

# YOUR WEDDING IN ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL



This is an important document. Please read it carefully and make a copy so that you have it to hand when you are making your preparations.

The Minister  
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01856 873312  
[minister@stmagnus.org](mailto:minister@stmagnus.org)

## A FEW THOUGHTS FIRST....

We are very glad to welcome you to St Magnus Cathedral as you begin to make your marriage plans. There are many different things to which you will be giving your attention in the next months, and some at least are dealt with in this guide. We hope it will be of help to you and your relatives and friends.

There should always be more to a Cathedral wedding than thoughts of a lovely occasion. First of all, think about what a wedding is for. It's a celebration! You're affirming your love, trust and faithfulness to your partner before your family and friends. You're also telling society that you and your partner are a new family unit. Marriage is quite different from simply living together, when family and community don't really know whether or not you are a family, and whether or not you'll be staying together. And without the security of marriage, living together isn't even a fair trial of marriage, and in all probability there will not have been a solemn or spoken promise of love made in public.

Family life is one of the integral parts of life as we know it, and its importance to the well-being of society is a generally accepted fact. It is the most fundamental of human relationships. This is just another way of expressing the Christian view that loving relationships are a key for all people. It is, therefore, one of the most important steps you will ever take.

And so there is good reason for being married within the context of the Christian faith, and this is something about which you should be thinking at this time.

It is important to remember that you are not just staging an event, a finale to a beautiful romance. You're affirming a new beginning - the start of the whole two-people-becoming-one adventure in a real and different way, a public proclamation of your loving relationship.

So what makes a proper wedding? Colour co-ordinated bridesmaids? Colour-contrasted in-laws? Printed personalised napkins? Lacy garters? Endless alcohol? Pick up a wedding magazine for a totally up-to-date picture of how to dispose of any extra savings you might have. 'It's your day' croon the advertisements. 'You deserve to treat yourself to the very best'.

**It is your day**, and a very special one. But often the regalia pushers are trying to manipulate you into assuming that spending vast amounts on yourselves and your guests is the only fit expression of your joy. To put it bluntly, weddings are big business for specialists in traditional wedding trappings, and the occasion can become more commercialised than Christmas.

And what of all those rules of etiquette? Will the world shatter if the ushers don't wear carnations, if the groom's mother doesn't wear a hat, if the bride's Aunt Mary sits on the groom's side of the church? Not a bit of it. Neither will it come crashing down if the bride wears a coloured outfit at the service and makes a speech at the reception. **SO, CREATE YOUR OWN DREAM!!**

We hope you will think of these things as you make your plans.

### **SETTING THE DATE**

BEFORE you decide the date of your wedding, you **MUST** contact the Cathedral Minister, [01856 873312 or [minister@stmagnus.org](mailto:minister@stmagnus.org)] to **ARRANGE FOR A BOOKING FORM TO BE SENT TO YOU**. This will ensure that the Cathedral is free on the date and at the time you desire.

As the Cathedral is very popular for weddings, we also suggest that you have two or three possible dates to play with.

### **CONSULTATION WITH YOUR MINISTER**

As St Magnus Cathedral is available to all the people of Orkney, weddings are conducted for couples from all the parishes and islands and further afield. However, the Cathedral Minister is only responsible for those people who live in or have come from Kirkwall or who have a specific connection with the Cathedral i.e. the family are regular worshippers or members of the congregation. If you are not from Kirkwall, then you must contact your **local parish minister** before setting a date to check if they are free and willing to conduct your wedding.

Please do not assume that because you are being married in the Cathedral, the Cathedral Minister automatically comes as part of the arrangements. This is not the case.

## LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS

- See the Registrar with plenty of time in hand. About 6-8 weeks before the wedding is fine.
- There each party must present a Birth Certificate and complete a Form of Marriage Notice.
- This must be returned with the payment no later than 28 clear days before the date of your wedding.
- If a person has previously been married, evidence must be submitted that there is now no legal bar to marriage.
- When satisfied, the Registrar will issue a Marriage Schedule which must be presented to the minister on the day of the wedding. Under Scots Law a marriage ceremony cannot take place unless the officiating minister has this schedule.
- The Schedule must then be returned to the Registrar within three working days.
- Please note that these legal matters are the responsibility of the bride and the groom.

Where a person resides in England or Wales, the procedure outlined above should be followed. Where this is not possible, application may be made to the Registrar of the district in England or Wales who will, when satisfied there is no legal impediment, issue a Certificate of Marriage. This certificate should be lodged with the Scottish Registrar as soon as it is obtained. They will then provide the Marriage Schedule.

## MUSIC

To arrange the music for your wedding you should consult the Organist, Michael Mappin [[michael.mappin@mail.com](mailto:michael.mappin@mail.com)]. Before you do that, you should have a think about what you want. There are two areas of music you will need to consider:

## Hymns

These will be sung by you and your guests during the service. There can be one, two or three hymns. The Minister taking your service will advise you how many to have, and may give you some suggestions. If you are not familiar with the sort of hymns that are good for weddings, there are many websites that will let you hear how they sound. There are two links at the bottom of this section. Be aware though: some of the hymns on these sites are played by a Praise Band and will sound a bit more formal on the Cathedral organ. Once you have chosen your hymn(s), you can let Michael know.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/hymns-your-wedding>

<https://forbetterforworse.co.uk/blog/p/wedding-hymns-for-your-ceremony/>

## Entry and Leaving

St Magnus Cathedral has one of the best church organs in the country. There are three times during your wedding when you can thrill to its sounds: the Entry of the bridal party; during the Signing of the Register; the Recessional, as the newly-married couple leave. The music at the beginning and the end can be quite impressive and stately, while something quieter is needed during the signing of the Register. At the bottom of this section are some YouTube links so you can hear some of the suggested pieces, but there are many, many more. Many couples select the music for the Entry of the Bride and the Recessional, but leave the choice of Register music to the Organist. The Organist will also play music for about 20 minutes before the service begins, as your guests arrive in the Cathedral.

Wagner, Bridal March. <https://youtu.be/OIEgGXq8wVM>

Handel, Arrival of the Queen of Sheba. <https://youtu.be/y1LB0zI5E00>

Pachelbel, Canon. <https://youtu.be/ZtIJKQyMMJQ>

Mendelssohn, Wedding March. <https://youtu.be/UxUsmAL2H00>

Bach/Gounod, Ave Maria. <https://youtu.be/TsdvnYfsye8?feature=shared>

Clarke, Prince of Denmark March. <https://youtu.be/Ld5oZl7CBQ4?feature=shared>

Purcell, Trumpet Tune. <https://youtu.be/jE162op5DzA>

Handel, Hornpipe from Water Music. <https://youtu.be/QVCswKqdtgq>

Susato, La Morisque. [https://youtu.be/s2KDOdId\\_pM](https://youtu.be/s2KDOdId_pM)

Handel, Air from the Water Music. <https://youtu.be/5HL2LVdyBZA?feature=shared>

Bach, Prelude & Fugue in C. <https://youtu.be/W8VYWXDYRxo>

Verdi, Grand March from Aida. <https://youtu.be/bIJZtwXsMTM>

Charpentier, Prelude to a Te Deum. <https://youtu.be/OY6t2sEnlKc>

Stanley, Trumpet Voluntary. <https://youtu.be/9j1jxbv1dBA>

Sousa, Washington Post. <https://youtu.be/iNhp1XpOiMc>

### Alternatives to the Organ

Some couples have musician friends whom they ask to play at various points during the service, which can add a lovely personal touch. They will need a rehearsal in the Cathedral, and this can be arranged with the Beadle, Balfour Wylie [[bswylie39@btinternet.com](mailto:bswylie39@btinternet.com)]. (Balfour is the person you will be contacting to arrange your wedding rehearsal if the Minister wants one.) There will be an additional fee of £50 for this extra rehearsal. There will be a further £50 payable if the Organist is required for a music rehearsal. Some people want to have popular songs instead of the organ, and these can be played through the Cathedral's excellent sound system. You can contact Balfour to arrange this. However, the organ is the instrument of choice for the hymns.

### Who Will Play the Organ?

As mentioned, the Cathedral Organist is Michael Mappin and he will play the organ for your wedding. If Michael is not available, he will arrange for a deputy. If you want to have your own Organist, you must check this with Michael first, as it is not everyone who would be comfortable playing this instrument. Please note that, even if you do not wish the services of the Cathedral Organist, you will still be liable for his fee as he is responsible to and authorised by Orkney Islands Council for the organ and is required to ensure that anyone who plays the organ is suitably competent.

### REHEARSAL TIME

- Should you want to arrange a time to walk through the service on your own, or with your own minister who may not be familiar with the Cathedral, please contact the Beadle, Balfour Wylie [01856 874639 or [bs.wylie39@btinternet.com](mailto:bs.wylie39@btinternet.com)] who will make himself available in the evening for a period NOT MORE THAN 30 MINUTES to facilitate this.
- There will be a fee of £50 payable to the Beadle **prior** to him booking the rehearsal with the Cathedral Custodian. Your rehearsal booking will only be confirmed once payment has been made.
- **Please note that the wedding rehearsal should be limited to the immediate wedding group.**

- **It will also be the responsibility of the minister officiating at the wedding to remain with Beadle after the rehearsal until the Cathedral is secure. Please make this person aware of this.**

If your wedding is to be conducted by the Cathedral Minister, you will receive some time before your wedding a copy of the order of service, which outlines all you need to do at the service. The need for a formal rehearsal is removed by having the order of service in advance.

Couples have felt in the past that a rehearsal is unnecessary and indeed takes the shine off the ceremony itself. A rehearsal can also create added tension and pressure at a time when everyone needs to be calm and relaxed.

### **FLOWERS**

**In the first instance it is imperative that you contact** the Flower Convener, Marlene Croy [01856 873749] well in advance so that she can discuss your floral options with you.

The wedding party provides flowers for the Cathedral and they can be in place the day before or on the morning of the wedding.

Flowers are normally left in the Cathedral for Sunday service but, if you intend to remove them before then, it is very important to let Marlene Croy know.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO RECORDINGS**

NO PHOTOGRAPHS are allowed in the Cathedral during the service, as this is very off-putting. Please instruct the ushers to make this known to the congregation as they arrive. Photographs may be taken as the bridal procession leaves the Cathedral, after the signing of the Schedule.

Where a couple request video recording of their marriage, permission may be granted at the discretion of the minister and the organist.

- The minister must be consulted well in advance.
- Video equipment must be on a tripod fixture and situated in the north transept area.
- There will be an additional fee in the event of a video recording, as there will now be a permanent record of a professional musician's work.

The Cathedral accepts no responsibility for the quality of sound or vision on audio/video recordings.

**If you intend to have photographs taken in the Cathedral after the service, please bear in mind that the building will have reverted to its role as a visitor attraction and you will not have exclusive use of it. Please be considerate of other user groups.**

Please ensure that your photographer or videographer sees and understands the information on the following page which is specific to them at your wedding.



## INFORMATION FOR YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER

Because a wedding in St Magnus Cathedral is a service of worship, we ask that photographers and videographers, professional or amateur, adhere to the following:

### **1. Photography of any kind during the service of worship is not permitted.**

- a. Pictures may be taken while the bridal party is entering and processing, provided it is from the side aisle;
- b. Pictures may be taken at the conclusion of the service (marked by the Benediction) and as the Wedding Party recesses up the aisle and departs;
- c. The service of Worship extends from the Words of Greeting, following the Bride's arrival at the front of the sanctuary, to the Benediction, including the exchange of vows and rings;
- d. If photographs are to be taken in the Cathedral after the service, please bear in mind that the building will have reverted to its role as a visitor attraction and you will not have exclusive use of it. Please be considerate of other user groups;
- e. The use of drones for photography, inside or outside the Cathedral, is strictly prohibited by legislation covering historic buildings.

### **2. Exceptions:**

- a. Videorecording of the service is permitted, providing the camera is stationary and on a tripod in the north transept during the service;
- b. The minister officiating at the wedding is the final arbiter with respect to photography at a wedding in St Magnus Cathedral. Photographers are welcome to contact the minister prior to the wedding service should they wish.

## DONATIONS AND WEDDING FEES

The Kirk Session expects that couples would wish to make a donation for the privilege of being married in the Cathedral and, while there is no fixed sum for this, a minimum of £165 is suggested.

£100 of this will be a non-returnable booking fee securing your preferred date.

There are also various fees required for organist and Beadle and these would be expected to be paid at the time of booking. The wedding fees set by the Kirk Session are as follows.

<u>Church Organist</u>	Normal Fee	£190
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Additional charge if a video recording is made		£55
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Additional charge for musical rehearsal requiring accompaniment by the Organist		£50
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<u>Beadle</u>		£145
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Additional fee in the event of a rehearsal		£50
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Additional fee if the Beadle's presence is required for a musical rehearsal		£50
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Minister services are provided at no cost.

**At the time of your booking**, the total sum of **£500** [or **£555** if you are having a video recording] should be made by bank transfer to the following account. If asked for a reference name, please put a surname and 'wedding'.

Bank of Scotland, Albert St, Kirkwall

Account name      St Magnus Cathedral (Church of Scotland)

Sort Code          80-08-66

Account            00692223

**On receipt of the DONATION and FEES, you will be sent confirmation of your booking by email.**

The Kirk Session reserves the right to change these at any time

### **ST MAGNUS CENTRE**

If you are thinking about photographs after the service, we would recommend that you consider the St Magnus Centre in Palace Road, The Centre can be available for drinks receptions while photographs are being taken, or for the full wedding reception. For details, please contact the Centre at [smckirkwall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:smckirkwall@hotmail.co.uk).

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

It is not possible to have the main aisle widened or chairs repositioned for a wedding. The width of the aisle is determined to be wide enough to have two people walk down side by side, and the layout of the seating in the Cathedral cannot be altered for the wedding. The Cathedral staff are not in a position to change the policy and, for insurance compliance, families must not move chairs themselves.

The Cathedral is scheduled to be closed for your wedding service, and it is imperative that brides arrive at the Cathedral on time. Lateness has an impact on visitors and other Cathedral users. It is better to be a few minutes early than several minutes late.

**Confetti is not permitted in the Cathedral or its immediate precincts.**

If you intend to have photographs taken in the Cathedral after the service, please remember that the building will have reverted to its role as a visitor attraction and you will not have exclusive use of it.

Dogs and other pets [except guide/service dogs] are not permitted in the precincts of the Cathedral at any time.

In order to allow people to enjoy the service, may we suggest that on the inside page of your Order of Service you have the various regulations mentioned above printed out. Something along the lines below would suffice.

*Please note the following Cathedral regulations:*

*Please ensure that all mobile phones are switched OFF.*

*Photography of any kind during the service of worship is not permitted.*

*Photographs may be taken from the side aisle when the bridal party is entering and leaving.*

*Confetti is not permitted in the Cathedral or its immediate precincts.*

*Thank you!*

## **FINALLY**

***When you make your booking, you will be asked to tick a box on the booking form stating that you agree to the Terms and Conditions that make up this Guide and that they have been read and understood.***