



Your Wedding At St Mary's Flint and St Thomas' Flint Mountain



Estuary and Mountain Mission Area



Thank you for enquiring about a wedding
in Flint or Flint Mountain Churches.

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

Rector

rectorofflint@gmail.com



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 any one of:

Either one of you has lived in the 'Mission Area' for 6 months or more at any time in your life - see <http://www.estuaryandmountain.org/> for details of the towns and villages covered.

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 area for more than 6 months.

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*. Couples often 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 blessing 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 will need to go through a process with the Registry Office to get a Licence from them. 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 2022 a wedding costs £600 including the organist and all legal fees.

If you are having a professional video made of the service, there is a copyright/performance fee of £100 to allow this to happen. This does not apply to stills photography.

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

A team of bell ringers can be booked to ring on the day for £160

Fees for 2023 will be set centrally in January 2023 but are likely to be similar.



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.

Typically the service will last around 25 minutes and allowing time for photos before and after, you should plan to be on site around an hour.

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 email the Vicar on rectorofflint@gmail.com to reserve a date with at least 1 month's notice. Booking 3-4 months in advance is advisable.

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, it is very unlikely that there will be 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 local area, 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 achurchnearyou.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 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 during the service and the church sound system takes a standard headphone jack input, but you will need to provide an mp3 player/ipod etc and someone to operate it.

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 or two people 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 Facebook pages at

<https://www.facebook.com/FlintParishChurch>

<https://www.facebook.com/FlintMountainChurch>

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.

Do you have 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 in Flint Mountain and nearby paid car parks both at Rowland's Pharmacy and the Jade Jones Pavilion in Flint. We have toilets at both sites but regret that in Flint it is not wheelchair accessible.

Both Churches have a level or ramped access and there is space for a small number of vehicles to park at Flint to allow for those with restricted mobility. Reserved space for wheelchairs is available within Flint Mountain church. There is a hearing loop and amplification installed.

I still have questions!

Please do get in touch with the Vicar:

Rev'd Dr Richard Hainsworth,
rectorofflint@gmail.com

