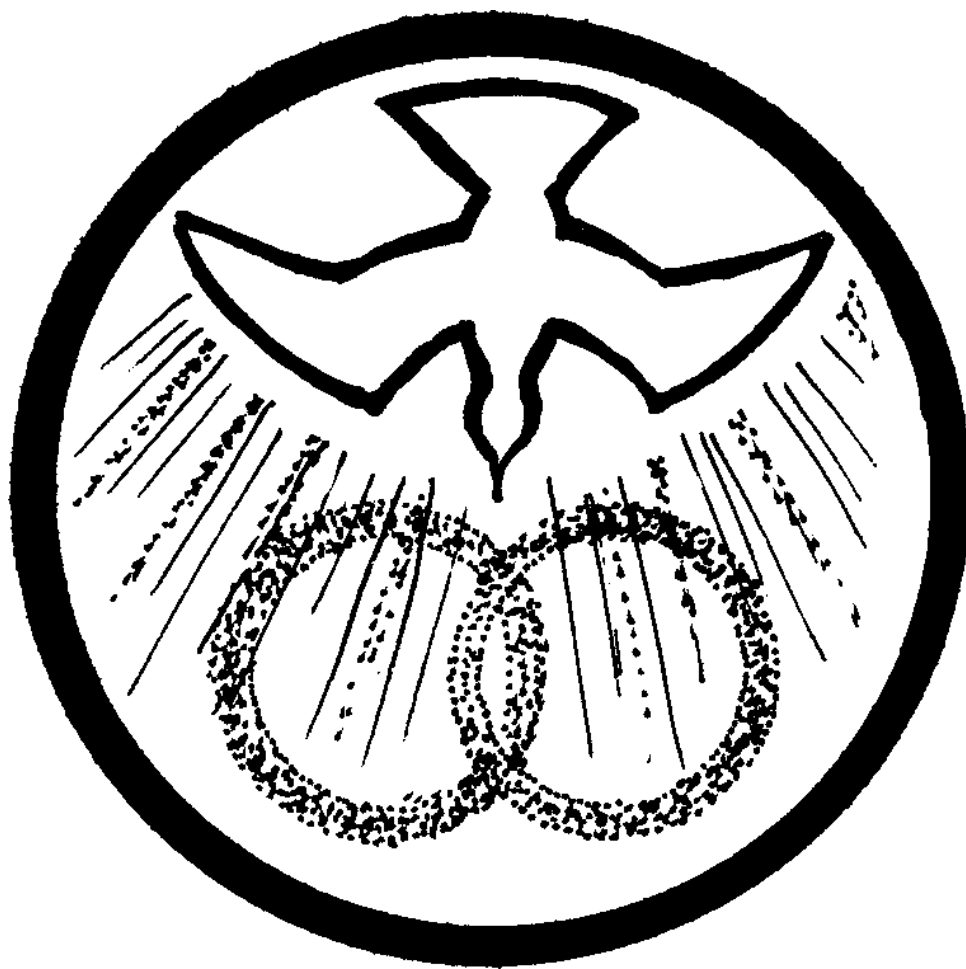


Getting Married in St Mary's Kirk



Haddington Parish
(Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity Number SC010614

Marriage in Church

This isn't simply a civil ceremony with frills. You will be making promises to each other before God as well as your guests. It's important that you are both comfortable doing that if your marriage is to have a firm basis on which to build.

Legal Requirements

You need to contact the East Lothian Registrar approximately three months and at least 30 days before the date to give notice of your marriage and to obtain a marriage schedule. East Lothian is now one registration district, so there is flexibility as to which office you can contact. For further information about this important process telephone 01620 827308 or e-mail haddingtonregistrars@eastlothian.gov.uk

Please note that the wedding cannot take place if this schedule is not in the minister's hands on the day.

Minister and setting

The Church is available for wedding services in its normal layout. Our minister will normally conduct marriage services in St Mary's. Should you wish another minister to officiate please discuss it with our minister before completing the Booking Form.

Fees

The current fees are listed on a separate sheet.

Music

There are usually 2 hymns, sometimes 3. Hymn choices should be discussed with me in advance. We will provide you with contact details for the organist for your service and it is up to you to make contact to discuss what other music you might have in the service.

Photography and videos

The rules are as follows:

A professional photographer may take some pictures (*from the west gallery*) as the bridal party enters. If it can be done without flash he/she may take some photos from the west gallery during the service.

Please note guests must not take photographs or record during the service.

Your official photographer may take some pictures of the signing of the register. A professional may record the service on video after the location of the camera has been agreed with us. There must be no movement of the camera or its operator during the service. The video camera must not make any noise, nor require any extra lighting.

These rules about photographs are there to avoid intrusion during the service. This is one of the most important occasions of your lives and it's essential that you can give your full attention to what you will do and say without distractions.

There is a pretty garden, St Mary's Pleasance, just through the gate in the kirk yard wall. If you would like to explore using it for photographs after the ceremony please contact Louise Begbie of Haddington Garden Trust by email at louise.begbie@btinternet.com or telephone on 01620 829821. She will tell you about the cost & availability on your date.

Flowers

You are welcome to make your own arrangements, in which case our stands can be used for which a donation to the church flower fund would be appreciated. Alternatively, our St Mary's Flower Team would be willing to arrange the flowers in the church. Joyce Edwards is happy to meet the bride to discuss her requirements. On top of the cost of flowers, expenses (petrol mainly) are charged plus a donation to the church flower fund of £50 per pedestal. (There is a 20%

discount for church members). Contact Joyce Edwards on 07747 148043 to discuss further. She can also recommend members of the Flower Committee who would do bouquets on a private basis.

Rehearsal

There is usually a run through a few days before the wedding. It means that the principal participants are familiar with what will happen, although our minister will guide you through everything on the day. Bride, groom, bridesmaid(s), best man, and whoever is walking the bride down the aisle need to attend and others can come along as you wish. If you have anyone doing a reading they are welcome to come along and try it out with the microphone.

The marriage schedule should be brought to the rehearsal.

On the day

Ushers should arrive about 45 minutes before the service - guests will start to arrive soon after that. Bridegroom and best man should be there at least 15 minutes before the time of the service. Hopefully the bride will not be too late - it's not good for the groom's nerves!!!

Please tell your guests

There is a **bio-degradable confetti only** rule at the church

No photography or recording by guests is allowed during the service

Wedding – Basic Order of Service

Welcome

Hymn

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Marriage Ceremony

Any additional reading (optional – entirely your choice)

Prayer

Hymn

Blessing

Signing of the Register

Bible Readings

Here are a few suggestions of Bible readings for weddings. They are simply to start you thinking. Feel free to choose any Bible reading you would like to have.

1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

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Matthew 7:24-27

Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it was built on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell - and great was its fall!

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John 15

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

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Song of Solomon 2:10-13

My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one and come away,'

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Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.
If you offered for love all the wealth of your house,
it would be utterly scorned.

Some possible hymns – again only to start your thinking

All things bright and beautiful
Love divine, all loves excelling
The Lord's my Shepherd
Give me joy in my heart
One more step along the world I go
Bind us together
Lord of all hopefulness
Praise my soul, the King of heaven
Dear Lord and Father of mankind



The Marriage Ceremony

There are four sections in the ceremony itself –

- 1) Exchanging vows
(*see next section for more information*)
- 2) Giving and receiving of ring(s)
- 3) Declaration of marriage
- 4) Blessing on the marriage

We'll talk about this in detail nearer the time but I hope this gives you an idea of what to expect.

The Marriage Vows

There are a number of different ways in which you can make your marriage promises:

- by reading or saying the words to each other
- by repeating the words after me phrase by phrase
- by responding with the words 'I do' to the vow put to you in the form of a question

Different options have different appeal both in actual wording and in the way you make them. We will discuss all this more

fully nearer the time: don't worry - you don't have to make a decision now!

These are the wordings which are normally used:

Option 1:

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

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

Option 2:

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.
I promise you my love,
my loyalty, and my trust

for as long as we both shall live.

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 wife.
I promise you my love,
my loyalty, and my trust
for as long as we both shall live.

Option 3:

In the presence of God
and before our families and friends,
I,, take you,.....
to be my wife,
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 we live.

In the presence of God
and before our families and friends,
I,, take you,.....
to be my husband,
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 we live.



Rings given and received with the words:

(Name of Bride),
I give you this ring in God's name,
as a symbol of all that we have promised
and all that we shall share

(Name of Bridegroom),
I give you this ring in God's name,
as a symbol of all that we have promised
and all that we shall share

I hope the information in this booklet is helpful. Please don't
hesitate to make contact if you have any further questions.

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