

A WEDDING AT ST MARY'S

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do we need to come to church before our wedding?

If you do not live in the parish nor have a previous connection then you will need to come to church before your wedding. The law as it stands will only allow us to marry you at Astbury if you are part of our church family.

We would ask that you come to at least one service each month for a minimum period of 6 months, after which you will officially belong and we will then be able to read your banns of marriage.

It is important to establish your connection with St Mary's Astbury as soon as possible; as there may be future unforeseen and unavoidable events that could prevent you from coming. When you attend the church services kindly make yourself known to the "welcomer" located at the back of the church who will record your name in our attendance register.

This is a legal requirement, but we do hope you will look forward to coming to church and enjoy yourselves.

Which service shall we come to?

lf you are unfamiliar with church services they can initially feel daunting, so we suggest that you come along to our most informal "family services" at 11.00am which are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. These services are easy to follow and child friendly. Children do

not need to be kept quiet at Astbury as they should enjoy church so we have lots of activities for them to do throughout the service. A bonus of coming to the “family service” is that you will probably meet other wedding couples as well as families preparing for christenings. When you feel more comfortable with coming to church or if you are already familiar with church, you may wish to come on the first and third Sundays of the month, which is our Holy Communion service.

Do we both need to come?

You both are not required to come to church, but it is important for one of you to attend church to form the legal connection. However, we do hope you both will be able to come together.

How much will our wedding cost?

Our basic inclusive fees for 2027 are currently:

• Summer £ 955.00 (1st May - 30th September)

• Winter £1,205.00 (1st October - 30th April)

The fees include all the preparations for your wedding:

• Statutory fee for marriage service £584.00

• Statutory fee for publication of banns £41.00

• Vergers (people on duty on the day of your wedding) £140.00

• Organist £150.00 and Organ Maintenance £40.00.

Kindly note, the Church of England may slightly increase the statutory fees
in 2028.

Optional extras are:

• Heating if required in summer £250.00 (the Winter fee includes heating but the Summer fee doesn’t)

• Flowers (arrangement between yourselves and our church florist Brenda)

• Bell-ringing £280.00 (if available)

• Choir £225.00 (Weekend) and £235.00 (Weekday)

• Video licence £50.00 (Permission to Video)

Kindly note, all additional fees may increase slightly in 2027.

It is also possible to live stream your wedding for which you will need additional licenses (please ask for more details about this nearer the time).

If there are two weddings on the same day, you may be able to share some of these costs.

We do not want the costs to prevent anyone from having a church wedding, so please discuss any difficulties confidentially with the Rector. We do offer a wedding for a statutory fee only using our Lady Chapel.

How will we prepare and plan for our big day?

We will invite you to a Saturday preparation morning along with other

couples. We will talk about the promises you'll be making, and we will also give you some guidance about service content.

We will explain things like having your banns read and tell you how to arrange it in your home parish. You will also have a one-to-one meeting with the person taking your wedding, a month or so before the special day. This will

usually be the Rector but will sometimes be another experienced priest.

Arranging a Wedding Rehearsal:

We will arrange a wedding rehearsal with you, which is preferably held a

couple of days before the wedding (but not the day before). This is not a large-scale event, but we suggest you bring your best man, a chief usher and your main bridesmaid so that they will feel confident on the day and be able to assist the others if necessary.

Flowers:

Brenda Cook arranges the flowers for the church and the best way to contact her is 01260 290194. Brenda will also be able to advise what is and is not possible for extra flower arrangements in and around the church.

Confetti:

Biodegradable confetti may be used in front of the Lych-gate on the main steps. We would appreciate your

cooperation by not having any confetti in the churchyard or at the church door because we have to consider the feelings of those who may have a funeral at the church in the near future.

Car parking:

Parking for a large wedding is not easy in Astbury. There is car parking

available in the new churchyard on the A34 and also there is limited parking in the small car park in the grounds of Astbury Church. In addition, you could get in touch with Rob Lomas at Glebe Farm and/or the Landlord of the Egerton Arms to see if they may be able to accommodate your car parking needs. Kindly note, Astbury Village Hall car park may not be available on your wedding day as it may already be booked out for a private function. Please contact Sally Brightwell at astburyvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk to check the car park availability. If it is not already being used, you may be able to book it for say 3 hours for a fee.

Photography and Drone Photography

We have specific policies about photography and drone photography.

We will give you a copy of these policies at the marriage preparation day so you can pass them onto your photographer.

Who can help me with further questions?:

Please feel free to contact pa@astburychurch.org.uk if you have any further questions. Alternatively, you can usually chat with the Rector after the 11.00am service or over a coffee if preferable.