

*Cullen and Deskford Church of Scotland*

*Website: [www.cullen-deskford-church.org](http://www.cullen-deskford-church.org)*



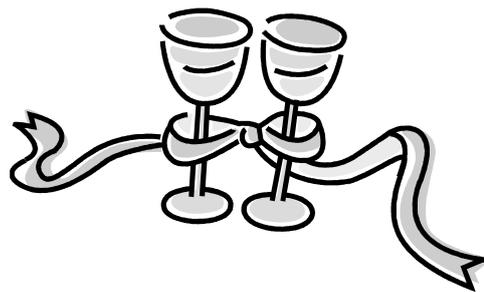
*Wedding Pack*



*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of the three is love.*

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

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## Introduction

### What is this pack for?

There are three ingredients that make up a Christian wedding ceremony.

- \* A celebration of your love for each other
- \* A public expression of your commitment to one another in the form of vows.
- \* A thanksgiving to God for the gift of love.

Your wedding can be held at one of our church buildings; Auld Kirk, Hall Church or at Deskford. The minister will be happy to put the service together for you but if you would like the ceremony to be more personal, expressing your hopes and feelings then you will need to contribute to the shape and detail of your service. Hence the reason for this pack. If you are planning your wedding out with the churches then elements of the pack may still prove useful.

### So what must we have in our service?

Whether you get married in the church or elsewhere **THREE** things must happen for the wedding to be declared legal

- \* The minister must ask those present if there are any objections to the marriage taking place.
- \* Vows that are made must make use of the words 'husband' and 'wife.'
- \* The wedding schedule is signed by two witnesses, minister and the newly married couple.

Other than that, despite what anyone else may say, the rest of the service is open to adaption and change. Your choices and ideas are important and whatever you choose should express in some way your own individuality, for it is your wedding and your day!

You can have as many or as few songs as you would like, even none. You can play contemporary songs, have soloists or a musician or simply have a period of reflective silence.

You can choose your vows from this pack or write your own. You can even say different words to one another.

You can have readings from the Bible, a poem, or the words of a song or whatever else you think may be appropriate.

You can exchange rings, receive the one ring or have none. You can use any other symbol, e.g. light a candle, have communion, offer a gift etc.

You can write your own prayers, make a speech, sing a song - it's up to you!

### **Surely putting the service together is the minister's job?**

No! The minister's job is to make sure that the service reflects your lives and your love and to express those qualities throughout the ceremony. The minister could write it all but that would be less meaningful than you taking control of this very important day in your lives. It certainly would be more creative if you contributed something and you are more likely to remember the occasion because you helped to mould the event into something that will be relevant to you both.

### **So what do we do next?**

Well you are left with three options.

\* You may feel that there is nothing in the pack which is suitable. Please feel free to design your own service or ask the minister to write one for you (bearing in mind what's been said!).

\* Select any of the material you may wish to use.

\* Or you may wish to use some of the material and amend it to suit your tastes.

The important thing is to speak to one another. The service is not going to be the longest part of your day but it should be the most important - a day you will wish to remember. The minister will arrange to meet with you during the rehearsal or at a time which is convenient for everyone and together we will begin to create your service by drawing together your ideas and suggestions. Remember everything is open to debate and discussion.

### **Creating the order of service for your wedding**

On the following page you will see a standard order of service. Use the table as a guide only. Fill out the boxes in the third column. You don't have to fill out every box and if you want things done in a different order just ask.

**Happy Creating!**

**PARTS IN CAPITALS** The minister does this - one less thing to worry about.

**Parts in bold** These need to happen and you need to make choices about them.

*Parts in italics* These are optional - you can decide whether you want them or not.

<b>The Service</b>	<b>Possible Choices</b>	<b>Your Choice</b>
<b>Entry of Bride/ Wedding Party</b>	You can choose to enter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together</li> <li>• Separately</li> <li>• At the same time from different places</li> <li>• You can also choose what music you would like to enter to</li> </ul>	
WELCOME	The minister does this	The minister does this
<i>Hymn</i>	Choose from the pack or some other source	
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	The minister does this	The minister does this
STATEMENT OF MARRIAGE	The minister does this	The minister does this
<b>Exchange of Vows</b>	Choose from the pack or write your own	
<b>Rings</b>	You can choose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or two rings</li> <li>• Exchange promises</li> <li>• Ask the minister to say something</li> </ul>	
<i>Other symbols</i>	If you are having these then this is one place for them	
<b>Blessing</b>	This is a blessing for you. Choose from the pack or ask the minister, or alternatively write your own	
<i>Hymn</i>	If you are having three hymns then this is the place to have the second	
<i>Reading(s)</i>	These can be biblical or from some other source	
ADDRESS	The minister does this	The minister does this
<i>Hymn</i>	If you are having three hymns this is another possible place to have the second	
<i>Other symbols</i>	If you are having these this is one place to have them	
<i>Prayers for Others</i>	Names of people can be mentioned here who can't be with you either through illness, or distance etc	
<b>Signing of Schedule</b>	The schedule can be signed in front of the congregation or in the vestry, depending which building you wish to use.	
<i>Hymn</i>	This is the place for your final hymn choice	
<b>Benediction</b>	The final prayer of blessing for the gathered congregation before we leave the church	
<b>Leaving the church</b>	You would normally lead the bridal party out of the building	

## Section One

### Music

#### Entry

For the entry of the bride (or couple if that's how you are planning to do it) there are a number of options:

- \* You can have a traditional piece played on the organ or on a cd.
- \* You can have a modern song played on the organ or cd.
- \* You can have a piper play a piece of music as you enter the church.

Organist/Piper: If you have a specific request please supply the sheet music for the musician.  
CD: Please make sure that a friend is responsible for operating the music on the day.

#### Exit

At the end of the service the same options for the entry are possible.

#### During the Service

It is possible to have a song played on a cd or sung instead of a reading, or during the signing of the register. This can be a modern secular song or a modern/traditional hymn.

**It is very important that you make contact with the organist and/or piper before your wedding to discuss the music. Contact numbers are at the back of the pack**

## Section Two

### Songs

Here is a small selection of popular hymns which you might like! (First verse only). There are many, many more!

#### **A new commandment**

A new commandment that I give to you  
Is to love one another as I have loved you;  
Is to love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall all know you are my disciples:  
If you have love one for another;  
By this shall you know you are my disciples:  
If you have love one for another.

#### **Help us accept each other**

Help us accept each other as Christ accepts us  
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord among us, and bring us to believe  
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love  
and live.

#### **Jesus calls us here to meet him**

Jesus calls us here to meet him  
As through word and song and prayer,  
We affirm God's promised presence  
Where his people live and care  
Praise the God who keeps his promise;  
Praise the Son who calls us friends;  
Praise the Spirit who among us,  
To our hopes and fears attends.

#### **All things bright and beautiful**

All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all.

#### **As man and woman we were made**

As man and woman we were made  
That love be found and life begun;  
So praise the Lord who made us two  
And praise the Lord when two are one:  
Praise for the love that comes to life.  
Through child or parent, husband, wife.

#### **God who is everywhere present on earth**

God who is everywhere present on earth,  
No one can picture completely;  
Yet to the eye of the faithful he comes  
And shows himself uniquely.  
Ch:  
Singing or sad, weeping or glad  
Such are the glimpses of God that we're given.  
Laughter and cheers, anger and tears  
These we inherit from earth and from heaven.

#### **The love of God comes close**

The love of God comes close  
Where stands an open door  
To let the stranger in,  
To mingle rich and poor:  
The love of God is here to stay,  
Embracing those who walk his way.

#### **Love Divine**

Love Divine all loves excelling  
Joy of heaven to earth come down  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,

## Section Three

### Vows

Below are seven options. Choose one, choose bits of more than one or write your own! Remember on the day you don't have to learn the words off by heart, the minister reads them for you and you simply repeat them.

#### Option One

I take you NAME to be my wife/husband. I will love you in good times and bad. I will love you when it is easy and when it is difficult. I will love you when love feels hidden and when loving you is all there is to do.

#### Option Two

I take you NAME to be my wife/husband; and do before the presence of God and before these witnesses, promise and covenant to be a loving, faithful and dutiful husband/wife to you, till God shall separate us by death.

#### Option Three

I take you NAME to be my wife/husband. I promise with God's help, to be your faithful husband/wife, to love and serve you as Christ commands, as long as we both shall live.

#### Option Four

In the presence of God and before these witnesses I NAME, give myself to you, NAME, to be your husband/wife, and I take you now to be my wife/husband. I promise to love you, to be faithful and loyal to you, for as long as we both shall live.

#### Option Five

Before God and in the presence of our families and friends I, NAME, declare my love for you, NAME, and I give myself to you as your husband/wife. I promise you my love and my trust for as long as we both shall live.

#### Option Six

I, NAME, take you, NAME, to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, to death us do part, according to God's Holy Law: and this is my solemn vow.

#### Option Seven

(This vow is often used at State Registrars and may be suitable for weddings outside the church)

I solemnly and sincerely declare that I, NAME, accept you, NAME, as my lawful wedded husband/wife to the exclusion of all others.

## Section Four

### Symbols

The obvious symbol is the ring. If you are exchanging rings you may like to offer one another a blessing from the choice below.

#### Option One

Woman/Man: Let this ring be the sign and seal that I am yours and you are mine

#### Option Two

Woman/Man: I give you this ring in God's name, as a symbol of what we have promised, and all that we shall share.

#### Option Three

Minister: As a visible sign of your commitment to one another, these rings are given and received. By this sign you take each other, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do you part.

#### Option Four

Minister: Rings are an ancient symbol, blessed and simple. Round like the sun, like the eye, like arms that embrace. Circles - for love that is given comes back again. Therefore may these symbols remind you that your love, like the sun, illuminates. That your love, like the eye, must see clearly and that your love, like the arms that embrace is a grace upon this world.

#### Other symbols might be:

- \* To read something to each other.
- \* To light a candle together
- \* To have communion together
- \* To exchange a gift like a book or picture, something small and personal.

## Section Five

### Blessings

This is what the minister will say immediately after you have exchanged your wedding vows and ring(s). It is a request for God's blessing specifically for you both and your commitment to one another. Choose from the list below or ask the minister.

#### Blessing One

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

#### Blessing Two

The peace of God be with you. The peace of Christ be with you. The peace of the Spirit be with you and with your children. From the day that we have here today to the day at the end of our lives. The grace of God be with you. The grace of the Spirit be with you and with your children, for an hour, for ever, for eternity.

#### Blessing Three

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. The rain soft upon your fields; and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

#### Blessing Four

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

#### Blessing Five

The blessing of the God of Sarah and Abraham. The blessing of the Son, born of Mary. The blessing of the Holy Spirit who broods over us as a mother over her children be with you both.

#### Blessing Six

The love and the affection of heaven be to you. The love and affection of the saints be to you. The love and the affection of the angels be to you. The love and affection of the sun be to you. The love and affection of the moon be to you. Each day and night of your lives. To keep you from haters, to keep you from oppressors.

#### Blessing Seven

Now you will feel no rain, for each will shelter the other. Now you will feel no cold for each will warm the other. Now you will feel no solitude for each will company the other. Now you are two persons but both will lead one life. Go now to your dwelling together. And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

#### Blessing Eight

The blessing of God be upon you, that good come to you; the blessing of Christ be upon you, that good be done to you; the blessing of the Holy Ghost be yours, that good be the course of your life, each day of your arising, each night of your lying down, for evermore

## Section Six

### Readings

Below are some options. Other possibilities include having the words of a song read, or a poem, or even a story; anything that expresses something of your love for each other, or a reminder of when you met, or proposed or realised that you loved one another, ie something of your own journey. It is also nice to ask a friend or a relative to do a reading especially if there is someone you know who would feel very comfortable doing this.

#### Reading One

My friends, how desperately do we need to be loved and to love? When Christ said that man does not live by bread alone, he spoke of a hunger. This hunger was not the hunger of the body. It was not the hunger for bread. He spoke of a hunger that begins deep down in the very depths of our being. He spoke of a need as vital as breath. He spoke of our hunger for love.

*Chief Dan George*

#### Reading Two

Love is not getting, but giving; not a wild dream of pleasure and a madness of desire - oh no, love is not that - it is goodness and honour and peace and pure loving - yes love is that; and it is the best thing in the world and the thing that lives the longest.

*Henry van Dylce, Little Rivers*

#### Reading Three

Suitability helps the security of a marriage, but spirituality, by calling for mutual self-sacrifice ensures it.

*Hubert van Zeller, Considerations*

#### Reading Four

Do not walk in front of me, I may not be able to follow. Do not walk behind me, I may not be able to lead. Just walk beside me and be my friend.

#### Reading Five

Love. What is it? You can not hold it neither see it but it is all around us. It is the essence of our lives. Sooner or later you are bound to meet it. Some people go out to greet it. It is here it is there. It is gone it is near. It is something we cannot afford to miss. This once in a while this bliss, a gift from above. This thing called love.

#### Reading Six

True love is a sacred flame that burns eternally. And none can dim its special glow or change its destiny. True love speaks in tender tones and hears with gentle ear. True love gives with open heart and true love conquers fear. True love makes no harsh demands it neither rules nor binds. And true love holds with gentle hands, the heart that it entwines.

## From the Old Testament

### Reading Seven

The Lord God then put the man into a deep sleep and while he slept he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh over the place. The rib he had taken out of the man the Lord God built up into a woman, and he brought her to the man. The man said: 'This one at last is bone from my bones, flesh from my flesh! She shall be called woman, for from man was she taken.' That is why a man leaves his father and mother and attaches himself to his wife, and the two become one.

*Genesis 2:15-18*

### Reading Eight

Wear me as a seal over your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion cruel as the grave; it blazes up like a blazing fire, fiercer than any flame. Many waters cannot quench love, no flood can sweep it away; if someone were to offer for love all the wealth in his house, it would be laughed to scorn.

*Song of Songs 8:6-7*

### Reading Nine

May God be gracious to us and bless us, may he cause his face to shine on us, that your purpose may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations rejoice and shout in triumph; for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth. Let the peoples praise you, God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its harvest. May God, our God bless us. God grant us his blessing, that all ends of the earth may fear him.

*Psalms 67*

## From the New Testament

### Reading Ten

Love is patient and kind. Love envies no one, is never boastful, never conceited, never rude; love is never quick to take offence. Love keeps no score of wrongs, takes no pleasure in the sins of others, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope and its endurance. Love will never come to an end. There are three things that last forever: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of the three is love.

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13*

### Reading Eleven

Two days later there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also among the guests. The wine gave out, so Jesus's mother said to him, 'They have no wine left.' He answered, 'That is no concern of mine. My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone washing jars standing near, of the kind used for Jewish rites of purification; each held from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Now draw some off,' he ordered, 'and take it to the master of the feast;' and they did so. The master tasted the water now turned into wine, not knowing its source, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He hailed the bridegroom and said, 'Everyone else serves the best wine first, and the poorer only when the guests have drunk freely; but you have kept the best wine till now.' So Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee the first of the signs which revealed his glory and led his disciples to believe him.

*St John 2:1-11*

## **Reading Twelve**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Dwell in my love. If you heed my commands, you will dwell in my love, as I have heeded my Father's commands and dwell in his love. I have spoken thus to you, so that my joy may be in you, and your joy complete. This is my commandment: 'love one another, as I have loved you.'

*St John 15:9-12*

### **Other appropriate biblical readings:**

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 56-57

Song of Songs 2

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 128

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 5:1-2, 9-13

Philippians 1:9-11

St Matthew 7:21, 24-27

St Mark 10:6-9

## Section Seven

### Benedictions

This is a prayer or blessing for everyone at the close of service. It reminds us that the wedding is not the end but the beginning. Some examples are attached.

#### **Benediction One**

The hands of the Father uphold you. The hands of the Saviour enfold you. The hand of the Spirit surround you, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit uphold you evermore.

#### **Benediction Two**

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

#### **Benediction Three**

Go in peace and proclaim to the world the beautiful works of God who has brought you liberation. We go forth in faith and hope to love and to serve, secure in the knowledge that God is with us always.

#### **Benediction Four**

May the King shield you in the valleys. May Christ aid you on the mountains. May the Spirit bathe you on the slopes. In hollow, on hill, on mountain and plain.

#### **Benediction Five**

The shape of Christ be towards you. The shape of Christ be to you. The shape of Christ be before you. The shape of Christ be behind you. The shape of Christ be over you. The shape of Christ be under you. The shape of Christ be with you. The shape of Christ be around you.

#### **Benediction Six**

God's grace distil on you. Christ's grace distil on you. The Spirit's grace distil on you. Each day and each night. Of your portion in the world; on each day and each night. Of your portion of the world.

#### **Benediction Seven**

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

#### **Benediction Eight**

The blessing of the God of Sarah and Abraham. The blessing of the Son, born of Mary. The blessing of the Holy Spirit who broods over us as a mother over her children be with you all.

#### **Benediction Nine**

May the sun bring you new strength by day. May the moon softly restore you by night. May the rain wash away your fears and the breeze invigorate your being. Walk gently through the world and know its beauty.

#### **Benediction Ten**

The blessing of God be upon you, that good come to you; the blessing of Christ be upon you, that good be done to you; the blessing of the Holy Ghost be yours, that good be the course of your life, each day of your arising, each night of your lying down, for evermore.

## **Section Eight**

### **Formal Things**

#### **Wedding Schedule**

You must have a wedding schedule obtained from the local Registrar. The address is:

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages  
Area Office  
Mid Street  
Keith AB55 5BJ

Telephone: 01542 885525/885526  
Email: keith.registrar@chief.moray.gov.uk

There are separate fees for this.

The schedule needs to be ordered and completed at least four weeks before your wedding (six weeks if either of you have been married before). It is then collected two/three days before the wedding. It is your responsibility to collect the schedule and have it present on the day of the wedding.

**REMEMBER NO SCHEDULE NO WEDDING!**

#### **Flowers**

If you are getting a friend/florist to do your flowers please contact the appropriate church officer to arrange access to the church - again numbers are listed.

If you would like to leave the flowers after the ceremony that would be wonderful. They would then be distributed after the Sunday service to the sick and housebound.

#### **Orders of Service**

These can be done at a printers - please make your own arrangements. If you require any guidance please contact the minister.

#### **Ushers**

Should arrive at the church half an hour before the service begins in order to welcome guests and hand out hymn books/orders of service.

#### **Photographs**

Photographs are not allowed during the service but there will be an opportunity to have them taken after the wedding schedule is signed.

#### **Videos**

From a fixed point only

### Formal Things (continued)

#### Fees

Wedding fees have been fixed by the Kirk Session of the church. This sum covers payment for the church officer and the use of the church, ie, heating, lighting etc. There is a separate fee for the organist.

#### Weddings at Cullen and Deskford will cost:

**Members—£200**

**Non members—£400**

**Weddings outwith the churches will cost £300 (plus travelling expenses)**

**Fees must be paid before the ceremony**

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#### Contact Names and Numbers

Minister     Rev Douglas Stevenson: The Manse, 3 Seafield Place, Cullen, AB56 4UU  
01542 841963, dstevenson655@btinternet.com

Organist

Church Officers at Cullen     Mr Alex Bruce     01542 840677

   Mr Bill Davidson     01542 841146

Church Officer at                     Mr Sandy Christie     01542 840459  
Deskford