

EGLWYS SANT ASA  
LLANELWY  
SAINT ASAPH  
PARISH CHURCH



ARDAL CENHADAETH  
ELWY  
MISSION AREA

YOUR WEDDING AT  
ST ASAPH PARISH CHURCH

*Thank you for enquiring about a wedding at St Asaph Parish Church.*

*We are delighted that you want to celebrate your marriage in a Christian context.*

*This booklet contains information you might find helpful in getting ready to celebrate this happy and important occasion.*

*We look forward to welcoming you soon.*



*Parish Church Website: [stasaphparishchurch.org.uk](http://stasaphparishchurch.org.uk)*

## **Who can be married here?**

Any single man and woman over 18 (over 16 with parental consent) has a legal right to be married in their local Anglican Church or in an Anglican Church with which they have a 'qualifying connection'.

Qualifying connections are:

*Either one of you have lived in the Mission Area 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 married here or who lived in the Mission Area for more than 6 months.*

*You live in the Mission Area for 16 days and apply for a Common Licence. (We can give advice on that).*

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*. Some people do this in order to establish a legal right to be married here and you will be very welcome.

## **What if I have been married before?**

If you have been married once previously, this is not a barrier to getting married again here. We will need to see your Decree Absolute when you book your wedding, just to confirm that your former marriage has been legally dissolved. We will not ask you any intrusive questions and we understand that life does not always work out as planned. We are 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 permission of the Bishop before confirming your booking.

## **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 European Union citizen, new legislation from the UK Government means that you will 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 here.

## **When can we get married?**

Weddings can take place on any day. Timing is up to you. Between 12noon and 3pm is the most popular time. If you want to check if a date is available please telephone the Parish Church on 01745 535957. The service normally lasts around 40-45 minutes including the signing of the Marriage Document.

## **When do we need to book?**

At least 3 to 4 months notice is required, but the more notice you can give, the better. Once you have reserved a date you will need to meet up with one of the clergy fill in a simple form and pay a £100 deposit to confirm your booking. This meeting can be arranged by telephoning the Parish Church on 01745 535957.

## **Legal Preliminaries - reading the Banns of Marriage**

You will normally need to have your Banns read in the weeks leading up to your wedding. This involves your forthcoming marriage being announced in church and asking, publicly, if there are any legal reasons why you cannot get married. The Banns will be read on three consecutive Sundays within three months of the wedding. You are very welcome to be present in church for the reading of the Banns.

It is vitally important that, if one or both of you live outside the Mission Area, that your Banns are also read in the local church nearest where each of you lives. You will need to contact the Priest at that church to arrange for this to be done. You can find Church in Wales clergy through the following website: [churchinwales.org.uk](http://churchinwales.org.uk) or if you live in England, Church of England clergy can be found at [achurchnearyou.org.uk](http://achurchnearyou.org.uk)

Failure to have your Banns read locally to you can result in extra inconvenience and expense 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. You need to contact us 3 months before the service to arrange to meet with one of the clergy who will help you put the ceremony together. We can provide a template with the order and the hymns for you to get your Order of Service printed.

You can choose 3 hymns, 2 Bible readings and add in any poems, musicians, soloists etc that you like and pieces of music for the signing of the registers and entering and leaving the church.

You might like to have a look at the Church of England's wedding planner help where you can list to music and hymns:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/weddings>

We have an organist to play for the service at the Parish Church.

We would not recommend the use of recorded music as this does not really fit in with the 'atmosphere' of the church building and can be difficult to co-ordinate with walking down the aisle etc.

## **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, one person is appointed officially to do each of these (videos can only be taken by a professional videographer, for which there are extra fees). They will be free to do their job for you and we do not place excessive restrictions on them. Otherwise your guests are asked to wait until the end of the service, when we are happy for you to spend time taking pictures in the church and ground.

## **What vows do I have to make in the service?**

*In the service the priest will say to you:*

N, will you take N to be your wife/husband?

Will you love her/him, comfort her/him, honour and care for her/him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?

*And you will answer: I will.*

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

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.

In the presence of God I make this vow.

## **How do I book?**

Please ring the Parish Church on 01745 535957 to reserve a date. You will then need to meet with one of the clergy to fill out the Marriage Application Form and you will need to pay £100 deposit to confirm your booking. The Marriage Fees are revised by the Church in Wales in January of each year. The most current fees will be given to you at the time of booking.

## **And can we ...?**

It is your day and we will do whatever we can to accommodate all reasonable requests. Please speak to one of the clergy.

Further information about the Parish Church can be found on the website:

[www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk)