

# GETTING MARRIED IN THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF SAINT ANDREWS

## PARISH BUILDINGS

The Anglican Parish of Saint Andrews is the oldest church organization in Charlotte County, having been founded by the United Empire Loyalists who settled here in 1783. We are proud of our heritage and buildings, and are happy to share both with those who wish to be married in Saint Andrews. There are two church buildings in the parish, All Saints Church on King Street in downtown Saint Andrews, and St. John the Baptist Chapel of Ease in Chamcook near the Rossmount Inn and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. The Parish Hall stands next to All Saints Church.

**All Saints Church** built in 1867, seats up to 400 comfortably. It has beautiful stained glass windows, is blessed with a fine pipe organ, grand piano and effective sound system.

**St. John the Baptist Chapel of Ease** built in the 1840's. "The Chapel" is perfect for smaller weddings, seating 130 comfortably. It too has beautiful windows, hosts a high-quality electronic organ and, like All Saints Church, has a centre aisle, a feature of interest to brides who want to make a memorable entrance.

**Parish Hall** is available for receptions and other functions, seats about 100. Built in the 1880's and expanded twice, it has a well-appointed kitchen that is used by church groups and caterers on a regular basis.

## BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY

All Saints Church is fully accessible by way of a built-to-code ramp. Both St. John the Baptist Chapel and the Parish Hall have limited, though not daunting, accessibility.

## THE CLERGY

The present rector of the Anglican Parish of Saint Andrews is the Reverend Canon John Matheson. The rules governing weddings in the Diocese of Fredericton, which includes the Parish of Saint Andrews, require that weddings held in Anglican churches be conducted by a member of the Anglican clergy. Clergy of other denominations are welcome to assist at weddings held in the parish. There are a number of retired Anglican clergy in the area who are available to officiate at wedding services if the rector is not available. The person officiating at the wedding, active or retired, must hold a license from the Province of New Brunswick to do so.

## WEDDINGS IN PLACES OTHER THAN THE CHURCH

The guidelines for weddings in the Diocese of Fredericton suggest that weddings should be held in a church building. Under special circumstances, with permission of the rector and in consultation with the bishop, weddings may be held in other places.

## WEDDING DATES AND TIMES

Weddings can be held on any day of the week, although Saturday is by far the preferred day. Again, the time of the wedding is up to the couple in consultation with the person officiating. If two or more weddings are scheduled for the same day, it is the prerogative of the couple who have first booked the day to choose a time, but the choice should be made well in advance of the wedding date so the other couple(s) can choose their time. Weddings in Lent (the forty days before Easter) are discouraged, in keeping with the penitential nature of the season.

## MUSIC

All Saints Church has a pipe organ and a grand piano which are kept in good repair and tuned regularly. All Saints Church also has a sound system, but it does not include a CD feature. St. John the Baptist Chapel has a high quality electronic organ. Peter Mitchell is the parish organist, although other musicians may be engaged to play at the service. Couples who would like Peter to play at their wedding should contact him directly at 506-529-3579. Other musicians may be engaged, including soloists. Music chosen for the ceremony should be in keeping with the Christian nature of the service; a mixture of sacred and secular music is allowed, as long as it is in good taste. Please consult with the officiating clergy as well as the organist/musicians before a definite decision is made concerning music for the service.

## THE FORM OF THE SERVICE

There are two forms of service approved for use in the Diocese of Fredericton. One is the *Book of Common Prayer*, which is in traditional language, and is most often used in the Parish of Saint Andrews. The other is *The Book of Alternative Services*, which uses modern language. Couples should decide which service they would like to use. Minor changes to the service will be considered, at the discretion of the person officiating, and both services can be combined with a service of Holy Communion.

## THE REHEARSAL

Wedding rehearsals are not mandatory, but are recommended. Rehearsals usually take place the afternoon or evening before the wedding day, but can be scheduled for the convenience of those taking part.

## READINGS AND READERS

It is usual to have one, two, or three readings at weddings. These readings should be from the Bible (a list of suggested readings is available). Readings from other sources (poems, inspirational pieces, etc.) are allowed in addition to readings from the Bible, but must be approved by the person officiating at the service. Friends, family members or even those being married are welcome to read one or more of the selections.

## PROGRAMS AND LEAFLETS

Each couple is responsible for the production of programs, should they chose to include them as part of their ceremony. Most couples do this as a matter of course these days, to coordinate colour and design to match invitations and decorations. Samples of programs used at weddings that have been held in the parish are available from the Parish Office.

## FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Couples being married in the parish are welcome to decorate the church or chapel for the service, keeping in mind that attaching decorations to the walls or pews with nails or tacks is not allowed. Even tape can remove finishes, so it is best to secure decorations, such as pew markers, with string or clips especially designed for this purpose. Flowers may be left in the church or chapel for the upcoming Sunday services or taken away at the end of the wedding. There is a florist in Saint Andrews, Garden-by-the-Sea, situated on Water Street. Many couples include the lighting of a "Unity Candle" in their ceremonies. Our parish has a candle holder for this purpose, but couples are responsible for providing their own candles. The throwing of confetti in or around the church or chapel is discouraged.

## PICTURES AND VIDEO TAPING

Every couple likes to have a record of their happy day. Picture taking and video taping are permitted during the wedding ceremony, but should be restricted to those designated by the couple both to preserve the sanctity of the service and to ensure the quality of the pictures taken and recordings made.

## "THE PAPERWORK"

Every couple married in New Brunswick must obtain a marriage license from the province. Licenses are available from Service New Brunswick offices. There are offices in St. Stephen and St. George, but not in Saint Andrews. It is best to call the Service NB office ahead of time to make an appointment to obtain a license and to find out what documentation must be presented when the application for a license is made. In addition to the marriage license, every couple must fill out a registration of marriage form, a draft copy of which is available from our parish office. Both the license and the registration form are signed the day of the wedding. The marriage license should be brought to the wedding rehearsal. On the day of the wedding, three documents will be signed by the couple and their witnesses; the marriage license which they keep; the registration form which is mailed by the officiating clergy to the province's vital statistics office as a permanent record of the ceremony; and the church's wedding register.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The information needed to register a marriage with the Province of New Brunswick is asked for on the Marriage Registration form, mentioned above. In addition, the Diocese of Fredericton requires the following information for its

records: Christian denomination or religious affiliation of the bride and the groom; and when, where and by whom each was baptized (at least one person being married must be baptized).

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES

The majority of those married in the Parish of Saint Andrews live elsewhere, and come to Saint to be married because of a family or other connection, or simply because of the town's beauty and the services available to them. Christian marriage is a sacred commitment and couples are encouraged to prepare for marriage by taking instruction. Enquiries directed to the churches in the communities in which the couples live will usually answer the question, "What is available?"

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT DINNERS AND RECEPTIONS IN THE PARISH HALL

If alcohol is to be served in the Parish Hall as part of a reception or other wedding event, it is the responsibility of those booking the hall to obtain a permit from the New Brunswick Liquor Commission and pay any fees that apply. In compliance with provincial law, the license must be posted on the premises on the day of the event.

## FEES & HONORARIUMS

How much does it cost to be married in the Anglican Parish of Saint Andrews?

Those who provide the music for the service usually have a set fee. Our organist's fee is \$100 which includes the time spent with you to plan the music for the service, the rehearsal, and the service itself. Officiating clergy normally receive an honorarium. In the Parish of Saint Andrews, there is no required or expected amount, and whatever is received is appreciated. It is also fitting to give the church a donation to cover the cost of heat, lights and janitorial services. This is especially true should the request be made for a Chapel wedding outside the time that the Chapel is normally open, i.e. the Chapel is open from June to Thanksgiving so a wedding planned for November or April would incur additional expense. Again, the Parish of Saint Andrews has no set fee for this and every couple is asked to use their own judgment and donate according to their means. If the Parish Hall is used for the reception or other event connected with the wedding, a donation is appropriate, in keeping with the suggested schedule available from the Parish Office (506-529-8662).

## CONTACT DETAILS:

<http://www.anglicanparishstandrewsnb.ca/about-us.html>

**GOD BLESSES YOU AS YOU PLAN YOUR WEDDING!**