

First and foremost, you have chosen Christian Marriage. Give time to praising God and asking his blessing in the weeks ahead. The more room you make for him in your preparations the greater will be the awareness of his presence with you in love.

Heavenly Father, bless us both, that the marriage for which we are preparing may be built upon the sure foundation of our love for you as well as for each other, and the home which we shall build may ever know your presence, your joy, and your peace.



*The Church of Scotland
The Stewartry of Strathearn
(Aberdalgie Aberuthven Dunning Forteviot)*

Preparing for your Marriage

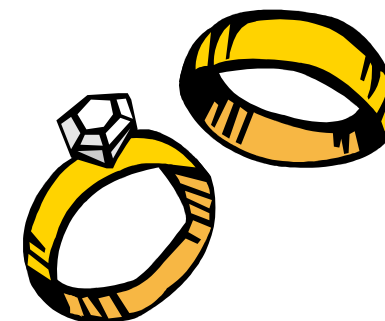
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Marriage will normally take place in the sanctuary. Only in exceptional cases, such as illness, will the ceremony take place in a location other than the church.

When it is Christian marriage that is chosen it is appropriate that the service take place in the building set apart to witness to the Faith, the building within which our Lord meets the community of his people in Word and Sacrament. Even the quietest marriage ceremonies when only the parties themselves are present are richly blessed by the setting of sacred space.

We are delighted to learn of your plan to marry. This leaflet contains information which we hope you will find helpful as you prepare for the day itself.

GIVING NOTICE

The law of Scotland requires you to give notice of your intention to marry. This is done by each party completing a Marriage Notice form obtained from the District Registrar and returning them with the relevant documents (birth certificates and where appropriate, divorce papers). These must be lodged with the Registrar not less than 15 days before the marriage (we would recommend 5 – 6 weeks beforehand). The Registrar charges a fee. Not more than 7 days before the marriage one of the parties should collect from the Registrar a Marriage Schedule. This Schedule must be present at the time of the service or the marriage cannot proceed. Aberdalgie and Forteviot are within the registration district of Perth and the Registrar's office is at 3 – 5 High Street.

Dunning and Aberuthven are within the registration district of Auchterarder, the office being at 91 High Street.

MEETING THE MINISTER

In preparing for your marriage you will meet with the minister on at least three occasions, to arrange details of the service, to talk about marriage in general and to confirm that arrangements are going smoothly

THE SERVICE

The service in all four Churches follows the form and order given in "Common Order", the Church of Scotland's service

book. The minister will take time to explain the structure of the service and he will assist you to choose hymns (the service provides for three) and a form of words for the affirmation shared by the congregation.

SERVICE SHEETS

It is preferable to offer the congregation a full service sheet rather than merely a hymn sheet. This will show all the elements of the service and will include the words of affirmation. This need cost little more than a hymn sheet from a printer. Alternatively, the minister is able to produce a desktop published sheet at minimal cost. You may, of course, decide there is no need for stationery at all and opt for using hymn books. You can discuss this when you meet the minister.

WHO TO CONTACT AT THE CHURCH

The organist should be kept informed. Apart from hymns, you will want to choose appropriate music for leaving church after the service.

FLOWERS

Normally you will make your own arrangements for flowers in church. There is a flower stand in the chancel area. If you require help or advice, speak to the minister. Should you wish to leave some or all of the flowers for the Sunday service we will be very grateful. We would appreciate knowing this some time in advance so that the flower rota list can be amended.

FEES

There is no fee for the minister's services. A fee of £100.00 (£200.00 where neither party is a member of the congregation) is payable to the Congregational Treasurer. This fee is inclusive of payments which will

be made to the Organist and the Church Officer. Cheques should be made payable to "The Stewartry of Strathearn".

REHEARSAL

It is helpful to meet at the church before the wedding day (possibly on the evening before). This is an informal gathering when everyone is able to see the places they will occupy during the service and last minute questions can be answered. Arrange the date and time for this with the minister. The bride's escort, Best Man, bridesmaids and ushers should come. Bring the Registrar's Marriage Schedule and give it to the minister at the rehearsal.

ARRIVING FOR THE SERVICE

The ushers should be in church in time to greet the first guests to arrive. The Groom and Best Man should arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins. The Bride should remember that there will probably be photographs to be taken before the service and make allowance for this. She should be on time. Being late is not a privilege, it is a discourtesy to the congregation. The minister is entitled to begin the service at the time stated.

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