

NEWBATTLE PARISH

GETTING MARRIED IN CHURCH

A guide for couples



GETTING MARRIED IN CHURCH

From Gordon Steven, Deacon at Newbattle Parish Church

I am delighted that you are considering getting married. As you will have realised, since the announcement of your engagement, all sorts of people will be giving you advice on how to put together the perfect day to celebrate your love and commitment to one another. This leaflet is designed to help you if you are considering getting married in one of Newbattle's three churches.

1. A talk with the deacon

Usually this will take place in one of your own homes. I need to know a bit about you before letting you know whether I can marry you in church. There are practical things like dates (even deacons have holidays!) and legal matters, if you have been married before. Some of our discussion will also be about the special nature of Christian marriage: my job is to bring you before God to take some serious vows. Don't be intimidated by the thought of this talk: I'm actually quite friendly, and I'm married too! One piece of advice other couples have found useful: don't book anything else until we've had this talk.

2. Marriage preparation

In Newbattle parish, we are committed to giving you the best possible chance of taking vows that last a lifetime. For this reason, I ask all couples to attend our Marriage Preparation meetings. Other than in exceptional circumstances, I see this as an essential part of couples' planning for their marriage – you really do need to be there. They are very informal and are run by a couple who themselves have been married for a number of years. Previous couples who have attended these meetings have found them helpful, and enjoyable. David and Carolyn will contact you to arrange to meet you.

3. Come to church

You will enjoy your wedding day much more if you are relaxed and "at home" in the church in which you are being married. You will also feel confident if you know the way I conduct worship. Your wedding is a service of worship in which God will be involved, so it would help if you get used to coming and meeting with Him at church! Regular services are held at Newbattle (10am), Newtongrange (11.30am) and Mayfield & Easthouses (11.30am).

4. Fill out the Marriage Form

It's available from me, or at the Marriage Preparation meetings. It's designed so that everyone in the church who needs to know about your wedding is informed.

5. At least one month before the wedding...

...six weeks before if you are divorced – you should go to the Registrar (2-4 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, (0131-0131 271 3281/2, web address: dkregistrar@midlothian.gov.uk) to collect the relevant forms.

6. Music

Ask for help from the organist, or close friends or family, if you are unsure what music you would like. We have easy access to sources such as Church Hymnary 3 and 4, and Mission Praise. It is best to choose music with words you both know – it's your day – but it helps if the people attending your wedding know them too. I'm not fond of singing solo!

7. Vows

Ask for help from me in choosing these, so that we can discuss what you would want to promise in front of God.

8. The Big Day

On the day of the wedding, the ushers should arrive 30 minutes before the time of the ceremony. The groom and best man should be there 20 minutes beforehand. The groom's parents should be there 15 minutes before, and the bridesmaids and the mother of the bride 10 minutes before the service. The bride, and whoever is giving her away, should be on time!

9. Flowers

We will distribute these after the next Sunday service of worship, to people who are ill or elderly in the parish, unless you wish to keep them.

10. Photography

We want you to have a good record of your wedding. Your photographer, and also friends and family, can take photographs in the church during the signing of the register and as you walk down the aisle at the end of the ceremony: it's OK to use flash.

11. Video

Someone with a camcorder can get a clear view and good sound quality in each church: behind the piano at Mayfield & Eashouses; in the gallery at Newbattle; and in the transept at Newtongrange. Ask me to show you where these places are at or before the rehearsal.

12. Do's and don'ts

Your wedding is a service of worship. Please respect this by ensuring that:

- Your guests don't take photos during the service, except as described above
- Your camcorder operator stays in the agreed place until the end of the service.

13. The rehearsal

Arrange a date with me – normally during the week before your wedding. You should bring:

- the Marriage Schedule: you will need to collect this from the Registrar during the week before the wedding. It is absolutely crucial: no Schedule, no wedding!
- The fees. If you have not already contacted the Treasurer (see next column)
- Orders of service, if you are producing one. However, it's fine to use the hymn books at the church if you prefer.
- The bridal party! Everyone needs to feel comfortable in the church, so bring the bride, groom, best man, bridesmaids, the person accompanying the bride down the aisle (usually her father) and anyone else who would otherwise feel "left out" of the rehearsal. But no pets, please!

14. Fees

Fees for the use of one of the churches are:

| | Member | Non-member |
|----------------|--------|------------|
| Organist | £40 | £40 |
| Church Officer | £40 | £40 |
| Church | nil | £80 |
| Total | £80 | £160 |

There is no charge for the deacon.

Cheques should be made payable to "Newbattle Parish Church" and should be sent to the church Treasurer, who will be responsible for the payment of the officials concerned. Her address is:

Jean Houston
49, James Lean Avenue
Dalkeith EH22 2AB
0131-654 2094

15. And finally...

Getting married is like setting out on a journey. As the minister who marries you, I commit myself and the people of our church to caring for both of you throughout your marriage. You can come to us to share the good times and the tough times, knowing that we will support you in our prayers and in whatever other ways we can. God bless.

Gordon Steven

Phone: 0131-669 2054

Email: grsteven@btinternet.com

Our regular church services are:

Newbattle Church, Newbattle Road, Dalkeith, EH22 3LJ:10am

Newtongrange Church, Main Street, Newtongrange. EH22 4LU: 11.30am

Mayfield & Easthouses Church, Bogwood Road, Mayfield, Dalkeit, EH22 5AD: 11.30am

You can visit our website at: www.newbattleparish.org

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