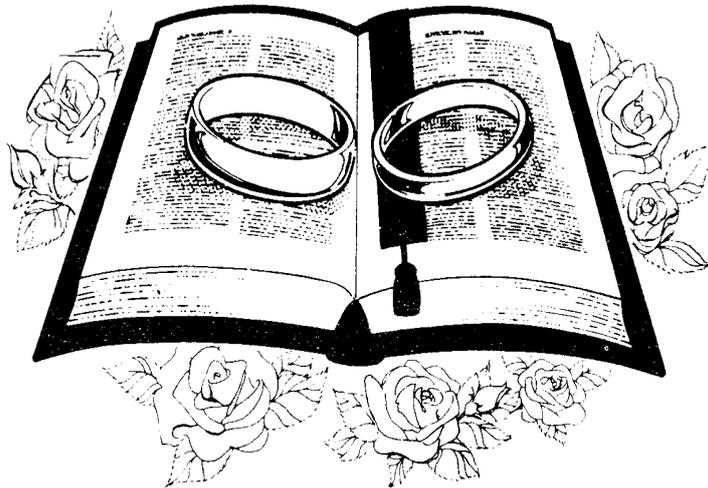


The Church of Scotland

KEMNAY PARISH CHURCH

Weddings



WEDDINGS AT KEMNAY CHURCH

At Kemnay Church we make every effort to ensure that those who come asking for marriage are helped in every way possible to prepare you for marriage and to have a memorable and meaningful day. Marriage is one of the biggest commitments we make and since it is life-long it is probably the most important thing we will do in our lives. While we fulfil the requirements of the law in Scotland we believe Christian Marriage adds a deeper dimension to what we do.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE?

Christian Marriage, according to the Marriage Service, is a gift from God and given for the life long companionship, help and comfort which husband and wife ought to have for each other. It is provided by God as the right and proper setting for the full expression of the natural instincts and affections God has implanted within us. It is provided by God for so that there can be a supportive setting for family life, where children, who are God's gifts to us, may enjoy being brought up in a secure and loving environment. And where the parents are Christian their children can learn about the Faith from them. It was provided for the well-being of the human society which benefits from the stability of relations. Because Christian Marriage is such an important commitment we ask those seeking it to think carefully about what they are doing.

MUST WE BE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH?

It is not necessary to be members of the Church to be married. However, aware that this is an important step in life and you are asking for God's blessing, it is a good time to think about Church Membership.

The Minister will invite those who are asking for marriage to think about the Faith and their response to it and mention the Confirmation (New Members) Course. You will also be encouraged to attend Sunday worship.

It is important to remember that since you are asking for Christian marriage you will be making vows to each other 'as in the presence of God', you are therefore involving God right from the beginning, and if you want your marriage to be successful you need the help of God in it. Those who are Christians would say that their marriage is deeper and richer because of their faith together. They would also say that their marriage is stable and stronger because of their common love for Jesus Christ. 'Those who pray together, stay together'.

'Christian marriage is not a single act. It is an adventure with each other and with God, learning, discovering and growing together.'

Anon

WHAT MUST I DO?

The first thing is to ask yourselves if you want a Christian Marriage.

Then contact the Minister by telephoning the MANSE (Tel: 642219 or Email: minister@kemnaykirk.org.uk). The Minister will arrange a mutually suitable time to meet with you both.

DATE OF WEDDING

Before confirming your place of Reception please ensure that the date is suitable to the Church and Minister. Times of weddings are offered on a 'first come first served basis'. Should there be two wedding on the same day the 'first come' will have the choice of time.

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

There will be at least three meetings with you. At the first the minister will discuss with you the uniqueness of Christian marriage. He will also make brief notes for the wedding. If you are not member of the Church you will be invited to consider the Faith and join a New Member's Course. At the second meeting the Minister will discuss details of the wedding and go over the wedding service with you. At the third meeting (usually the Thursday before the wedding) there will be a brief rehearsal and final details taken for the day of the wedding.

MUSIC AND ORGANIST

It is important to speak to the Organist about the music you wish in church. A list of suitable hymns is available for you to choose from.

Should you wish the organists to play particular processional music you must consult them. Should you wish to invite someone to sing during the time when the Bridal party is in the Vestry, again, you must consult the Organist. The Organist will arrange to meet with you at the Church and help you to select Hymns and music for your wedding.

WITNESSES

You will require two witnesses, both must be over the age of 16 years.

USHERS

You will need at least two Ushers.

FLOWERS

You will probably wish to put flowers into the Church, there are vases and bowls available for your use. If you have a florist making the arrangements they may wish to come into the Church to see the building. It is the usual practice for flowers to be left in the Church for the Sunday Service and then distributed to the ill. If you wish to make other arrangements you must ensure that someone collects the flowers soon after the Wedding Service.

CHURCH OFFICER

The Church Officer will be in attendance at the wedding to ensure that practical arrangements are made for your wedding. You should also be in touch with them to arrange for your florist to visit the Church. The Church Officer's telephone number will be found at the back of this booklet. It is important that good notice is given to the Church Officer to ensure that the Church is open for your flowers to be put into the Church prior to the Wedding day.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Although photographs are not allowed during the Service it is possible for your photographer to take photographs from the Gallery and in the Vestry after the signing of the Schedule. If your photographer is in any doubt, he can contact the Minister by telephoning him at the Manse.

VIDEOS

The Minister must be consulted if a Video is being made of the Service. The video operator should be instructed to telephone the Minister before the wedding day.

CHURCH FEES

There are fees to be paid: the Church Officer, cleaner, and the Organist and for the heating and lighting of the Church. You will be asked to pay these fees at the time of the rehearsal.

PASSPORTS

It is possible for the Minister to countersign passports, but only if the couple have been known to him for some years. It is also possible for the woman to have her name on her passport changed before the wedding. A form is available from the Passport Office. If you wish the Minister to sign forms they should be brought in good time.

MINISTER AT RECEPTION

While the Minister feels it is important to be present whenever he can at Receptions, it is not always possible. If you do wish to invite the Minister as Chairman you must do so in good time. If there are two weddings on the one day, the Minister will accept the first invitation, if he is able to attend.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Minister will advise you to contact the Registrar about 8 - 10 weeks before your wedding date. The Registrar will issue you both with a Notice of Marriage. This would be completed and returned 8 weeks before the wedding date. The Registrar will then prepare a Marriage Schedule, the document you will sign on the day of the wedding. You alone are responsible for ensuring this is done and the schedule is collected on the Monday/Tuesday prior to the Wedding. The Minister will want to see this Schedule on the Thursday or day when a rehearsal has been arranged. Failure to produce the marriage schedule will delay the wedding (in fact the Minister cannot proceed without the Schedule for Marriage). Ministers must have the schedule in their hands before the wedding begins.

WEDDING TIMES

It is very important for weddings to run on time and you are asked to be aware of this when ordering wedding cars. The Groom should arrive at the Church about 30 minutes before the wedding time. The bride should arrive about 5 minutes before the wedding time to allow for photographs. This is particularly important when there are two weddings on the same day.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

With the help of our Church Care Committee a course to help prepare you for marriage is offered each year. This is led by one of our Elders along with the help of recently married couples. The purpose of the course is to help prepare you for some of the things that you will encounter in your life together. The course involves helping you to get to know each other better, intimacy in marriage and how to communicate better. There is no charge for the course. While we do not insist that couples being married at Kemnay church attend the course, we do strongly recommend it to you both. Those who have attended in the past have found it most helpful. Details of dates are available from the Minister.

We make every effort to ensure that every Wedding at Kemnay Church is a time to remember and so your help is invaluable. Should there be something you are not sure about, please speak to the Minister.

REHEARSAL EVENING

Every care is taken here at Kemnay Church by the Minister, Organist and Church Officer to ensure that your Service of Marriage will be a happy and memorable time for you both. These notes are offered so that you can help us ensure everything goes well on the 'day'.

At the Wedding rehearsal, usually a few days before the wedding, you are both asked to be present with your Bridesmaid/s, Best Man, Bride's Father or person 'giving you away', and any children in attendance. At this time the Minister will go over the Order of Service with you. He will also meet with you and check over the details for the Wedding and should you have any questions you should ask him then. You are asked to bring the Marriage Schedule with you at this time for the Minister to check over.

You are also asked to bring the Fees for the Wedding. These should be put into an envelope and brought to the rehearsal.

These are:	Church Heating and Lighting:	£ 200
	Organist:	£ 60
	Church Officer:	£ 30
	Cleaner:	£ 30
	total:	£320

The Church Officer should be contacted as soon as possible to ensure that the Church is open for your florist to put your flowers in the church.

ON THE DAY OF THE WEDDING

The Ushers should arrive at the Vestibule of the Church about 30-40 minutes before the time of the wedding to give out Hymn sheets and direct guests to their seats.

The Groom should come to the Vestry about 30 minutes before the time of the wedding. The Best Man should have the Ring/Rings conveniently to hand.

The Groom or Best Man must have the Marriage Schedule and give this to the Minister as soon as they arrive. Failure to produce this document will delay the wedding.

When the Bride and Groom leave the Church with the Bridal Party to sign the Schedule the parents of the Bride and Groom are invited to join them to witness this.

We discourage the use of confetti in the Churchyard, particularly before a Service.

WEDDING RECEPTION

If you have invited the Minister to act as Chairman at the Reception this is the order for speeches he will use.

GRACE before the meal

After meal:

MESSAGES AND GREETING CARDS.....Best Man

TOAST TO BRIDE AND GROOM:..... Minister

REPLY BY GROOM and

TOAST TO BRIDESMAIDS.....Groom

REPLY BY BEST MAN and

TOAST TO PARENTS.....Best Man

REPLY BY BRIDE'S FATHER or close member of family.

REPLY BY GROOM'S FATHER or close member of family

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Minister: Rev. Joshua Mikelson.....642219

Church Officer: Mr Leslie McKay.....642482

DATE FOR REHEARSAL:



Kemnay Parish Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity Number SC014790