

Getting Married in Bowden and Melrose Church of Scotland

Marriage is a gift of God
and a means of grace.

In the life-long union of marriage
we can know the joy of God,
who made us in his own image,
male and female.

Marriage is founded in God's loving nature,
and in his covenant of love with us in Christ.

Husband and wife,
in giving themselves to each other in love,
reflect the love of Christ for his Church.

In Christian marriage,
wife and husband are called
to live faithfully together,
to love each other with respect,
tenderness and delight.

The companionship and comfort of marriage
enables the full expression
of physical love between husband and wife.

They share the life of a home
[and may be trusted
with the gift and care of children].

They help to shape a society
in which human dignity and happiness
may flourish and abound.

A marriage service is a service of worship. It includes hymns, prayers and readings from the Bible. During the service the bride and groom make their vows to one another and exchange rings.

Our hope is to make your marriage service as personal to you as possible. You choose the vows that you make to one another. You choose the music you want played and the hymns

that will be sung. You can involve friends and family. You are responsible for decorating the church.

The timing of the service will depend on what else you have planned for the day. It's best to start with the time you are to be seated for your meal and work back. Your photographer will advise you on the time s/he requires. Most services start between 1.00pm and 3.00pm.

The vows are the promises that you make to one another on your special day. Here are three suggestions that you can choose from or adapt:

Set 1

In the presence of God
and before these witnesses,
I, A . . . ,
give myself to you, B . . . ,
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.

Set 2

I, A . . . ,
take you, B . . . ,
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.

Set 3

Before God
and in the presence
of our families
and friends,
I, A . . . ,
declare my love
for you, B . . .
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.

Whilst there is no necessity for you to join the church we would be delighted to see you any Sunday morning for worship at 9.30am in Bowden or 11.00am in Melrose. For more information about church events check out our website www.bowdenandmelroseparish.org

The locum minister, Rev Donald Scott, will meet with you several times before your wedding and for the wedding rehearsal. You can contact him on 077200 40081 or email Donald.scott@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Organist, Mr James Letham, telephone 01896 756554 would be happy to meet with you to discuss hymns and choice of voluntaries. (Mr Letham is usually available after morning worship in Melrose.) If there is to be a guest organist, Mr Letham's consent is required.

Some practical things...

The Legal Requirements:

By law, both parties to a proposed civil or religious marriage are required to submit marriage notice forms to the Registrar of the district in which the marriage is to take place. Notice must be given in the three month period prior to the date of marriage and not later than 29 days before that date. The Registrar will issue the Marriage Schedule and this document must be produced on the day of the wedding. **NO MARRIAGE SCHEDULE, NO WEDDING!** The completed Schedule must be returned to the Registrar's office within three days of the marriage.

Fees:

It currently costs £530 to be married in Bowden Kirk or Melrose Parish Church. This covers the hire of the building, the payment to the organist and the beadle and goes some way towards the upkeep of a beautiful historic building. To book

your wedding, you must contact the office for a booking form and pay a deposit of £100.

Photography:

During the service we would ask that your photographer is discreet and takes any photos without a flash. Photos can be taken as you sign the register and as you arrive and leave. Your guests are asked to refrain from taking photos during the service of worship. If the weather is inclement, you are most welcome to use the church for photos after the service.