

# St Mary's Church, Astbury



**Holy Matrimony 2016**

# **St Mary's Church, Astbury**

Rector - Rev Dr Jeffrey C. Cuttell, tel 01477 500536

You've decided to get married? Congratulations!

## **Who can get married at Astbury?**

The law allows us to marry people we have pastoral responsibility for. Primarily this means those who live in the Parish of St Mary's Astbury (if you're unsure, the Rector has a map).

If you live elsewhere, recent changes in the law have allowed the Church of England to relax the rules somewhat.

**You** can marry here if you can show that one of you -  
has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or  
was baptized (christened) in the parish concerned or  
was prepared for confirmation in the parish or  
has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish  
church for a period of at least 6 months

**or** that one of your parents, at any time after you were born -  
has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months or  
has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a  
period of at least 6 months.

**or** that one of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish.

Those who qualify by attending church services here will have their names entered on the Church Electoral Roll (its membership list) once they have been coming for at least 6 months.

If you aren't eligible to be married here we'll be very happy to put you in touch with your own local Church if you're not sure where it is.

'I've been married before . . . We're related to each other . . . I'm under 18 years of age . . . I'm not a British citizen . . . '

If there are any complicating factors it is vital that you let the Rector know at the earliest opportunity, and certainly before any booking is made.

### **Booking a date**

The Rector holds the Church diary for the next couple of years and a phone call will let you know when the Church is available.

If you need to change the date and time at a later stage please phone the Rector in the first instance but always confirm any changes in writing.

### **What else do I need to do?**

If either of you live in another parish you will need to arrange for Banns to be published in your local Anglican Church. The Rector can help put you in touch with your local Vicar if required.

### **What will it cost?**

Weddings can be very expensive affairs, but don't always have to be. Generally, the cost of the service at Church is only a small part of the overall expense.

Fees are set at the beginning of each year. For 2016 they stand at:

£415.00	The Marriage
£27.00	Reading of Banns
£4.00	Marriage certificate
£85.00	Verger's fee

This gives a basic total of £531 for a summer wedding. Heating is essential during the winter months (1st October to 30th April) and costs an additional £250, bringing a winter wedding to £781. Heating is also available on request in the summer: we need two days' clear notice.

The costs for extras are as follows -

£125.00	Organ
---------	-------

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

£200.00	Choir
£250.00	Bells
£125.00	Permission to use Video cameras*

\* If you wish to Video the service, please note that a copyright licence is also required. Further details can be obtained from the Rector.

The Fees are usually paid at the Wedding Rehearsal (see below).

Cash is preferred because the money has to be split between so many ringers and choristers.

**Nearer the time . . .**

**Suggested Outline Order of Service**

Entrance of the Bride

Welcome

1st Hymn

The Marriage

Reading(s)

2nd Hymn \*

The Address

3rd Hymn

Prayers & Blessing

Signing of the Register

Procession of the Bride & Groom

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

**Choosing Hymns and Music**

You need to contact our Director of Music, Sally Drage, in plenty of time – email: [sally@drage.me.uk](mailto:sally@drage.me.uk), or phone: 01260 270217 - to discuss your choice of music and hymns.

Please note that the entrance and exit music has to be played on the organ. Possible pieces in (it's quite a short walk) include: the traditional Bridal March by Wagner, Canon in D major by Pachelbel, Trumpet Voluntary by Clarke, Trumpet Tune by Charpentier, Trumpet Tune by Purcell, Trumpet Voluntary by Stanley, Overture to the Royal Fireworks Music by Handel, etc. All these except the first can also be used on the way out. Other possible music out: the traditional Wedding March by Mendelssohn, Arrival of the Queen of Sheba by Handel (better described as Sinfonia from Solomon as you'll be leaving!), Grand March from Aida by Verdi, Crown Imperial by Walton, etc. All are available on Youtube or see Sally after a service and she can play them to you. Whatever you choose does need to sound OK on the organ and be suitable for a church service.

It's helpful to have the choir (usually about 16-18 robed singers in 4-part harmony) as they will lead the hymns, which does encourage the congregation. The choir will also sing one or two anthems during the signing of the register. You will need to provide copies of the order of

service for them – though a cover isn't needed, just the running order with the words of the hymns.

Your hymns should be well known and the words need to be suitable for a wedding. (Fight the good fight would probably not be a good choice!) When you contact Sally, she will send you a full list of suggestions. You must submit your Service Sheet to her for approval before it is printed, and the following must be printed on the last page of the Service Sheet -

**Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)**

**Music Reproduction Licence 798823**

**Church Copyright Licence 798816**

**Rehearsal**

This is usually booked to be during the week immediately before the marriage. The Rector will make the arrangements with you. Details of the service are finalised, the payment made and a simple walk-through of the service is done. Only the couple need to be present, but others may come along if required. You should bring along to the rehearsal the fee for the ceremony in cash, together with the Copyright licence (if any video is to be shot).

**Any Questions?**

If you have any questions at all or need any advice please don't hesitate to pick up the phone and speak to the Rector.

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 below.

**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.
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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Punctuality**

Punctuality is a virtue and, since you will have been planning this day for (probably) a year or more, you know what time you have booked for the ceremony to start. So, if you have asked for, say, 2.00 pm, we expect the bride and her party to be in the church porch at 1.58 pm, with all the photographs taken, ready for the ceremony to begin on time.

Please note - In the event of the lateness of the bride (unless due to unforeseen circumstances) the organist would probably stop playing ten minutes after the scheduled arrival of the bride and resume upon her appearance; the minister officiating would have the option to omit one of the hymns; and the bellringers would not necessarily be available to ring on the couple's leaving after the service.

-----

**Notes**

The cover illustration on this leaflet is  
© **St Mary's Church**  
and must not be reproduced without prior written permission and  
payment of the appropriate fee. Please contact the PCC Secretary,  
Mr William Ball on 01260 279276.