

THINKING OF GETTING MARRIED in Tranent Parish Church?



Here's some helpful information for you...

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE:

Marriage is a big step, possibly one of the biggest steps you will take in your whole life. It is good that you are considering taking that step in the Church, making your vows in the presence of God. The Church of Scotland encourages people to get married in their local church to enable ministers to carry out a code of good practice where a pastoral relationship is formed - making preparation before marriage and support after the wedding day if possible.

When we gather together in the church at a marriage service, we are making a public statement about 2 things:

1. Our belief in God who created us and made us to love each other and Him.
2. Our belief in Christian marriage as a vitally important commitment between a man and a woman to lifelong companionship and support.

The content of a church marriage service, including the vows, is designed to give expression to that deep sense of commitment.

The Minister would normally meet with you 2 or 3 times*:

The initial meeting: to discuss the possibility of getting married in Tranent Parish Church and what would be involved.

***The interim meeting [optional]:** to see how the preparation is going and discuss legalities and the details of the marriage service.

This can also be an opportunity to chat about important issues within marriage, such as:

**MONEY CHILDREN ARGUMENTS RELIGION RELATIVES
SEXUALITY**

All of us come into a relationship with certain ideas about all of these things and some couples find it helpful to air their views in confidence with a neutral third person, so that differences can be faced and explored early on.

The final meeting: in the week before the big day, to finalise arrangements and have a wedding rehearsal with key people.

See also: http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/life_events

THE SERVICE: Just as there are a lot of things to prepare in practical terms for a wedding ceremony, like: flowers, outfits, photographs etc., the service itself deserves some time and attention too.

VOWS: The traditional vows are usually along the lines of - "Before God and in the presence of our families and friends, I (*name*) declare my love for you (*name*) and 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." There are lots of variations on these words or bride & groom can write their own vows: it's simply a case of deciding, in discussion with the Minister, what you would like to say.

MUSIC: This can range from traditional hymns to appropriate CD tracks. Tranent Parish Church has an organist, Mrs Doreen Mack (0131 665 5797) who is happy to meet with couples and advise or try out music.

PHOTOS: Make sure to check with the Minister what limits there might be on photography during the service and details such as what will happen as you sign the register (Will there be music or not?). It is always worth checking if there are any big events taking place in the area of your wedding on that day, e.g. marathons or football matches, as this will affect timing of travel arrangements. Fees are usually paid for: the use of the church building; the organist; and the church officer. Details will be provided on request.

N.B. IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS: 3 MONTHS before the wedding, you should contact the local REGISTRAR (see <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/registration>) and ask for the required forms. These must be returned by you, along with your birth certificates, to the Registrar's Office, **no later than 29 days before the wedding. You must then pick up the Marriage Schedule the week before your wedding.** A MARRIAGE SCHEDULE IS A LEGALLY REQUIRED DOCUMENT – **NO WEDDING CAN TAKE PLACE WITHOUT IT!** IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OBTAIN IT & BRING IT TO THE REHEARSAL, then to **return it to the Registrar within the 3 days after the wedding.**

Bride's passport: If you are going abroad on honeymoon, you may wish to renew/replace your passport to show your married name. Ask at the PO for a post-dated passport application. The Minister will fill in the form, saying that you will be getting married on a future date, and the Passport Office will issue you with a passport in your married name, in advance of the wedding.

INVOLVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

If you would like anyone to read/sing/speak during the service, please discuss this early on with the Minister as she needs to have an overall view of everything that might be involved in order to shape the service appropriately. A copy of any words being used should be given to the Minister in advance to ensure that everything flows and fits together.

Small children: If there are going to be children involved e.g. as page boys or flower girls, be sure to discuss the practicalities of this with the Minister beforehand.

The Minister's job is not only to help you prepare to share in the wedding ceremony together but to remind you to **prepare for *marriage*** and not just 'the big day'. Therefore, if at any time you want to talk over anything mentioned here or any other issues, please feel free to get in touch.

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CONTACT THE MINISTER:

Rev Erica Wishart

Tel: 01875 704071

Mobile: 07503 170173

Email: ewishart@churchofscotland.org.uk

Website: www.tranentparishchurch.co.uk



NOTE: There is no longer a registration office in Tranent: to register a marriage, an appointment should be made with the office in either Musselburgh [Tel: 0131 653 5225] or Haddington [Tel: 01620 827308]