

GETTING MARRIED IN CHURCH

From Rev Mike Fucella, Minister at Biggar Kirk and Black Mount Parish Church



Biggar Kirk

Congratulations on your engagement! We at Biggar Kirk and Black Mount Parish Church are delighted that you are considering getting married. This leaflet is designed to help you if you are considering getting married in Biggar Kirk or in Black Mount Parish Church in Dolphinton. The steps you need to follow are set out here:

1. A talk with the minister

Usually this will take place in one of your own homes, after a Sunday church service, or at the Manse (my home) in Biggar. I need to know a bit about you before letting you know whether I can marry you in church. There are practical things like dates (even ministers have holidays!) and legal matters, if you have been married before. Some of our discussion will also be about the special nature of Christian marriage: our job is to bring you before God to take some serious vows. Don't be intimidated by the thought of this talk: I'm actually quite friendly, and I'm married too! One piece of advice other couples have found useful: **don't book anything else** until we've had this talk. I should also let you know that I only conduct weddings in Biggar Kirk or Black Mount Parish Church: many couples choose one of these beautiful settings for their ceremony before heading off for their reception in a local hotel or hall.

2. Preparing for marriage

We are committed to giving you the best possible chance of taking vows that last a lifetime. For this reason, we ask all couples to attend our Marriage Preparation meetings. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we see this as a necessary part of couples' planning for their marriage. They are informal and are run by a couple who themselves have been married for a number of years. Previous couples who have attended these meetings have found them helpful, and enjoyable. David and Carolyn Wardrop-White, who organise these meetings, will contact you.

3. Come to church

You will enjoy your wedding day much more if you are relaxed and "at home" in the church in which you are being married. You will also feel confident if you know the way we conduct worship. Your wedding is a service of worship in which God will be involved, so it would help if you get used to coming and meeting with Him at church!

Regular weekly services are held at Biggar (11.15am), and Black Mount (9.45am) with refreshments afterwards.

4. Between 12 and 8 weeks before the wedding, and certainly no less than four weeks before the wedding...

....and no less than six weeks before if you are divorced – you should go to a Registry Office in South Lanarkshire to collect the relevant forms. Visit www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk (search for "religious or belief marriages") or call 0303 123 1015 Phone ahead to make an appointment as they tend not to offer a "walk-in" service.

5. The rehearsal

Arrange a date with me – normally during the week before your wedding. You should bring:

- The Marriage Schedule: you will need to collect this from the Registrar during the week before the wedding. **It is absolutely crucial:** no Schedule, no wedding!
- The fees, if you have not already paid them (see Section 6)
- Orders of service, if you are producing one. However, it's fine to use the hymn books at the church, or PowerPoint on the screen, if you prefer.
- The bridal party! Everyone needs to feel comfortable in the church, so bring the bride, groom, best man, bridesmaids, the person accompanying the bride down the aisle (usually her father), the photographer and videographer, musicians, people doing readings, and anyone else who would otherwise feel "left out" of the rehearsal.

6. Donations

The suggested donation for the use of Biggar Kirk is £400. A donation at your discretion will be welcomed at Black Mount Parish Church. There is no charge for my services nor for our marriage preparation meetings: they are provided by the church.

Cheques should be made payable to "Biggar Kirk" or to "Black Mount Parish Church" and should be sent to:

Biggar Kirk & Black Mount Parish Church Office
The Gillespie Centre
74 High Street
Biggar
ML12 6BJ



Black Mount Church

7. And finally...

Getting married is like setting out on a journey. As the minister who marries you, I commit myself and the people of our church to caring for both of you throughout your marriage. You can come to us to share the good times and the tough times, knowing that we will support you in our prayers and in whatever other ways we can. God bless.

Contacting me

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You can follow us on Facebook

Our regular church services are on Sundays:

Biggar Kirk, Biggar (in Kirkstyle, just off the High Street)
11.15am

Black Mount Parish Church, Dolphinton (signposted in the village): 9.45am

February 2020 v5

Biggar Kirk, also known as Biggar Church (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity SC000333
Black Mount Parish Church (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity SC000603

Photograph of Black Mount Church by Colin Kinnear
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BIGGAR KIRK BLACK MOUNT PARISH CHURCH



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A guide for couples