



The Church of Scotland: West Cowal
Kilfinan lw Kilmodan and Colintrave and lw Kyles
SCO 03483, SCO 21449, SCO 14928

Kilfinan, Kyles

**Arranging your Wedding
in the Churches of
West Cowal**

Kilmodan, Colintrave

This booklet has been prepared to help you think through the arrangements you will need to make for your wedding day. It is important to speak with the minister before you confirm any arrangements for your reception to make sure the church and minister are available.

Minister

Rev. David Mitchell
West Cowal Manse, Kames, Tighnabruaich PA21 2AD
Tel: 01700 811045 E-mail: david@revdmitchell.co.uk

Church Buildings

West Cowl has four church buildings each of which is unique. However, you should note that three of the churches have limited space for wedding guests.

- **Kilfinan Church** can seat up to 80 guests.
- **Kilmodan Church** can accommodate around 100 guests.
- **Colintraive Church** can accommodate around 100 guests.
- **Kyles Church** can seat up to 200 guests

Arranging your Wedding in West Cowl

There are a number of things you will need to do:

- Arrange the church building and date with the minister
- Apply for a Marriage Schedule from the local Registrar
- Arrange the music for your wedding
- Print an Order of Service (optional)
- Arrange flowers for the church (optional)
- Arrange a rehearsal (optional)
- Pay the fees and donations

Arranging the Date

West Cowl is a busy parish with four churches so it is important to discuss the church building and date with the minister. If the minister has other commitments on the day you would like to be married it may still be possible for you to be married in the church building by another minister. However, this too must be agreed with the minister.

Marriage Schedule: Legal Requirements in Scotland

You will need to make an application to be married at least 15 days before the date of the wedding. It is recommended that you give 4 weeks notice if this is your first marriage and 6 weeks notice if you have been married before.

You will both need to complete and submit a Form M10 which is available from the registrar or can be downloaded from the 'registrations section' of <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/index.html> In addition you will need both your birth certificates and any divorce papers issued. If either of you is not a UK national you will also need **Marriage Visa** from the UK Visa Bureau www.visabureau.com (**Note:** this is different from a travel visa).

It is a good idea to look these papers out early in case you need to apply for copies which can take time.

You will need to register with the local registrar for the area in which you will be married and for this area you should contact:

Mrs Mhairi Carruthers, Copeswood, Auchenlochan, High Road, Tighnabruaich, PA21 2BE.

☎ 01700 811601

Please Note:

You will be required to collect the marriage schedule '**in person**' from the registrar during the week of the wedding.

Some practicalities to consider

Hymns and music

You should discuss your choice of hymns with the minister and your entry and retiral music with the organist/musician prior to printing your order of service. Many popular hymns have a number of different tunes and it is important to choose the tune your guests will know.

Printing an Order of Service

There is no requirement to use an order of service, all the churches have hymn books which are available for use. However, many printers offer a package and if you choose to print an order of service (hymn sheet) it would normally have the following information inside:

- Music for the bride's entry into church
- The words of the hymns
- Music for your retiral from the church

Flowers

It is your choice as to what flowers you have for the ceremony in church. The churches are usually left open (except Kyles) so you can go in on the night before or the day of the wedding to arrange your flowers. Kyles Church is kept locked and you will need to arrange access.

After the wedding you can remove the flowers to use yourself or if you leave them in church we will use them for the Sunday Service and then distribute them to members of the parish who may be sick or infirm.

Arranging a Rehearsal

There is no requirement to have a rehearsal before your wedding day. However, if you wish to have a rehearsal you should contact the minister to arrange a date and time, usually an evening close to the wedding. It is helpful if the following people can attend: Bride, groom, best man, bridesmaid(s), flowers girl(s), page boy(s) and the bride's father (or whoever will be escorting the bride down the aisle). Don't worry if not everyone can attend.

Fees and Donations

- For all weddings the organist/musician's fee is £50.
- If you are not a member of the church where you will be married we would welcome a donation to the church of £150 - £300.

There is no fee for the minister, however if you are inviting another minister to conduct the ceremony it would be normal to cover the cost of their expenses.

Please give the organists fee and any donation to the church to the minister on the day of the wedding or at the rehearsal.

On the Day

The groom and best man should be at the Church 20-30 minutes before the ceremony is due to begin. They should bring the marriage schedule and the ring(s).

When the service is due to begin the minister will place the groom and best man at the front of the Church, retire, then lead the bridal party into the church.

After the wedding ceremony the marriage schedule will be signed in church or in the vestry (the minister will discuss this with you prior to the wedding).