

## Ballyrashane Presbyterian Church

### Statement on those seeking Marriage In Ballyrashane Presbyterian Church

We seek to reach out with the love of Christ to all couples seeking to be married in Ballyrashane Presbyterian Church.

*Since the beginning of creation God, in his gracious purpose, provided marriage as the accepted way in which a man and a woman may come together as husband and wife. This is the only basis on which marriage can take place within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.*

The following are requirements for all couples wishing to be married in Ballyrashane Presbyterian Church:

1. All couples wishing to be married in Ballyrashane must, **as first point of contact and prior to any other arrangements**, approach the Minister to express their desire to be married.
2. All couples wishing to marry in Ballyrashane must attend a course of Marriage Preparation. This may be done at a Presbytery level or at a local level, with the Minister, at a time that is convenient for both parties.

#### **On the Marriage of Couples who are currently living together:**

We believe that unmarried couples who live together as if they are husband and wife are falling short of God's standard and living outside of His will and purposes. Therefore, when a co-habiting couple request marriage in Ballyrashane Presbyterian Church, our response will generally be as follows:

- a) If the couple are willing to live separately until they are married, the wedding may be arranged at their convenience, assuming there is no other impediment.
- b) If the couple are unwilling to separate until they are married, they may be married in the Church at the earliest practical opportunity – ordinarily within 6 months.
- c) If the couple wish to be married in a civil ceremony, a short service of blessing may be held in the church on a day, which is after their civil wedding.
- d) Should there be children from the partnership, the couple will not be asked to separate, but may be married promptly, or have a civil marriage blessed, as outlined above.