

Marriage in Cults Parish Church

Details and Guidelines for People Preparing for Marriage

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.

So they are no longer two but one. Man must not separate, then what God has joined together.” - Jesus of Nazareth

We are delighted to share in your wedding day and we hope that your service in Cults Parish Church will be one you remember warmly for many years. The information included here is to help your 'preparations' in the run up to your wedding day.

Minister:	Vacant - Rev Shuna Dicks revshuna@btinternet.com Tel: 01224 861692
Organist:	Emily Anderson Tel: 01224 867530
Registrar:	Marischal College Broad Street Aberdeen AB10 1AB Tel: 01224 522616

1. Minister

Unless on holiday or at your own request, the minister will officiate at your wedding.

2. Organist

Emily Anderson should be consulted **6 months** before your wedding date. If she cannot play at your wedding, she will help to arrange a deputy. And she will help you select appropriate music - please do not get service sheets printed without first speaking to Emily.

3. Flowers

Flowers in church are your responsibility. To fix up a time, prior to the wedding, to come and arrange the flowers, contact the Church office - 869028. If you want help with the actual arranging, bring a friend!

4. Photographs

Photographs can be taken in church before and after the service. But the wedding service is an act of Christian worship and is not to be interrupted by clicking or flashing of cameras. Videos can be recorded provided it is a static camera.

5. Registrar

At least twenty-eight clear days before the wedding, you must lodge your names with the registrar at Marischal College. You will need your birth certificates. Later, you will be issued with a MARRIAGE SCHEDULE which must be brought to the church on the wedding day. After its signing, it must be returned to the Registrar within 3 days. The Registrar's fee is £70.

6. Donations

Churches depend almost totally on donations for their routine month-to-month income. As a guideline figure, we would ask you to consider £400, allowing us to continue to maintain buildings, provide heating and lighting, and the services of an organist. Most of all, it helps us to continue to be a busy little church that goes out of its way to make people welcome! Cheques should be made out to "Cults Parish Church", prior to the wedding. There is no fee for the minister's services.



7. Personalising Your Wedding Day

There is a multi-million pound wedding "industry" out there, wanting to squeeze every possible penny out of your savings, into their profits. Every year, new wedding day "traditions" are invented by this industry, and pressure placed on couples and their parents to buy into it. The end result can be a sausage-machine wedding with an overdraft at the end of it.

But writing ever-bigger cheques doth not a happy wedding make! There is an alternative. More and more couples are looking to personalise their wedding by inviting friends and relatives to play key roles in the preparations, and in the day itself:

- Ask a friend, who is a keen (and competent!) photographer to look after the official photos.
- Invite an aunt who has always enjoyed flower arranging to look after your floral displays.
- Speak to your friend, the one who is a whiz on computers, and ask him/her to prepare the invitations and service sheets. Imaginative graphics, elegant type-faces and carefully-chosen paper can add a very personalized dimension to the day, as well as provide a souvenir of a memorable day (and at a fraction of the cost).
- You are bound to know someone with more skills than a Blue Peter presenter who can make beautiful and imaginative "favours" for your guests!
- Is there a relative who, with love and patience and skill, could make the wedding cake?
- Many couples have lived together for some years before getting married. The traditional wedding gifts often duplicate what has already been acquired over the years. Alongside the wedding gift list, why not invite your guests to instead make a donation to a charity of your choice?

Personalising your wedding can bring a wonderful sense of uniqueness, colour and joy. Friends and family asked to help in this way feel they have a special role to play; and whilst you obviously want to pay their costs it can still save hundreds, even thousands of pounds.

8. Music

The choice of music is of paramount importance at a wedding - for the creation of a happy, special mood - spiced with excitement, dignity, melody, familiarity. In other words, all the ingredients suggest that the selection is endless. The range stretches from the "traditional" (e.g. The Bridal Chorus) through classics, opera, "musical pieces" to contemporary songs (many of these are based on classical music).

Obviously it is better to retain the importance of the occasion - certain rock/pop songs may dissipate the atmosphere of the day. For example

"I don't know how to love him" is not an ideal choice.

You are invited to choose a piece for the entrance of the Bride (The Processional), and a piece to celebrate the Bride and Groom leaving the Church. In addition, two hymns should be selected, reflecting the marriage service.

But do not worry should the task seem difficult or far-reaching, our organist is there to help. Several ideas of wedding music and hymns are included in this leaflet.

9. Who can marry in Cults Parish Church?

We do not have a "members only" policy. If you are thinking about getting married, but are not a member of this or any other church, please don't think you won't be welcome. The minister would be pleased to meet with you. We want to help you celebrate the love you have found!

Suggestions for Wedding Music

Hymns

From the Church Hymnary (Fourth Edition)

- 160 Praise my soul the King of heaven (omit verse 4)
166 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
182 Now thank we all our God
489 Come down, O love divine
519 Love divine, all loves excelling
641 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
695 Your Love, O God
696 We come, dear Lord, to celebrate
697 Let's praise the Creator who gave us each other
698 The grace of life is theirs
699 God beyond glory
700 As man and woman we were made
787 May the Lord, Mighty God

Processional

- "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba".....Handel
"Air from the "Water Music".....Handel
"Grand March from Aida".....Verdi
"March of the Priests " from "Athalie".....Mendelssohn
Theme from "Reilly, Ace of Spades".....Shostakovich
"Processional" from "The Sound of Music".....Rogers

Exeunt

- "Toccata".....Widor
"Trumpet Voluntary".....Clarke
"Hornpipe" from the "Royal Fireworks Suite".....Handel
"Fantasia" from "Greensleeves".....Vaughan-Williams

THE MYSTERY OF LOVE

"And another thing. Love is a temporary madness, it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides. and when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should never part. Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion, it is not the desire to mate every second minute of the day, it is not lying awake at night imagining that he is kissing every cranny of your body. No, don't blush, I am telling you some truths. That is just being 'in love', which any fool can do. Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Your mother and I had it, we had roots that grew towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom had fallen from our branches we found that were one tree and not two,"

"Captain Corelli's Mandolin",
by Louis de Bernieres.

