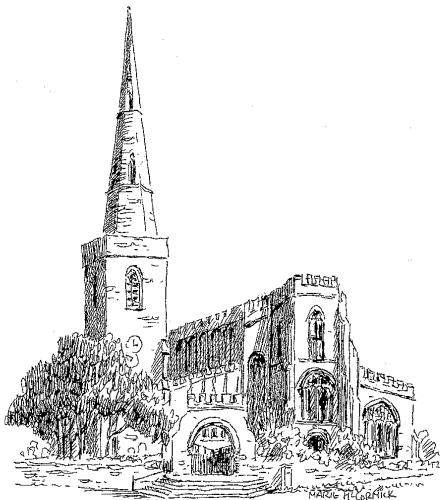


St Mary's Church, Astbury



Holy Matrimony 2010

St Mary's Church, Astbury

Wedding Arrangements

If you're thinking about getting married at Astbury you've got a beautiful and historic venue for your special day. These pages will answer some of the questions you might have but please don't hesitate to phone the Rector, Jonathan Sharples on 01260 272625 or email rector@hotmail.co.uk for anything that needs clarifying.

Most people, unsurprisingly, live outside of the Parish of Astbury.

It used to be tricky getting married outside the parish in which you live. Thankfully, however, the Church of England has relaxed its rules on this. If you don't live in the parish of Astbury, you can definitely get married here if either of you can show just one of the following seven connections with the parish.

Have either of you:

- been baptized in the parish or
- been confirmed in the parish or
- lived at any time in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months?

Or has one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or
- regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months?

Or was one of your parents or grandparents:

- married in the parish?

Even if you cannot demonstrate any of the above connections, we want to help you explore whether it may still be possible for you to marry in the church of your choice.

Talk to the Rector well in advance to discuss the options open to you.

What will it cost?

You've probably read all sorts of inflated figures as to the average cost of a wedding today. The cost of the Wedding Service itself, in church, does not have to break the bank.

For a wedding at Astbury some of the charges are set by the Church of England at the beginning of each year and include the fees for the taking of the service, reading of the banns, Marriage Certificate, Verger's fee, heating, lighting, cleaning, etc.

For weddings in 2010 this all-inclusive fee is £515.50. This fee is revised on 1st January each year

There are other facilities St Mary's can offer to ensure your wedding day is designed around you and enables you to create the perfect setting. We have a professional organist, a robed choir and a set of eight bells (along with eight strong armed bell ringers).

The current fees for these extra facilities are:

Organ £125

Please note that this fee is still payable to the church even if you engage your own organist.

Choir £160 (by arrangement on weekdays)

Bells £210 (£240 weekdays)

The only other fee payable is if you are having a video taken in the service. You'll need a copyright licence and there is a fee (£125) for Permission to Video. There is no charge if you use a photographer.

So, the wedding service itself is £515.50 and you'll have to add any of the above fees if you choose to have any of the 'extras'.

Please bear in mind that there are generally displays of flowers in the church for the Sunday service so you may well not need any extra flowers on the day. But if you have a particular colour scheme in mind speak to Mrs Cook (see pages 5 and 7) who arranges the displays for the church.

Please also factor in to your plans a 45 minute wedding rehearsal. This would normally take place on the evening before the wedding to make it easy for anyone travelling from distance although this is flexible and can be discussed closer to the wedding date. It's not compulsory but it's a very useful time to walk through things and get a set of spoken vows under your belt. The primary purpose is to set your minds at rest and to reassure you that you have absolutely nothing to worry about for the day. You should bring along to the rehearsal the fee for the ceremony in cash (£5, £10 and £20 notes) together with the Copyright licence (if any video is to be shot).

Suggested Outline Order of Service

Entrance of the Bride

Welcome

1st Hymn

The Marriage

Reading (s)

2nd Hymn *

Address

3rd Hymn

Prayers and Blessing

Signing of the Register

Bride and Groom exit and get (hopefully nice, light) things thrown at them - at the West Gate, **please**, not in Church or along the pathways.

*If two hymns only are to be used, this one is omitted.

Useful web site

The Church of England has recently put together a really useful website to help you plan your wedding. It covers all sorts of areas including planning the service and picking readings and hymns. You can also hear many of the favourite wedding hymns being sung. Enter Church of England + wedding into your search engine or go to www.yourchurchwedding.org/planner/

Useful Notes, telephone numbers, email addresses

When it comes to giving directions to people, if they're using SatNavs it would be useful to point out to them that it's St Mary's Astbury and not St Mary's Congleton. Our postcode is CW12 4RQ. The Ordnance Survey Map reference is SJ 846615.

If you need any advice feel free to contact the Rector on 01260 272625 or rector@hotmail.co.uk.

It's important that if you have any unusual musical requests you speak to the organist first. Mrs Sally Drage can be contacted on 01260 270217.

Church flowers are coordinated by Mrs Brenda Cook on 01260 290194.

The Verger is Mr William Ball, on 01260 279276 or williamball@supanet.com.

Please consult the guidelines on page 6 for taking photographs at wedding services.

If other weddings are happening on the same day as your own then you'll need to consult the other couples involved. A set of guidelines for placing flowers at weddings is printed on page 7 of this leaflet.

Video photography

If a couple wish a video to be taken of their service we are very happy to allow this. Following these guidelines will ensure that a decent film is obtained without disturbing the important ceremony. A licence and an additional fee are necessary because the music in the service is copyright material, and also because the organist is a professional musician. These apply whether a video is taken by an amateur or a professional.

1. If a guest is using a camera, please ensure they do not move around and detract from the service.
2. No additional lighting may be used.
3. Particular discretion is required when filming in front of the couple. A camera may however be placed on a tripod in the Choir in consultation with the Rector before the beginning of the service.
4. A camera may accompany the couple at the signing of the registers and move around for the procession at the end of the service.
5. Ensure that a Mechanical Copyright Protection licence has been obtained. This is available from the Mechanical Copyright Protection Society Ltd, Elgar House, 41 Stretton High Road, London, SW16 1ER.

Still photography

1. No flash photography is to be used during the ceremony other than at the signing of the register and as the couple is leaving.
2. If access to the gallery is required, please see the Verger in plenty of time in order for the Tower door to be unlocked.
3. In bad weather, the wedding party is welcome to come back into Church for the photographs, provided no other wedding is scheduled for later.
4. We often have more than one wedding in a day. Photographers, guests and cars must be clear of the Church & Churchyard 20 minutes before the following service.

Flowers at Weddings

Church flowers are coordinated by Mrs Brenda Cook on 01260 290194. Please be sympathetic to our need to issue guidelines for placing flowers in Church. These are necessary because of the historic nature of a building that is in daily use for many types of services and events.

1. If placing flowers on the Altar use only the brass vases supplied.
2. Main arrangements should use the two brass bowls, the one by the pulpit, the other by the Eagle Lectern. Do not replace these with other containers.
3. The carved wooden screen, which divides the main part of the Church from the Choir, is over 500 years old. Please do not place any flowers or containers of flowers on it or through it.
4. Our pews are over 300 years old. If pew-ends are decorated, do not use BluTack, Sellotape or drawing pins. Use only hangers which will not damage the wood or polish.
5. Wrought iron pedestal stands can be made available for further decoration but only near the entrance to the Church please. Arrangements may also be placed on the stone ledges in the porch.
6. Flowers must be left in Church after the service as it is too late on a Saturday evening for someone to arrange flowers for our Sunday services. The only exception is pew-end decorations which should be removed directly after the service.
7. Ensure that the flowers in the wrought-iron stands and in the porch are removed within a few days.
8. Please arrange for access to the Church with Mrs Cook on 01260 290194. A key may also be obtained from the Rector on 01260 272625.
9. If there are others getting married on the same day, you will need to coordinate flowers with them. Phone Mrs Cook or the Rector for contact details.
10. Artificial flowers may not be used in any arrangement. The appropriate use of dried flowers may be quite acceptable.

Car parking

1. Please ensure that one (or more) of your Ushers is in charge of parking.
2. Wedding guests may use any of the church's three car parks. The nearest is situated to the south of the church: the entrance is to the right of the steps leading to the main west gate. The other car parks are in the churchyard on the other side of the A34 Congleton to Newcastle road.
3. The car parks at the Egerton Arms Hotel and at the Village Hall are private property and are for the convenience of persons using those premises. Wedding guests may use the Village Hall car park only if there is no other event taking place there. Under no circumstances may cars be parked on the Village Greens. Please do not park in the roads on either side of the big Green.
4. Wedding cars may use the public open space in front of the main west gate. Photographers, guests and cars must be clear of this area 20 minutes before the following service.

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