

Getting married at Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church

Many congratulations on your engagement. Getting married in Church is in the context of a Christian service of worship. It is a joyful and serious occasion, as you make a commitment to each other and seek God's blessing upon your marriage and future life together.

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1. The Church and Contact Information

Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church is a historic Church of Scotland parish church built in 1820 (and is a "Category A" listed building). Photographs of the inside of the Church are available on the website.

Saturdays in summer tend to be popular for weddings and can get booked up many months in advance.

2. Costs

Many people are concerned that getting married in Church will be very expensive. A Church wedding can actually cost remarkably little; the fee to the Church is one of the smallest costs – it is the other things that can soon mount up. If you are worried about the costs of a "big wedding" the Minister can give useful tips on planning your special day without breaking the bank.

There is a **fee of £300** to cover the cost of the organist, church officer, heating, lighting and the upkeep of the church building, but in circumstances of hardship this can be reduced. The Church Hall is available for hire for a reception (for a small fee). Donations to the Church are always welcome. **To secure your booking, a deposit of £100 is payable** (this is non-refundable, except [1] where at least six months notice of cancellation or change of date has been given, or [2] in exceptional circumstances such as illness).

3. Legal Requirements

To get married in Scotland **you must contact the local Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages**. If you want to get married at Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church, then you must contact:

Registrar's Office
 Midlothian Council
 Fairfield House
 8 Lothian Road
 DALKEITH
 EH22 3ZN
 Telephone 0131 271 3281

You should contact the Registrar's office as early as possible (several months in advance); the Registrar will advise you exactly what you need to do. Do not leave this to the last possible date (15 days before the wedding) – if there are any problems with your paperwork then you may be too late.

The Registrar will issue you with a **Marriage Schedule** – this is the document which is signed at the wedding by the bride, groom, minister and two witnesses. The bride or groom will need to collect this in person during the week before the wedding. The current fee (subject to change) charged by the Registrar for a Marriage Schedule is £70.

Remember: NO SCHEDULE = NO WEDDING!!!

If you are not a British citizen and/or are not a British resident, or are divorced, you may require additional documents. The Registrar can advise you.

Most Church weddings have many guests (the church can seat nearly 400). Alternatively, it is also possible to have a very small number of guests. The legal minimum is two people to act as witnesses, plus the bride, groom and Minister.

For more information regarding marriage law in Scotland, please see the website of the National Records of Scotland (formerly General Register Office): <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk>

4. Planning your Wedding

You should come to Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church to attend a Sunday service (11.30 am). You'll be able to see inside the church and meet the Minister () and Organist (Mr Graham Burnside). The Minister personally conducts most of the weddings, but occasionally another Minister will substitute. Most couples like to arrange a **rehearsal**, usually a day or two before the wedding. Please bring your **Marriage Schedule** and the **fee** (totalling £200 after deducting the £100 deposit) to the rehearsal.

Here are the **vows** that are exchanged at a traditional Church of Scotland wedding:

“In the presence of God and before these witnesses I, [A]... give myself to you, [B]..., to be your wife/husband and take you now to be my husband/wife. I promise to love you, to be faithful and loyal to you, for as long as we live.”

You have a choice: whether to memorise them, repeat line by line (prompted by the Minister) or to respond “I do”. But think about them seriously; they sum up the deep commitment you will make to each other on your wedding day.

You may wish to make arrangements for **flowers** and **photographs**, etc. It is customary to leave **flowers** in place for the following Sunday service. Prior access for florists should be arranged through Mr Robinson, the Church Officer (tel 07874 054 303). Photographers are welcome (including for video), but it is preferred that photographs are not taken during the service. Photographers must not walk around during the service. No flash photography is permitted during the service – either by an official photographer or by guests. Posed photographs may be taken (including flash or video) after the service.

The throwing of **confetti** or rice is strictly prohibited inside the Church and is discouraged outside. If, however, you do wish to use confetti it may be used outside only once all the doors of the Church are closed. Cigarette butts must not be dropped in the grounds of the Church.

Guests coming to the wedding should park in the new Cemetery **Car Park** (first turning on the left after Cockpen Road Roundabout, in direction of the Church). The postcode of the nearest house to the Church is **EH19 3HT** – this may be useful for car drivers using a SatNav.

Please note that the gate to the church from the road (used by wedding limousines) is narrow and the entrance is tight. It may be too narrow for some very wide limousines; this should be checked in advance.

If you are not already a member of Cockpen and Carrington Parish Church, please do consider **joining**. The Minister would be delighted hear from you about this.

If you have any requests or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Minister.

5. Outline Order of Service for Weddings

*Items for you to choose are listed in **bold** text:*

Entrance of the Bride to **Organ Music** (the congregation stands)

Welcome & Call to Worship (Minister)

Hymn

Statement (Minister)

Prayer (Minister)

Exchange of **Vows** (you have a choice: whether to fully memorise the vows, to repeat the vows line by line, or to respond “I do”)

Giving and Receiving of the Rings

Declaration of Marriage (Minister)

Blessing of the Marriage (Minister)

Opportunity for **additional music** if desired (possibly a singer, organ or quartet)

Bible Reading (read by the Minister or a relative or friend – the Minister can advise on a choice of readings). Possible readings include: (a) St John 2: 1-11, (b) I Corinthians 13, (c) Ephesians 3: 14-21 or (d) another of your choice

Short address based on the Bible reading (Minister)

Prayer (Minister)

Hymn

Benediction (Minister)

Signing of the Marriage Schedule with **Organ Music**

Exit of the newly-married couple to **Organ Music** (the congregation stands)

6. Possible Hymns

You should speak with Mr Burnside (the Church Organist) who will be happy to advise you on choices of hymns and other music.

Here are some of many possible hymns:

- 63 – All people that on earth do dwell (Psalm 100)
- 115 – Love is the touch of intangible joy
- 124 – Praise to the Lord
- 127 – O worship the King
- 132 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise
- 147 – All creatures of our God and King
- 153 – Great is thy faithfulness
- 159 – Lord, for the years
- 160 – Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
- 166 – Lord of all hopefulness
- 167 – Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
- 181 – For the beauty of the earth
- 182 – Now thank we all our God
- 189 – Be still, for the presence of the Lord
- 200 – Christ is made the sure foundation
- 212 – Morning has broken
- 462 – The King of love my shepherd is
- 519 – Love Divine, all loves excelling
- 528 – Make me a channel of your peace
- 555 – Amazing grace
- 562 – Through the love of God our Saviour
- 598 – Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire
- 696 – We come, dear Lord, to celebrate the love our friends have found
- 697 – Let's praise the Creator who gave us each other
- 698 – The grace of life is theirs who on this wedding day
- 699 – God beyond glory, gracious and holy
- 700 – As man and woman we were made
- 715 – Behold! The mountain of the Lord

7. A small scale Wedding Ceremony?

It is also possible to have a wedding service on a very small scale, with only the couple, the minister and two witnesses (plus a few guests if desired). Please ask the Minister for more information; two witnesses can be arranged if necessary.



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
COCKPEN & CARRINGTON PARISH CHURCH
Midlothian, Scotland

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Website: www.church.cockpen.co.uk

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