

Wellesley Parish Church



A guide to your Wedding



From our Minister, Gillian,



I am delighted that you have decided to have your Wedding at Wellesley Parish Church, and I hope that this will be a memorable day for you and your families. This booklet has been produced to help you plan for this unique and special occasion, and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss your service.

It is important that you feel relaxed and comfortable with what will happen on your Wedding Day, so for that reason I encourage you to choose the readings, poems and vows that you will use. Each service is individually tailored to you, and your family, and it will help if I can get to know you during the preparations for the big day! For that reason, I hope we will meet on a couple more occasions before your big day.

Could I also ask that if you would like my husband and I to attend your wedding reception, that you include us when your invitations are sent out. I often have many commitments to other services and events, and when I am asked at the last minute, or even on the day itself, I am not able to accept. Please be assured that I am not expecting an invitation, this is a day for your family and friends, so do not feel you have to do this.

Further on in this booklet, you will find information about hymns, Bible readings, sets of vows, poems and a guide to the usual order of service. There are also some “do’s and don’ts” near the end that I hope you will find helpful. Our aim is to be as open and accommodating as we can be but trust you will understand that there are some issues that we have to ask you to adhere to.

Another little point to include in your planning is to think about the timing of the day. Regularly we find services start late, and this has caused a lot of problems in the past, particularly with bus companies and often with musicians, please plan to be on time!

Finally, please feel free to be in touch with me at any time, I am here to help, and to listen. You will find some aspects of planning your wedding very exciting, and at other times it will be stressful and daunting. I am probably the one neutral person involved in the day and will be happy to offer support and advice if required. Your wedding day is only the beginning of a lifelong journey, and my prayers will be with you as you make this commitment to one another.

Every blessing, Gillian

A typical Wedding Service



The service will usually begin with the Bride and her attendants walking down the aisle to meet the Groom and his best man/ushers at the front of the church. After a welcome to all the guests, there is usually a prayer, a hymn, followed by a Bible Reading.

It is at this stage that the marriage takes place, with the exchange of vows and rings, and a blessing that will confirm you are married. This is normally followed by a few words of wisdom from the Minister and the signing of the Marriage Schedule. A second Bible reading or a poem, follows the completion of the marriage ceremony.

After a second prayer and a concluding hymn, the Bride and Groom will make their way up the aisle and out of the church, followed by their Best Man, Bridesmaids and families. Please note you will require two people over the age of 16 to act as your witnesses for the marriage schedule.

Popular Wedding Hymns

One more step along the world I go

All things bright and beautiful

Come to a wedding [tune Morning has broken]

Give me oil in my lamp

The Lord of the Dance

Amazing Grace

We come, dear Lord, to celebrate [well known tune]

The grace of life is theirs, who on this wedding day

Music during the Service

Our organist plays while guests are gathering for the service, usually a selection of Scottish and Classical tunes. You will then need to choose music for the Bride and her party making their entrance into the church. Our organist can play anything you require, if it is a tune they do not know then we will purchase the sheet music for it.

The most popular Bridal Marches are:

- Canon in D by Pachelbel
- The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
- Bridal March [Here comes the Bride]
- Ave Maria
- Highland Cathedral

During the signing of the register, you can choose music for our organist to play, or they will play a selection for you. At the end of the service, most couples choose to have the popular Wedding March by Mendelssohn as it is a lively tune and easy to walk to! I would urge you to think carefully about the entrance music as you need to have music that is not too fast, nor too slow, or it makes it very hard to walk in time with it.

What about a soloist?

Sometimes it can be appropriate to have a soloist who will sing as the Bride walks up the aisle, or during the signing of the register. We recommend Charlotte Whittle, a local girl who has a stunning voice. This is a message from Charlotte, and it includes her contact details:

What better way to express your love for one another than through music? Songs tell a story, and your choice of song not only shows your love for one another but allows your family and friends to have a little glimpse into that love too. I am a professional opera singer who is based in Fife and Switzerland. With prices starting from £100 for just me, or from £150 for myself plus a pianist, I can guarantee your wedding ceremony will be one to remember. Song choice can be tricky, but with my extended knowledge for opera, classical, musical theatre, and traditional Scottish songs, we can choose the perfect song for your special day. I would be so happy to hear from you on my email address: cwhittlesop@hotmail.co.uk It would be my honour to be a part of your love story.

Bible Readings



The following Bible readings are among those suitable for use in wedding services. You can choose from these or other appropriate Bible passages. Normally two readings are used. Please speak to Gillian if you wish to borrow a Bible or would like further help in finding or choosing the readings for your wedding.

Reading	Subject
John 2.1-11	Jesus attends a wedding at Cana.
John 15.9-12	Love one another as I have loved you.
Mark 10.6-9	What God has joined together, no-one must separate.
Genesis 2.15, 18-24	God gives man a helper.
1 Corinthians 13.1-13	Faith, hope and love, the greatest of these is love
1 John 4.7-16	God's love as the example for our love
Philippians 1.9-11	A prayer that love may deepen and grow

Most often the minister reads the Bible passages and poems in the service, but if you have family members or friends whom you would like to read, you are free to ask them to do so. If you would like me to choose the Bible readings for you, please feel free to say, that is not a problem!

Popular Poems



Wedding Day - Adrian Lomas,

How Do I Love Thee? – Elizabeth Barrett
Browning

If Thou Must Love Me, Let It Be For Nought - Elizabeth Barrett
Browning

The Bargain - by Sir Philip Sidney

I Love You - Roy Croft

Beauty That Is Never Old - James Weldon Johnson

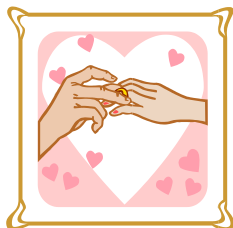
I'll Still Be Loving You – C. David Hay

I'll Be There - Louise Cuddon

On Your Wedding Day – Anon.

Alternatively....why not ask someone to write a poem for you?
Family? Friend? Or someone who knows you both well?

Your Vows



[These questions are asked, and then one of the five sets of vows which follow are used. The vows are read a line at a time by the minister, and each line is then repeated by the groom or the bride.]

(to the bridegroom)

....., will you take to be your wife? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? **I will.**

(to the bride)

....., will you take to be your husband? Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? **I will.**

Will the congregation please stand.

..... and, as a seal to the vows you are about to make, please take each other by the right hand.

(the couple take each other by the right hand. The vows may be said, read, or repeated after the minister. The order can be reversed, with the bride taking vows first.)

Wedding Vows 1

....., will you please repeat after me,
In the presence of God,
I call upon our families and friends
to witness that I,,
do take you,
to be my lawful wedded wife/husband;
to have and to hold from this day forward;
for richer, for poorer;
in sickness and in health;
to love and to cherish
as long as I live
And thereto I give you my promise.

Wedding vows 2

In the presence of God
and before these witnesses,
I,,
give myself to you,,
to be your husband/wife,
and take you now to be my wife/husband.
I promise to love you,
to be faithful and loyal to you,
for as long as we live.

Wedding vows 3

(Minister to groom)

In the presence of God and before these witnesses, do you,, give yourself to to be her husband, and take her now to be your wife? Do you promise to love her, to be faithful and loyal to her, for as long as you both shall live?

I do.

(Minister to bride)

In the presence of God and before these witnesses, do you,, give yourself to to be his wife, and take him now to be your husband? Do you promise to love him, to be faithful and loyal to him, for as long as you both shall live?

I do.

Wedding vows 4

Before God

and in the presence of our families and friends,

I,,

declare my love for you,,

and I give myself to you

as your husband/wife.

I promise you my love,

my loyalty, and my trust

for as long as we both shall live.

Wedding Vows 5

I,,
take you,
to be my wife/husband,
in the presence of God
and before this congregation,
I promise and covenant
to be a loving,
faithful, and loyal husband/wife to you
so long as we both shall live.

After you have taken these vows, there will then be the exchange of wedding rings. I will ask you both to say the following words as you do this:

I give you this ring
in God's name,
as a sign
of all that we have promised
all that we share.



This part of the service concludes with the blessing for both of you, this normally includes you kneeling as the blessing is pronounced but let me know if this is likely to cause any difficulty.



Photography

I am willing to allow photography and videoing of the ceremony as long as your photographer and videographer remain in the place that is allocated for them. This is really important as it will detract from the ceremony if they move around, and it will be very distracting for you, and your guests. Please advise photographers and your guests that there is to be **no** flash photography during the ceremony, this is for your benefit, and with the lighting we have in the church it should not be necessary.

The space allocated to photographers is a central position, so they will have a good view of yourselves and your guests. They can take photographs as you arrive, and in the vestibule of the church, but then they should take up their position inside the church and are not allowed to move around, for example they cannot precede you down the aisle. They can take photographs while the register is being signed and then as you leave the church.

Mobile phones and Social Media

Please be aware that I will ask your guests to turn off their mobile phones as this is an increasing problem during services. If they wish to use them for taking photographs they must put them in silent mode, and, if you wish, I will remind them not to post photos on social media.

Fees and Costs

There are no fees for the Minister to conduct your Wedding ceremony, but there are other costs involved. We would ask that you pay a deposit of £50 to confirm the date and time of your wedding, and then pay the balance on the day of your wedding rehearsal, or before. The total cost is £300 for a Church Wedding.

Please make cheques payable to Wellesley Parish Church.

If our Minister is conducting your wedding in another venue, such as a hotel, we would suggest that you make a donation to the Church of £100.

Wedding Rehearsal

We will arrange to have a rehearsal a couple of days before your wedding, probably on the Thursday evening for a Saturday wedding. It is important that your attendants, ushers, and whoever is giving the Bride away attend this so that you can feel relaxed on the day itself.



Paperwork

Approximately 12 weeks before your wedding, and no later than 29 days before your wedding, you will have to register your intent to marry with the local Registrar. The local office is situated across the road from the church, and the contact details are:

Methil Library and Local Office
Wellesley Road
Methil
08451 555555 ext 461610

You require the Marriage Notice Application forms [M10] and return them with the appropriate fee. At the time of writing the fee is £70, but this may be subject to change. You can read all the necessary information online at: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: The Marriage Schedule should be collected from the Registrar in the 7 days prior to your wedding, by either the Bride or the Groom. You should bring this to the rehearsal so that it can be checked by the Minister. It is best if the Schedule is left in our care as the wedding cannot proceed without it – **unfortunately there are NO exceptions to this!**

Some helpful Do's and Don'ts!

Do ask as many questions as you like about the service, music to be played etc.

Do make the time to think carefully about your vows and what they mean.

If you have young children, please think about how they will cope with the service, perhaps organize someone to look after them, or bring toys for them to play with.

Don't worry about any aspect of the service, talk it through with the Minister in advance.

Don't forget the Marriage Schedule!

Finally.....

Pipers are welcome in the church grounds before and after a ceremony.

Please be aware that stretch limos cannot manage to turn into the church grounds, so you would need to walk in from the main road. All other cars manage the gates.

Flowers can be arranged in the church by your florist. They can contact the Church Officer on duty that day, Gillian will supply the phone number to you.

Any other queries contact Gillian

Website: wellesleyparish.org.uk

Facebook: [@wellesleyparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/wellesleyparishchurch)

Email: info@wellesleyparish.org.uk

Recommended Suppliers

I work with many different people in the wedding business, and would recommend the following people who are local, and are both professional and reasonably priced:

Florist:

Finesse Floral Designs
Karen Bayne - Finesse Floral Designs
07905 949651

www.finessefloraldesigns.co.uk
<https://m.facebook.com/FinesseFloralDesigns/>



FinesseFloralDesigns

Photographer:

Rachel McLean Photography

Venue:

The Studio, Methilhaven Road, Methil.
Contact Bill Mitchell on 07767840353

Videography:

Lee Richardson.
www.Leerv.co.uk 07729 317280

or

Graham MacKay Video