

be sure we have covered everything under copyright laws.

ARE THERE ANY FEES?

Technically there are no fees for Wedding services. However, even though we might call them fees, they are suggested donations toward the expenses of the Church such as lighting, stationary printing, musicians, flowers and the Ministers Vestments at the time of publication of this brochure. The fee for the pre-marriage preparation is due when the preparation begins. The rest can be paid at the wedding rehearsal. If you feel you cannot afford these then we will be happy to negotiate with you. We would rather you made this public commitment to one another than choose not to because you cannot afford the suggested donations.

Church	\$243.00
Celebrant	\$80.00
Flowers	\$50.00 (optional)
Organist	\$80.00 (optional)
Preparation	\$47.00 (including GST)
Total	\$500.00

WHEN CAN WE GET MARRIED?

There are no particular times within the Church when Weddings are not held. Obviously the Church building and the Minister will need to be available at the time you desire. It is best if you book well in advance. If you change your mind just let us know out of courtesy to others who may be wanting to book at that time and place.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

If you have chosen to go ahead with marriage at St Stephen's Anglican Church, fill out the information form and return it to the Parish this will help us with the details we need in order to lead you through this excellent way of beginning, and preparing you for, the rest of your lives together.

FOR ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS

Please contact the Parish Office:

The Revd Dr Timothy Smith
42 Regent Street
BELMONT VIC 3216
(03) 5243 2557
0412 673 152
ststephensang2@inet.net.au

Weddings at St Stephen's



**Therefore a man
leaves his father
and his mother
and clings to his
wife, and they
become one flesh.**

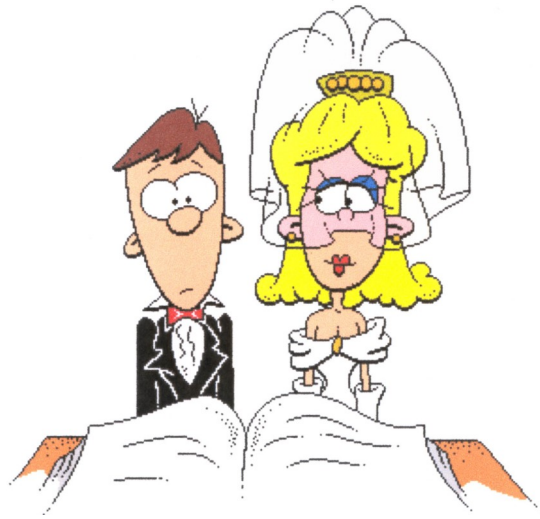
Genesis 2:24

**ST STEPHENS ANGLICAN CHURCH
42 Regent Street
BELMONT VIC 3216
(03) 5243 2557**

Growing a Christian community for all

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?

The church speaks of marriage as having three basic aspects. It is for life-long companionship between two people, a man and a woman, who give themselves to one another in mind, body, and spirit, from which will grow in a deepening knowledge and love for one another and create a secure environment for the raising of children. The service itself, therefore, is not marriage, but the 'wedding'. Marriage is the work that you do in building your life together. The wedding is both



a legal and religious event. For both aspects it is the making of a covenant with one another. As a legal event this entails the signing of the marriage contract before the Registered Celebrant. As a religious event it reflects the love of God who binds himself to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. In the wedding service the couple make promises to help each other grow as individuals in maturity, personal identity and faith in God.

WHO CAN BE MARRIED?

There are Commonwealth Laws and Church Ordinances regarding Marriages. A person must be over the age of 18 years. A notice of Intention of Marriage needs to be signed under the Marriage Act 1961 between 18 and 1 calendar months before the date of the Wedding. A Birth Certificate (or other document of proof of age), a Decree Absolute (in case of Divorce), or a Death Certificate (in case of death of previous Spouse) will need to be presented. These documents are best brought to the first interview. Since you are considering to be wed by an Anglican Minister of Religion at least one of you will need to be baptised and may be required to present a baptism certificate. Clearly, in the present time, you must be of different gender.

WHAT IF EITHER OF US HAVE BEEN DIVORCED?

We recognise that people make mistakes and there needs to be the opportunity for a fresh start. Having said this, we need to ensure that past problems will not be transferred into the new marriage, or the responsibilities of the previous marriage will not impose on the new marriage. Permission, therefore, needs to be given by the Bishop of the diocese and this is made on recommendation by the Priest following the initial interview.

IS THERE ANY PREPARATION?

Marriage is an important step in your life and one which we are sure you would like to be for ever. Much money, today, is spent on marriage counselling. It is our hope that we can save that time and energy by doing some pre-marriage preparation. This preparation (Prepare/Enrich) is not designed to determine whether you are compatible, but give an opportunity to highlight some of those areas in your relationship where you have particular strengths and other areas where there is room for growth. This is done in complete confidentiality with the Minister over at least four sessions.

WHERE CAN THE WEDDING TAKE PLACE?

At the present time weddings through the Anglican Church usually take place within a church building. St Stephens can seat about 150 people comfortably but this will need to be a consideration for choosing this particular church building. Permission can be sought from the Bishop for performing the ceremony outside the church building, but this would mean exceptional circumstances. It is also possible to be married in another Anglican church building with permission of the incumbent of that parish.

WHAT ABOUT THE WORDS OF THE SERVICE?

Being a Registered Anglican Minister of Religion the service must be performed according to the Anglican Rite. There is some freedom for things to happen around those words, but this can be negotiated with the Minister when the time comes. Obviously, the Minister will reserve the right to say no, but will always give reason for doing so.

CAN ANYONE ELSE DO THE WEDDING SERVICE?

If you are getting married in an Anglican Church building you need to have an Anglican Clergy person present even if you have another Authorised Marriage Celebrant from another religious tradition. This will need to be something to talk through with the Anglican Minister as they will at least have to guide you through the Anglican Rite of Marriage. Apart from this active presence, others can be involved in the service in a variety of ways.

DO WE HAVE TO HAVE ORGAN MUSIC?

You are free to have any kind of music you wish. We can organise an organist or pianist for you and you can talk with them about the music you would like to have. Alternatively, you may wish to bring in your own musicians or recorded music, St Stephens has a very fine sound system and five stacker CD player. We will need to know what it is that you are doing so that we can

