



Your Wedding At Northop Church



Parish Church - Northop

www.northopchurch.org
Mold Mission Area

Thank you for enquiring about a wedding
in Northop Church.

We are delighted that you want to
share this happy and
important occasion with us.

This booklet contains information
you might find helpful
in getting ready for the service.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

*Rev Dr Richard Hainsworth
Vicar
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Who can be married here?

Any single man and woman over 18 (over 16 with parents permission) has a legal right to be married in their local Anglican Church or in one that they have a 'qualifying connection' with.

Qualifying connections are:

Either one of you has lived in the parish for 6 months or more at any time in your life.

Either one of you was baptised in the church

Either one of you has a parent or grandparent who has regularly attended the church or who was themselves married here or who lived in the parish for more than 6 months.

You live in the parish for 16 days and apply for a Common License (we can advise you).

If you do not have one of these connections, you can get married here if at least one of you *regularly attends the church for 6 months*. A number of couples do this in order to establish the legal right to be married here and you will be very welcome.

Currently we regret that we are not legally able to offer marriage to same sex couples in the church, but the Vicar is actively involved in attempts to change this injustice as soon as possible. We would be very pleased to offer you a service of prayer following a wedding or civil partnership.

What if I have been married before?

If you have been married once previously, this is no barrier to getting married again here. The Vicar will need to see your Decree Absolute when you book, just to confirm that your prior marriage has been legally dissolved. We will not ask you any intrusive questions and understand that life does not always work out as planned. We are just happy to help you celebrate a new beginning.

If one or both of you has been married more than once before, we will need to seek the blessing of the Bishop before confirming your booking. This is to ensure that we have offered you any help we can in preparing for your wedding. Again we are not interested in judging you or being intrusive, only in helping your marriage be lasting and happy.



What if one of us is not a UK citizen?

Anyone, of any nationality can get married here. However if one or both of you is not a UK citizen, new legislation from the Government means that you may need to go through a process with the Registry Office. We can advise you on this process and it should not be a bar to getting married with us.

How much does a wedding cost?

In 2019 a wedding costs £559 with 2 optional extras:

At Northop we have a peal of bells which can be rung after the service for a charge of £100

If you are having a video made of the service, there is a copyright/performance fee of £66.

Every effort is made to meet your requests for bells, but it may not always be possible to provide them, particularly at holiday times. The fees are always returned if we are not able to provide their services.

All legal fees are included and there is no need to involve a registrar.



Fees for 2020 will be set in January 2020 and published on our website.

When can we get married?

Weddings can take place at any time between 10am and 6pm on any day (except Sunday mornings). Timing is up to you but we would not recommend much earlier than 12:30pm as you will probably find the day very tiring and there is usually a lot (at least for the bride!) to do in the morning before the service.

You can use the calendar on the Future Events page of our website at northopchurch.org to find an available date.

Typically the service will last around 25 minutes.

What vows do I have to make in the service?

In the service, the Vicar will say to you:

N will you have N to be your wife/husband? Will you live with him/her in obedience to God's will and purpose? Will you love him/her, honour him/her and care for him/her, in sickness and in health? Will you be faithful to him/her, and her alone, as long as you both live?

You will answer: I will.

Then you will repeat your vows, a few words at a time, after the Vicar:

I N Take you N to be my wife/husband, To have and to hold, From this day forward, For better for worse, For richer for poorer, In sickness and in health, To love and to cherish, As long as we both shall live, According to the will and purpose of God. And to this I give you my pledge.

If you want to write your own vows you are welcome to do so, but must also use these given vows as they are the legally required ones.

What do I have to do to book?

Please phone the Vicar on 01352 840842 to reserve a date with at least 1 month's notice. Booking 3-4 months in advance is advisable, with one year often necessary particularly for dates in spring and summer.

Once you have reserved a date, you will need to meet with the Vicar to fill in a simple form and pay a £50 deposit to confirm your booking.

Legal preliminaries - reading your banns.

You will normally need to have your banns read in the weeks leading up to the wedding. This involves the Vicar standing up in a Sunday service in Church and announcing your wedding and asking if there are any legal reasons why you cannot get married. Although legally this is to ensure that there are no objections to the marriage in law, in reality, there will be no objections (unlike in Eastenders!) and hearing your banns read is just a nice part of getting ready for the big day. You do not have to be there to hear them but are very welcome. They will be read on three consecutive Sundays up to 3 months before the wedding and you can discuss the dates with us.

However, it is vitally important, if one or both of you live outside the parish, that your banns are also read in the local church nearest where each of

you lives. You will need to contact your local Vicar to arrange this, 3 months before the wedding. You can find Church of England vicars on achurchnearthyou.com and Church in Wales parishes through churchinwales.org.uk.

Failure to have your banns read locally to you can result in extra inconvenience or expense for you, and in the worst case, will leave your wedding unable to proceed on your booked date! If in doubt, please contact us and we will help.

Planning the service.

We are always happy to help with planning the service itself. You need to contact us four months before the service to arrange to meet with the Vicar and one of the Pastoral Team, Mrs Sheila Thelwell, who will help you put the ceremony together.

You can choose one, two or three hymns, one or two bible readings and add in any poems, musicians, soloists etc that you like and pieces of music or signing the registers and entering and leaving the church.

You might like to use the Church of England's wedding planning help at <http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/planner/>

You can download a sample order of service at our website:

<http://www.northopchurch.org/weddings.html>

We will provide an organist who will usually accompany the hymns, but you are welcome to invite a choir/band/singers/harpists etc in addition.

It is possible to use recorded music (on ipod or original CD, not copies please) during the signing of the registers. We would not recommend walking in to recorded music as often this does not fit with the 'atmosphere' of the church building and can be difficult to co-ordinate with walking down the aisle.

Can we take photos or video?

So that the service remains as special as we hope it to be, we would ask that if you want photos or video during the service you appoint one person to officially do each of these. They will be free to do their job for you and we do not place restrictions on them. Otherwise we will ask your guests to wait until the end of the service, when we are happy for you to spend as long



as you like taking pictures around the church and grounds.

We have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northopchurch and would encourage you to share your pictures of the day there, so that others may be encouraged to also come to us for weddings and that the wider community can share your happy occasion.

And can we...?

It is your day and we will do whatever we can to accommodate all reasonable requests. Pew ends can be decorated, flowers can be placed in church, candles added to window ledges etc. We place no restrictions on numbers of bridesmaids/best men or what can go into the service, beyond the legal elements required. We encourage you to be creative and make the day personal, but our experience also suggests that sometimes simplicity is most beautiful.

Are there car parking, toilets, disabled access etc at the Church?

Sadly, we don't have a car park although there is free parking in the nearby roads. We have a portaloos on site presently and regret that it is not wheelchair accessible.

Northop Church has a level access through the churchyard and there is space for a small number of vehicles to park to allow for those with restricted mobility. Reserved space for wheelchairs is available within the church. There is a hearing loop and amplification installed.

Our website at www.northopchurch.org has an interactive map which will give your guests directions to the church.

I still have questions!

Please do get in touch with the Vicar:

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01352 840842



*We wish you every blessing
as you prepare for your marriage.
From all at Northop Church.*