

GETTING MARRIED IN DALSERF PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Booking the Date

Normally the church will be booked for the date of your wedding only after your interview in person with the minister. Filling in the form involves no obligation either way, this is primarily for administration purposes. It is important to arrange an interview with the minister as soon as possible. In the case of a wedding conducted by another minister the date and time should be confirmed in writing to avoid as far as possible any misunderstanding.

The Legal Requirements

It is necessary for each of you to fill up a "Notice of Marriage" form and take or send these with your birth certificates to Hamilton Registry Office about four weeks before the wedding. (The above forms are obtained from the Registry Office). Within the seven days before the wedding, at least one of you must go in person to the Registrar to pick up the schedule which must then be brought to the wedding to be signed by bride, groom, minister and two witnesses. The schedule is then entrusted to someone to return to The Registrar within three working days.

Photography

There is no objection to the taking of photographs provided this does not intrude unduly on the service. If a flash is being used, the taking of photographs should be restricted to the processions or during the hymn singing. Photographers are asked not to move around the church during the service.

Flowers

The responsibility for putting flowers into the church is your own, although we may be able to handle this for you if so desired. Access to the church for this purpose may be obtained by contacting the church officers at least three days before the wedding. If you are leaving the flowers to the church it would be most helpful if you could let us know at least one week before the wedding. Your cooperation in this will be much appreciated.

Parking

It would be greatly appreciated, especially where a large number of cars are expected, if you were able to arrange for someone - possibly one of the guests - to check that parking, in the village and church car park is done in such a way as to cause no obstruction to the access of any of the residents in the village. Coaches should not proceed beyond the wide opening to the right just before the first cottage, except to reverse into the opening.

Church Fees

£220 Total, made up as follows:-

£100 for use of church (members of Dalsersh Church and children of members exempt)

£80 for the Organist (£40 if not videoed)

£40 for Church Officer (preparing church, door duty on wedding day, etc.)

Any change to these amounts will not be applied without at least three months notice being given before the wedding. The most convenient way to pay the fees is for each of the above sums to be in separate envelopes marked "Organist", "Church Officer" and "Church". Payment may be made by cash or cheque, at or prior to the wedding rehearsal.

Music

Please try to inform the organist of your hymns and music at least six weeks before the wedding. The minister and organist will be happy to give advice on hymns and music if required.

Useful names addresses and phone numbers**Minister:**

Rev. Dr. D. Cameron McPherson
Dalserf Manse,
Manse Brae,
Dalserf,
Larkhall
ML9 3BN

Tel. Larkhall (01698) 882195

Organist:

Miss Lesley Blackwood B.Sc.

Tel. (01698) 885606

Church officer:

Mrs Kathleen Caulfield
1 Kirk Road,
Dalserf,
Larkhall.

Tel.: Larkhall (01698) 889795

The Register Office:

The Town House,
102 Cadzow Street,
Hamilton
ML3 6HH

Tel. 016978 454263.

Additional Notes

If you wish to use your own organist, permission must first be sought from the Dalserf organist to whom the fee is still due unless she has agreed to waive it.

It is important to contact the Dalserf minister directly regarding any significant changes in relation to your wedding, even where he himself is not conducting the wedding.

While young children are a delight to have around they can easily and innocently disrupt a wedding ceremony. Please try to find a diplomatic way of asking relatives or friends with young children to ensure that for the relatively short time of the service they are well under control in the church. It would probably be advisable to have very young page boys and flower girls sit with an adult rather than stand at the front for the duration of the service. Your co-operation in

this matter will be much appreciated and serve to ensure that your wedding day is as memorable as possible for the right reasons.

The Reception

If requested, the minister will, if available, be happy to attend the reception in order to say grace and be chairman for the speeches. Increasingly hotels have their own Master of Ceremonies or you may wish to adopt the English style of reception where the best man is the chairman. The minister however, can never quite guarantee that he will be free to attend especially on a Saturday. To avoid any misunderstanding, please be sure to ask the minister if you wish him to attend

The order of speeches

There is no good reason why you could not have the speeches in any order you choose but at a typical Scottish reception the order would be as follows:-

Chairman announces the start of the speeches and calls on the best man to read the cards; chairman gives speech and proposes toast to bride and groom; groom replies giving his speech and at the end proposing a toast to the bridesmaids; the best man replies giving his speech (usually containing one or two humorous and sometimes embarrassing anecdotes concerning the groom); bride's father and then groom's father would conclude with, in each case, a warm word of welcome into the family for the new son or daughter-in-law.

The speeches would normally be made after the meal but again you may wish to defy tradition and have the speeches beforehand. Occasionally a couple will choose to do this.

Couples getting married in Dalserf Church will be most welcome at any service of worship there. Sunday Worship at Dalserf is at 11.30am (10.30 during July and August) and lasts about one hour. A general leaflet about Dalserf Church and also a booklet about the history of the church and parish "A Short Historical Account of Dalserf Parish Church" are available.

This information is available on the Dalserf Church website: www.dalserf.org