

Weddings at St Aidan's Church

We're delighted that you're getting married: Congratulations!

We are also pleased that you are considering having your service here at St Aidan's. The information that follows will help the services here to be ones that are memorable for all the right reasons.

Making a booking

We encourage you to plan well ahead with a date for your marriage. As you consider where to be married, you are welcome to come in and see the Church. To discuss a date, or with other general enquiries, please contact the office (09) 929 4670 or office@staidans.co.nz.

On receiving your enquiry, we'll establish the basics and, if you'd like a Minister other than a member of St Aidan's clergy to take your wedding, they will introduce themselves to St Aidan's Vicar. Then an application form will be completed. At this point, a deposit of **\$250** is due, in order to hold the date you require. The deposit can be made by electronic transfer, or posted to our Church Office. Email and postal addresses are listed at the end of this document. On receipt of the deposit, a booking is made. After this, one of our staff will meet with you both to discuss the details of getting married at St Aidan's.

Capacity

St Aidan's Church has a total seating capacity of between 245-300 people, depending how intimate you are happy for your guests to be.

It is also possible to have the wedding ceremony displayed on the TV screen in the Gathering Area (foyer) via video link allowing for approx. 50 additional guests to be accommodated.

Fees

The full cost for having a wedding at St Aidan's varies - **the price is usually \$1,250** excluding extras. A non-refundable deposit of **\$250** is paid to the Church Office when the booking form is completed. The booking is made only when the deposit is received. On paying this deposit, you agree to the terms and conditions set out in this document.

You must pay the balance at the same time as supplying your marriage licence to our office which should be at least two weeks before your wedding. Payments may be made by cheque, in cash, Eftpos or by electronic transfer (ask the office for bank details).

The fee includes use of the church for a wedding rehearsal and for the wedding. The length of time the church is available to you is up to 6 hours. If you go over the time allowed, there will be extra charges of **\$200** per hour or part thereof.

A maximum of two weddings a day can be scheduled. If you wish to have exclusive use of the church for longer periods than noted above because of decorations or music rehearsal purposes, there will be extra charges of **\$200** per hour or part thereof.

The fees mentioned cover all St Aidan's services associated with your wedding including the Administrator's time spent with you in planning your service, use of the church for a rehearsal and on the day of your wedding, use of audio visual equipment and supplying a duty "Front of House Manager" (Verger) to operate this equipment. However they exclude fees for the organist, the Minister, the ordering of special flowers, any filming of your wedding by us, and a number of other considerations which are separate but should also be paid to the office at least two weeks before your wedding.

Who will take your wedding?

One of St Aidan's clergy will be pleased to officiate at your wedding. You may have a personal link with one of our clergy and therefore you can ask for that person to take your wedding. Other Anglican clergy can also be invited to officiate.

It is also possible to request that a minister or priest from another denomination lead your service. For this to occur, that minister must contact the vicar at St Aidan's to obtain their agreement before your booking is confirmed.

Marriage Preparation

Taking time out to reflect on your relationship is a vital part of preparing for marriage, so we ask all couples who are getting married at St Aidan's to participate in marriage preparation sessions.

At the initial meeting with our priest, some marriage preparation sessions will also be scheduled. Please come expecting to explore the way your relationship works now and your hopes for the future. We shall listen to your experiences and help you evaluate these. We see that love is a part of who God is, so any exploration of loving is an exploration of God.

If you are being married by a minister or priest from another denomination, our clergy will ask him or her to ensure that these sessions take place.

If you are being married by one of our clergy, in addition to the marriage preparation sessions, the priest will also meet with you to discuss the details of your wedding ceremony. You will be offered suggestions from our experience in conducting services of Christian marriage as we work with you to ensure your special day is happy and meaningful.

The Form of the Marriage Service

St Aidan's is a church that follows the Anglican tradition. There are three orders of service in our Prayer Book as well as some flexibility in creating services. You are encouraged to read through the services as part of deciding the content of your service. A Bible reading is included as part of the service and you may also choose readings from other sources. A family member or friend may do these readings.

If you want to print the order of service, which should include any hymns or songs to be sung, please discuss the draft copy with the priest taking your wedding before having it printed.

Music

St. Aidan's has an excellent pipe organ. If you would like the organ played at your wedding, please contact the office to discuss. A separate fee is charged for this service, which must be paid before the wedding day.

St. Aidan's has sound and IPod/CD facilities which are available as part of your fee. If you are using several recorded music tracks, we ask you to put them all onto one device. You're also welcome to involve someone singing or contributing musically. Music is a wonderful part of worship and we encourage you to explore how best to use music in your service. The St Aidan's Front of House Manager will play any music tracks you wish to use at the service.

If you are being married by your own minister, you are welcome to invite other musicians to be part of your service. While we can provide some microphones, they are expected to bring their own musical equipment and operate that independently of our sound system.

Please be aware that no outside connections to any device on the sound system desk is permitted.

Audio Visual Facilities

St Aidan's has the facilities to provide a variety of microphones, and to show a PowerPoint visual presentation during your wedding service. Any PowerPoint presentation will need to be prepared and brought to your rehearsal to ensure that it is working correctly. The Front of House Manager will be happy to discuss details of this with you.

Please note that our visual display facilities can only operate Microsoft equipment and software.

St Aidan's Front of House Managers reserves the right to review the content of visual presentations to be shown and recorded music to be played in the Church during your service. ***Please be aware that only the Front of House Manager is permitted to run the devices on the sound system desk.***

Photography and Filming

You are welcome to have photos taken during your wedding service in the Church and afterwards in St Aidan's grounds, and also to have your wedding filmed. On the day of your wedding, the St Aidan's Front of House Manager will discuss with your photographer/camera operator where they should set up in the Church. Being there—but not obvious—is the guideline which we give them.

Flowers

Except during Lent (the six weeks leading up to Easter) St Aidan's has two large floral arrangements at the front of the church on each side of the Cross, and one arrangement in the foyer, which will be available for your wedding (these are silk floral arrangements).

You are also welcome to have an independent florist do your wedding flowers. These may be taken away at the conclusion of your wedding service, perhaps used at your reception.

Options can be discussed when the Booking Form is completed.

Rehearsal

The priest will arrange a rehearsal with you, usually the day before your wedding.

If you are being married by another minister, a booking for your wedding rehearsal must be made through our Church office. The rehearsal is usually held on the evening before your wedding of up to **one and a half hours**, allowing for all those involved to be present. It also gives you time to arrange for another team to put up any decorations you may want for your wedding day. If you wish to attach anything on the end of the pews, this must be something that can tie or hang over the top, not require attaching any other way.

A St Aidan's Front of House Manager will be present to assist you at your rehearsal. Please discuss your decorating ideas with the Front of House Manager. Please note that St Aidan's cannot guarantee that you will be able to leave your decorations in situ until the time of your wedding service.

Church Decoration

St Aidan's was built in 1905 and is a listed Historic Building. With that in mind, you are welcome to hang decorations around the ends of pews with ribbon or thread, but not pinned. In keeping with our obligations to care for the church building, we ask that you do not use ***pins, staples or tape of any kind (including blu-tac)*** in any part of the Church, including on the ends of the pews.

Car Parking

The St Aidan's site is a large community complex and there may sometimes be another function on at the same time. Consequently we are unable to guarantee that the car park will always be completely empty for the wedding guests, but there is a substantial amount of free parking along the roadside in Ascot Avenue.

The Wedding Day

On the day of the wedding, it is recommended that the groom and his party arrive at the church about thirty minutes before the service starts. The Front of House Manager will open the church **one hour** prior to the scheduled service start time, and lock it after the service. The church should be completely vacated by the time agreed with the parish office, with all items belonging to the wedding party removed and the church left in the clean state it was prior to your use.

Ushers

Please ask your ushers to assist in the following ways:

- Arrive at least thirty minutes before the service.
- Welcome your family and friends and hand guests any printed material relating to the service.
- Guide and encourage guests to seats near the front of the church, but leaving any seating for the immediate family.
- Collect any written material left in the pews after the service

Confetti

No confetti, rice, petals or helium balloons are allowed in the church buildings or grounds!

Reception Venues at St Aidan's

St Aidan's Hall offers a wonderful option for your wedding reception, meaning that your whole wedding day celebrations can take place on one site.

If you are moving on to another venue for your formal reception, the Hall can also be hired for the serving of light refreshments and/or the cutting of the cake after your wedding service.

Details of the facilities that the Hall and Lounge offer are on our website, and information on procedures can be obtained from our Church office.

The cost of hiring the hall is \$35 per hour (plus a flat fee of \$20 for the use of the kitchen) and the Church lounge with kitchen is \$30 per hour, plus a refundable bond of **\$350** to be paid when booking any of the facilities. The bond is returned after the event as long as the terms and conditions of hiring the hall are met.

You are welcome to come in and view the Hall and Lounge facilities by arrangement with the Parish Office, and pick up information and instructions for your catering team.

Marriage Licence

You must obtain a marriage licence. The form can be downloaded from www.dia.govt.nz or a hard copy collected from The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM). The form must be presented in person at a BDM office. The licence is valid for three months and it is advisable to do this at least two months before your wedding.

Details of office locations are in the phone book, or online at www.bdm.govt.nz

You need to give the Registrar the full name of the person taking your wedding. Other details include the exact street address of the church you will be married in, which is:

St Aidan's Anglican Church, 5 Ascot Avenue Remuera, Auckland 1050

The licence needs to be at our parish office at least two weeks before your wedding.
Remember, without a licence and pre-paid fees, there can be no wedding!

And finally ...

We are aware that there is a lot to organise in preparing for marriage. We hope that this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact one of our staff should you require further assistance. We wish you every blessing as you prepare for 'the big day'!

The Reverend Glen Ashworth

Vicar

On behalf of the St Aidan's Ministry Team