



Guidelines for Weddings

at

*Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Doncaster*

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

106 Church Road, Doncaster 3108

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Office Hours: 9.00am—2.30pm Mon. to Wed;
9.00am—3.00pm Thurs to Fri.

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INTRODUCTION

Most people approach their wedding with a mixture of excited anticipation, plenty of nerves, and some romantic idealism. For most, this is the first time that they will have to make these arrangements. Although there are a lot of weddings here at Holy Trinity, we try very hard to make each Service a happy, memorable, and personal event. However, there are some constraints within which we have to work. We hope that these guidelines will fill in some information for you and help us to create together a lovely wedding.

INTERVIEWS

The initial bookings can be made by telephone, but we need to meet on at least two occasions—soon after 3 months mark, and in the week before the wedding for a rehearsal. Please telephone and make appointments accordingly. For the first interview could you come prepared with any documents available (see below), full names of both parents (including mother's maiden name), and if either of you were born outside of Australia, your time of residence in Australia in years and months.

DOCUMENTS

When you meet with us, we need you to:

- Complete a “Notice of Intended Marriage” form at least one calendar month before the wedding, but no earlier than 18 months before. We will give you this form and assist you to complete it.
- Show us your original Birth Certificates, or ‘Extract of Birth’ certificate. Photocopies are insufficient. If either of you were born overseas, your passport from your country of birth is acceptable.
- If either of you is widowed, show us the relevant Death Certificate.
- If either of you is divorced, show us the Decree Absolute.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

We require you to do a Marriage Preparation Course for one important reason: there are far more happy marriages and far fewer marriage breakdowns among couples who have done a formal preparation course.

We run marriage preparation courses twice each year. If you cannot get to our course, we will be pleased to talk to you about alternative courses.

CHURCH

We need to know reasonably promptly whether you prefer the old chapel or the new church. As a 'rule of thumb' we feel that 80 people seated is about the maximum for the old chapel (not including the wedding party). The new church seats 300 very comfortably.

TYPE OF SERVICE

There are two orders of service which you may choose from. In the Marriage Preparation Course, these will be explained, and you can decide which of the two you prefer.

It is important to remember that the text of the Service cannot be altered although some variations are possible in order and style. This means that there is no place in the actual service for private statements but these could be added afterwards if it was felt necessary.

The church has limited copies of printed Orders of Service for use by your guests.

If you wish to provide your own Orders of Service, you need to submit the final draft to the minister for proofreading and include the appropriate copyright statement.

MUSIC

Most people still prefer traditional music at weddings. However, this is not obligatory. Variations ought to be discussed at the first interview.

Normally, we assume that the Church Organist is required. Generally, we do not permit other organists using our organ. The use of songs, singers and instruments are all matters for discussion. Usually, songs which can be broadly categorised as sacred, religious, or prayerful will be permitted, either on tape, CD, or by musicians.

REHEARSALS

In the week before the wedding, a rehearsal is held in the church for the full bridal party.

PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEOS

Weddings in Church must preserve several important things. First, it is a Service of Worship and great care must be taken to protect it from unnecessary intrusion. Secondly, we believe that the marriage itself is much more important than any picture of it might be. Thirdly, we have found it very difficult to stop enthusiastic amateur photographers and the seemingly incessant flashes of light.

Our rule, therefore, is that photographs may be taken as the Bridal Party enters the Church, when the Wedding Party leaves the Church, and during the signing of the Registers. **PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN ONCE THE SERVICE PROPER (EXCHANGING OF VOWS & RINGS) HAS BEGUN.** We do not mind a video recording to be made. Whoever does this must consult with the minister before the service and agree to the directions given where to stand, etc.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

The reading of the banns is an ancient custom in the Church. We are pleased to read your wedding banns in our church any or all of the three Sundays before your wedding. Please let the minister know if you want to hear your banns read. You are very welcome at either 10am or 7pm services.

CONFETTI, RICE

The throwing of confetti, petals, pot pourri, glitter or rice in the Church grounds is NOT ALLOWED. It is for good reason, and we appreciate your co-operation. The colours in some brands are unreliable and sometimes stain wedding clothes. It is extremely difficult to sweep up especially if windy conditions prevail. Rice, when it gets wet is also a nuisance, becoming sticky and slippery—an accident waiting to happen.

TIMES

On the wedding day the bride must aim to arrive ON TIME. This will allow time for some photographs. On some days there are several weddings, and chaos can result with mixing of guests and parking problems if one wedding is late.

CONCLUSION

We hope that these guidelines are of help and do not appear to make things difficult. Please feel free to contact one of the ministers through the office on 9840 2577. The office staff will be able to help you with any general enquiries—office hours are 9 am—2.30pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 am—3 pm Thursday and Friday.

BIBLE PASSAGES SUITED TO A WEDDING SERVICE

This list will help you find a Bible reading that is just right for your wedding. Start by looking down the list of topics. When you find one that you like, look at the right hand list to find the section of the Bible it comes from.

Look it up in a modern Bible. A “Good News Bible” is ideal.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Where to Find Something Good on the Topic</u>
Becoming one	Genesis 2: 18-24
The excellent man	Psalms 15
The excellent woman	Proverbs 31:10—end
Foundations for life together	Psalms 128
On having another alongside	Ecclesiastes 4:8-12
How strong love really is	Song of Solomon 8: 6-7
Jesus at a wedding	John 2: 1-11
The strength of God’s love	Romans 8: 31-39
The nature of love	1 Corinthians 13
Life’s alternative paths	Galatians 5: 16-26
How to truly submit to each other	Ephesians 5: 21-33
The priority of love	Colossians 3: 12-17
The source of love	1 John 4: 7-16

You may choose two readings if you want to.

Who would you like to read it during your wedding? - There may be a relative or friend who will do this for you.

