

Weddings

Over hundreds of years couples have come to be married in these picturesque settings. You don't need to be a member of the Church to be married in Church but what you do need to consider is that marriage in Church is a Christian marriage, held before God, during which you will make vows to each other of love and faithfulness. In a Christian marriage service God's blessing is asked for you and for your relationship, your promises to each other are made in his name and your future is entrusted to his hands.

If you would like to enquire more about marriage in either of our churches, please contact the church office for the wedding leaflet and Request Form. The Request Form should be sent to the church office either by email or post. The Secretary will be able to answer any immediate questions, advise about fees etc, and will put you in touch with the minister who will meet with you and discuss the possibility of your marriage taking place in the church of your choice.

Notice of Marriage

A church wedding in Scotland is a civil ceremony and to satisfy the law in Scotland all weddings have to be approved and registered through the National Registrar's office.

Papers that need be completed and submitted to the Registrar for each person include: the Marriage Notice Form (M10), Birth Certificates (original or certified copies), and Divorce Papers, if applicable (Original Decree Absolute or certified copies).

Where do I submit these documents?

These need to be submitted to the Registrar closest to the location of your wedding ceremony.

Please contact the Registrar to make an appointment.

The Registrar's Office for the parish of Aberlady and Gullane is:
John Muir House, Brewery Park, Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 3HA
Telephone: [01620 827308](tel:01620827308)

When do I need to submit the documents?

Documents need to be submitted to the area Registrar no sooner than 3 months prior to your wedding and no later than 15 days prior to your wedding. It is imperative that you apply within this timescale because if your papers are not with the Registrar 15 days before your wedding day, the Registrar is not obliged to process them, and your wedding will not take place.

The Marriage Schedule

The Marriage Schedule will be issued by the Registrar in the week prior to the wedding. This is a very important document.

Please Note: If you do not have this document at the wedding service you cannot be married.

Meeting the Minister

Eight weeks before your wedding, both parties should arrange to see the Minister to discuss the details of the service and the rehearsal. At the rehearsal the wedding couple, best man/woman, bridesmaid(s)/groomsmen and any other people who will be taking a key part in the ceremony should be present.

IMPORTANT

The Marriage Schedule must be brought to the Church on the day of the rehearsal. The schedule is signed during the service by the wedding couple, the minister and two witnesses.

After the wedding ceremony, you need to return the marriage schedule to the Registrar within three working days.

How soon after my wedding will I receive the marriage certificate?

You will receive this by post, usually within the month. Please ask the registrar.

Music in the Church

There are usually two hymns sung during the wedding service. Processional music (sometimes played by a piper), is normally played while one or more of the wedding parties enters and leaves the Church. Additional music, choirs, soloists, etc can also be part of the wedding service.

Photographs in the Church

Please advise your photographer and guests that flash photographs are not allowed during the marriage service. A photographer may take photographs, but we ask that they are discreet and remember that the focus of the wedding is the service and the vows. A video may be taken, if the videographer has the necessary licences, this should be discussed with the Minister beforehand.

Flowers in the Church

If you wish to leave your flowers in the Church after the service, our Flower Group will arrange for them to be distributed to the sick and/or elderly within the Parish. Please advise the Minister. Access to place your wedding flowers in the church can be arranged through the minister or church secretary.