

# MARRIAGE INFORMATION BOOKLET

**A practical guide to planning your wedding ceremony in the Church of Ireland Parishes of *Dungiven and Bovevagh***



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## **Introduction**

Congratulations – you have chosen to affirm your relationship and love for each other through marriage and in the eyes of God.

This guide is intended to answer some of your questions about the journey ahead. The Rector is always available to clarify any point. As parishes we will be remembering you in prayer and asking God's blessing on the beginning of a new life together as husband and wife.

There are a number of practical things to consider which is the main aim of this booklet.

## **Marriage Notification and Marriage Schedule**

A religious marriage may only be performed by a person, for example a minister, priest or pastor, who has been registered as an Officiant and authorised by the Registrar General to conduct religious marriages.

In Northern Ireland Marriage Notification (Blue) forms need to be completed which for this area are available from Limavady Borough Council either by physically calling at the registrar's office or downloading from the internet site – type in *marriage registration nidirect* and follow the links. Bride and groom must complete one form each. An appointment is then made by the couple (or one of the parties) for these to be signed by the Rector/person conducting the ceremony. They must then be returned to the registrar by the couple.

Notice for all marriages must be given during the 12 month period prior to the date of the marriage. You must submit your notice early enough to allow the registrar to make sure both parties are free to marry one another. Three months prior is the norm for submissions.

A schedule is normally issued by LBC 2 weeks before the wedding date. This must be with the Rector no later than the rehearsal, but preferably as soon as it is received by you from the registrar.

This schedule is a very important registration document. Do not lose it.

The marriage register in church is now in almost identical format to the schedule and both will be signed on the day of the wedding. 2 witnesses are required, normally from among your attendants, both over 18.

## **Seeking marriage after divorce**

If such applies, the Church of Ireland position on this will be discussed before proceeding further.

## **Attendance at church prior to the wedding**

If it is not already the case, it is expected that you both (or one or other) will attend the church very regularly before the wedding, after the initial meeting with Rector. If it is your intention to make the church your spiritual home after the wedding you should be seeking out ways in which to become involved in our common life together, beyond simply the worship on Sundays. We hope and pray that this not only makes the wedding ceremony even more meaningful, but helps you to meet with the Lord, deepen your relationship as a couple and build a sound basis of faith for any extension of your family.

## **Marriage Preparation evening**

A date for this will be discussed by the Rector on the initial visit. It will most likely involve meeting with other couples who are planning to marry in the near future in one of the two churches. Marriage Preparation evenings are held twice a year and the Rector will discuss when is best for you to attend.

## Planning the marriage service

The Rector must see the proposed order of service *before* going to final print to check formatting, order etc.

### Hymns/Worship songs



Some ideas on hymns to get you started. All of these can be found in the red church hymn book. You are welcome to borrow a copy when you attend church. Please ask the Rector if you have thoughts outside of this list. Sung worship material from other hymn/worship books such as Vineyard, Spring Harvest, Songs of Fellowship, Mission Praise will be looked at favourably. **Secular songs/music will be considered on an individual basis, and then only I approved as entrance and exit music.** The Rector has the final say as to whether such music befits the sacredness, tone and context of the ceremony.

All Things Bright And Beautiful

Amazing Grace

Be Still For The Presence Of The Lord

For The Beauty Of The Earth

Give Me Joy In My Heart

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Lord Of All Hopefulness

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace

Morning Has Broken

One More Step Along The World I Go

O Praise Ye The Lord!

O Worship the King

Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty

Tell out my Soul

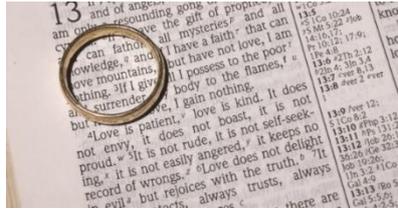
The King Of Love My Shepherd Is

The Lord's My Shepherd (traditional and version by Stuart Townend)

In Christ Alone

***Details of our available organists and pianists will be made available on request.***

## Wedding Bible Readings



Love, actually! The number 1 most popular reading for weddings is  
(1 Corinthians Chapter 13)

God creates women and men to look after the earth (Genesis, Chapter 1, verses 26-28)

A love poem between two lovers  
(Song of Solomon, Chapter 2, verses 10-13; Chapter 8, verses 6&7)

Jesus teaches how to live a life that brings true happiness  
(Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 1-10)

Jesus teaches about marriage, and welcomes children  
(Mark, Chapter 10, verses 6-9 and 13-16)

What happens when Jesus attends a wedding reception (John, Chapter 2, verses 1 - 11)

Committing to each other (Ephesians Chapter 5, verses 21-33)

Seeing the good side... (Philippians Chapter 4, verses 4 - 9)

Getting the perfect relationship (Colossians Chapter 3, verses 12 - 17)

*Other readings may be chosen.*

### Video recording

If a videographer is involved in the ceremony the designated person must have a recording licence.

Equally applicable to photographers – total discretion should be exercised in recording the event. The videographer/ photographer must contact the Rector one week before the ceremony to discuss the terms, conditions and logistics under which they will operate during the ceremony. There is a need to accommodate respect for the sacredness of the ceremony, whilst recognising a desire to capture those special moments to best advantage.

### Rehearsal

This normally takes place no more than 2-3 days before the wedding ceremony (there may be exceptional circumstances depending on the date of your wedding). The rehearsal will take place at the church on an evening, usually 7.00pm-7.45pm is suggested. It will last no more than 45 / 50 minutes. Approximately 12 orders of service should be brought to the rehearsal. Remember also to bring the marriage schedule (if it has not already been given to the Rector) and any fees clearly marked in an envelope(s).

Required attendance where possible - bride, groom, attendants, father of the bride and others playing a role that requires significant input.

### Church fees and donations

The policy on fees and donations in relation to weddings in your elected parish church will be provided by the Rector on the initial visit.