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YOUR CHURCH WEDDING



Your guide to getting married at
Arbuthnott, Bervie & Kinneff Church

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Congratulations!

Firstly, let me congratulate you on your engagement! Preparing for marriage together is an exciting thing, and we as the ABK Church family want to help you all we can. This is a guide to all things wedding related at ABK Church. If there's any other questions, please get in touch with me as I would love to help.

The Bible describes marriage as a something God created at the beginning to bring men and women together in a life-long union for the ultimate good of humanity. It is the coming together of two to become one, where husband and wife promise to love each other, and uniquely commit to each other for life. I was married to Kirsty in August 2017, and I quickly learned that being married is an adventure, and an exciting challenge, and it is such a privilege to help you in this journey of adventure that you two now plan on taking together. I'll be praying for you both throughout this process. If there's anything I can particularly pray for – no matter how big or small it may seem (it doesn't have to be wedding related) - please let me know.

Together with our wider ABK Church family, we make it our goal to provide a personalised wedding ceremony that reflects the couple who are coming together, and their love and commitment to one another. We are very happy to work with you to make this most special of days as meaningful to you as we can as you begin married life together. Let me leave you with some verses from the Bible about love and marriage.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate. (Mark 10:9)

Rev. Andrew Morrison

Minister of Arbuthnott, Bervie and Kinneff Parish Church

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To find out more about our ABK Church family & to connect with us, find us online:

www.arbuthnottbervieandkinneff.org.uk/

Find us on Facebook, YouTube or Twitter. Just search: *ABK Church*

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

While we at ABK Church, along with Christians around the world, see marriage as something that God created first for humanity, marriage is of course also a legal act as well.

No Christian Minister is compelled to marry any couple, but in virtually all cases, Andrew would be delighted to perform every wedding he is asked about. However, if either of you have been married before, or if there is anything else you think that Andrew should know about your relationship, or previous relationships, about please inform him as soon as possible.

Before Andrew is allowed to legally marry any couple, legal paperwork needs to be obtained by the couple in advance. Thus, no later than 6 weeks before the marriage, you should obtain, complete and return to the local Registrar's Office a **Marriage Notice Application**. Once this is done, you then collect the **Marriage Schedule** from the Registrar before the wedding.

Without this Marriage Schedule the wedding cannot take place. We can have a nice day together without it, but you will not legally be allowed to be married.

The Marriage Notice Application form to get a Marriage Schedule can be found on this link:
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//registration/m10-notes-and-m10-form-revised-october-2015.pdf>

If you have any questions about this, please contact a Registrar's Office. The closest one to Inverbervie is in Stonehaven. Viewmount, Arduithie Road, Stonehaven, AB39 2DQ. 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday. Tel: 01569 690540 Email: stonehaven.registrar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Further information on the legal aspects to marriage in Scotland can be found here:
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//registration/rm1-leaflet-revised.pdf>

CHURCH ARRANGEMENTS

If you are choosing to get married in one of our church buildings, then here are some of the things you might need to know. You could get married in Arbuthnott Church, Bervie Church, or Gourdon Mission Hall. Even if you are getting married elsewhere, a lot of this is still relevant to your wedding day.

Music /Organist / Pianist: If you'd like someone to play organ or piano at any point during your wedding ceremony, we are able to offer the services of an organist who would be delighted to play for you. In addition, music can be played through our sound system. CD's tend to be easiest. Furthermore, in Bervie Church, images/videos etc. can be projected onto the front screens. These should be given to us a few days before to ensure all is working.

Church Caretaker: For Bervie Church, please book the services of Margaret Gray (01561 361346) to make sure church is open and ready for you on the Wedding Day. For Arbuthnott Church, please book the *services of (tbc)*

Service Sheets: Please have these printed in good time and arrange for them to be taken to the Wedding or rehearsal (Hymn words can be displayed on the screens as well in Bervie Church).

Rehearsal: We would usually hold a rehearsal a day or so before the wedding in the Church, but if that's not possible, another time can be arranged. The Bride, Bride's Father, Groom, Best Man and Bridesmaids etc. should be there. Please bring the Marriage Schedule with you.

Flowers: these should be set up, if possible, during the rehearsal, or other arranged time with the Church Caretaker. It is customary for couples to leave flowers for the Sunday services, for them then to be later distributed to the sick and bereaved in our community. Please let the caretaker know what you plan to do with flowers – and if you plan to remove any of the flowers after the Wedding or Sunday Service.

Photography & Videography: We understand that everyone wants photos of the happy couple, but we respectfully ask that your wedding guests should not use their cameras during the service at all. We invite them to thoroughly enjoy the celebration, and let the professional photographer do their job. The official photographer should take non-flash photos from the upstairs gallery or from another fixed position, provided they are not obscuring the sight line of guests. Likewise, a video recording of the service can be taken from the gallery or/and such a fixed position.

Payment: Churches depend almost totally on donations for their routine month-to month income. As a payment for using ABK Church, we would ask you to consider a gift of around £600, which allows us to continue to maintain our historic buildings, provide cleaning, heating and lighting, and the services of an organist. Most of all, it helps us to continue to serve and love our wider community. Please contact Sandra Wright (01561 362509; sandraw59@btinternet.com), to arrange payment. Payment can be made via bank transfer, cash or cheque.

No fee is required for the Minister, as conducting marriages is part of the job of a Minister, but if you really want to express appreciation, an Amazon gift token is recommended.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Here's how a Marriage Ceremony might look.

Before the Service

Ushers should arrive at least **45 minutes** before the service, with the Wedding Ceremony Orders of Service to hand to guests on arrival.

Groom and Best Man meet briefly with Andrew about **15 minutes** before the service – ensuring that we have the **Marriage Schedule and Ring(s)**.

Bride and Bridesmaids make sure chauffeur arrives on time or no more than 5 minutes late. Being late might be seen as 'traditional', but – from experience - we would urge you to avoid it as it often annoys guests, as well as delays the photographer, and your evening arrangements too – making you more stressed out later.

The Service

While there is no fixed order for a wedding ceremony, below is what a traditional service might be like. Andrew is very happy to discuss your hopes for the wedding and make it as personal as possible for you and your guests.

When the Bridal Party are in position at the front, Andrew welcomes the congregation and helps to set the scene by explaining what we mean by Christian marriage and what God's purposes for marriage are:

- *The secure life-long companionship of husband and wife.*
- *The best setting for the full expression of physical love between man and woman.*
- *The secure and happy setting for the upbringing of children.*
- *The well-being of human society.*

Then addressing the Bride and Groom, Andrew asks for your intent:

Bridegroom / Bride:, will you take to be your wife / husband?

Family & Friends will then be briefly asked for their assurance of support as you enter marriage. A short prayer would be prayed, and then we would then usually sing the first hymn.

After this, the Bride and Groom take each other's hands, for the sharing of the vows.

The Vows

As part of the wedding, the couple make promises to each other before God and the congregation. Often, they are spoken in full by each other. They can be said by the Minister and repeated by each person. Alternatively, they can be done in the form of a question posed by Andrew, to which the Bride and Groom would say "I do". The usual vows are:

**In the presence of God and before these witnesses,
I, (name), take you (name), to be my wife / husband,
To have and to hold from this day forward,
For better, for worse;
For richer, for poorer;
In sickness and in health;
In joy and in sorrow;
To love and to cherish
And to be faithful to you alone,
As long as we both shall live.**

Rings are then exchanged in the usual fashion and the couple pronounced "husband and wife"; At this point the groom and bride usually celebrate with a kiss.

Following this a short prayer will be made for you both asking God's blessing on your life together. The congregation then sit down, the bride takes her flowers back & Bible readings are read. Andrew will then give a short address about marriage based on the Bible to encourage the Bride and Groom as they begin married life together. After a prayer the final hymn is sung, and Andrew will close the service with a blessing upon everyone.

The bridal party follow Andrew for the signing of the schedule (which must be sent to the Registrar's Office within a week after the wedding day).

After this done, your close family members can join the line-up for the aisle procession to the Church entrance where the photographer will take over (and everyone will cheer as you leave together as Husband and Wife!)

This is a normal order of service, however let Andrew know if you have other ideas to be included, or you would like other friends or family to be involved in any way.

Wedding Reception

If you require Andrew's services as a 'Master of Ceremony', provided he is available, and you have shown a willingness to give being part of the church family, and the Good News of Jesus a chance in your life, he will be delighted to assist (on receipt of an invitation).

Otherwise, there is absolutely no obligation to invite Andrew and his wife, Kirsty, to your wedding reception/ evening events. But, any invite, if you feel moved to offer one, will be warmly received.

MARRIAGE IS FOR LIFE

Your wedding should be an exceptionally happy occasion! Don't worry about doing things right in the ceremony, rather **relax** and enjoy it. However, the Bible shows us that the vows you take are very important and serious, so we urge you to think carefully about their meaning, together, well in advance and closer to the day. Andrew's very happy to discuss and chat more about this.

We encourage you to attend worship at our church services regularly before and after the Wedding Day. Many would attest to the how a shared Christian faith is one of the strongest things that can bind couples together in love **for life**. We meet at 9:30am in Arbuthnott or 11am in Bervie each Sunday. Come to any of our services, whatever suits you best. Children's activities are available at Bervie Church every Sunday.

We also suggest you check out www.twowaystolive.com and read the short book entitled 'Original Jesus' by Carl Laferton, which explain more about what it means to be a Christian and who Jesus is. Andrew can get you a free copy of 'Original Jesus' if you'd like one.

Also, each year we put on an Alpha Course, which is a simple and friendly introduction to the Christian faith - without any pressure to join the church or become a Christian as a result. By attending, you will give Jesus, Christianity and the Church a chance to influence your relationship for good at this important time in your life when you are calling upon their services.

We wish you a long and happy life together! May you know God's peace and love as you plan your wedding and your life together as Husband and Wife.