

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Parish of Badger's Quay - Pool's Island
P. O. Box 59, Badger's Quay, NL, A0G 1B0
709-536-2485
parishofbq.pi@nf.aibn.com

Marriage Guidelines

Congratulations and Welcome!

The Parish of Badger's Quay - Pool's Island are pleased that you have chosen our Church to celebrate your union in the Sacrament of Marriage.

This document is a summary of the information you will need to know before you make the final plans for your wedding. Please read it carefully, and if you have any questions contact the Rector at the above addresses or telephone number.

What Is Marriage?

Christians believe that marriage is not something that began with the Christian faith or was created by the Church. We believe that God created human sexuality, made us in His own image, male and female together, and His purpose is that we should find fulfilment in faithful, life-long relationships of love and trust.

What creates a marriage is not a ceremony, or a piece of paper, but the honest love and true commitment of a woman and a man to take each other as husband and wife (for better or for worse!) for the rest of their life.

About Church Weddings

We all live as part of society, and many people want to make a public commitment to each other. The Church seems to be the obvious place to do so.

Please consider the following statement closely!

- A Church wedding should be chosen only by couples who see their relationship and marriage as being connected to a healthy faith relationship with their Church, God and Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- A Church wedding should be chosen only by couples who want God to be an important part of their actual wedding vows.
- A Church wedding is not just an event - but a confirmation of your lifelong process of commitment to each other.

The Marriage Ceremony Is A Sacrament

That means that on your wedding day, we will reach out as a Christian family to God in prayer and with our hearts. Our Father will give you both the Spiritual, Inward Grace (gift of strength) to keep the vows that you will make to each other.

What Does This All Mean For Us As We Marry?

Your first duty, is to seek and find God in the midst of your lives. If you do not want God to be a part of your life, or are unwilling to be a practicing, and contributing member of your Church, the Christian Church is NOT the place for you to be married. Civil Marriage is readily available for those who desire it.

Requirements

Please note: There are two things that you must be aware of when getting married. You must fulfil the requirements of:

A: Canon Law (Church Law): which follows the instructions and teaching of the Lord Jesus and:

B: Civil Law: Which must be complied with in order to make your marriage legal? When you visit the clergy, the difference will be made clear.

1. Requests for marriage. A request for marriage in our Diocese must be made to the clergy at least sixty (60) days prior to the requested date. If either of the couple has been divorced, we require at least ninety (90) days prior to the requested date. Before any arrangements are made such as the booking of reception venue, photographers or even your invitations, couples wishing to be married in one of the churches in the Parish of Badger's Quay - Pool's Island must contact the Rector. Doing this can avoid heartbreaking scheduling problems!

2. Counseling Sessions. Your minister is bound by Canon Law of our Church to ensure that you are prepared to enter the marriage covenant. At the ceremony they must publicly declare that you have been duly prepared to enter into marriage. These sessions are designed to help your preparations. These can be arranged through the Rector, however if you live away from the Parish it will be suggested that you contact a Church near your place of residence to request this preparation.

3. Marriage After Divorce. The Anglican Church does marry people who have been legally divorced. The procedure is to provide the Rector with an original of the divorce certificate. (If the divorce occurred outside of Canada, then more information will be required.) Then after a discussion with the Rector, they will recommend to the Bishop who may approve the wedding. Without this approval the wedding cannot take place.

4. Marriage License. A license to marry is required by law. It may be obtained from any designated Marriage Commissioner. The license is valid for thirty (30) days after issue and must be given to the Rector no less than four (4) days before the ceremony. For more information on the license or commissioner check the government web page:

http://www.gov.nl.ca/birth/getting_married/index.html

5. Legal Age For Marriage The legal age for marriage is nineteen (19). However, minors (those under the age of nineteen (19)) must have written permission from their parents as well a valid marriage licence. Marriage is forbidden to anyone under the age of sixteen (16), except as provided under section 12 -3 of the Solemnization of Matrimony Act.

6. When Can We Get Married? Our schedule is fairly flexible. Marriages are not permitted during Holy Week. It is suggested that the marriage should not be scheduled during Lent, but may take place during this time. We also do not schedule marriages on Sundays. If the Rector is on vacation, when you schedule your marriage the arrangements will be made for another priest to cover the services.

7. Pastoral Services To Members Of Another Congregation Sometimes our clergy are asked to be involved with weddings of people from other churches. We affirm that the responsibility and authority for pastoral acts or services rests with the minister of the congregation where those seeking marriage hold membership. If our rector, is asked to provide pastoral services for members of the other congregation, the rector will contact the clergy of the church in which the person held membership before providing the services. Our goal is to aid other Churches in their ministry without interfering.

8. Anglican At least one of the persons desiring marriage MUST be a baptized Anglican.

9. The Wedding Party Normally the Best Man and the Matron/Maid of Honour act as the official witnesses and as such sign the legal documents. The law requires that the witnesses be at least sixteen (16) years old. The number of people in the wedding party is the choice of the couple. It is recommended that no one under the age of five (5) be part of the wedding party.

10. Concerning The Use Of Alcohol/Intoxicants Should any members of the wedding be under the influence of alcohol or other abused substance, the celebrant is required by law to stop the ceremony. It is against the law for any official to conduct a wedding if either of the couple is impaired in any way due to substance abuse.

11. Church Bulletins If you wish to have Church Bulletins for your wedding (they are not required) then they are the responsibility of the couple. If you decide to have church bulletins then the Rector can help guide you in the information and format of them. Before the bulletins are printed, please, have the rector review them.

About The Church

1. Officiating Clergy Couples sometimes wish to have another priest or minister assist at the ceremony. This is normally acceptable and welcomed, with the prior permission of the rector.

2. Place of The Ceremony Normally weddings in this Parish are celebrated in one of the two Churches of the Parish. However, if you wish the ceremony can be celebrated in another place. Please discuss this with the Rector.

3. Flowers In The Church Couples may provide their own floral arrangements in the Church. However, preference should be given too real as opposed to artificial flowers. The use of extensive “archways” and such, tend to lend a very artificial look to the ceremony. The overuse of flowers or other decorations detract from the natural beauty and simplicity of the Church.

4. Pew Markers Pew markers are NOT to be attached to pews with tape or pins. There are clips or elastics easily available from local flower shops. You can also use ribbons and/or string also.

5. Confetti. Etc. Confetti, rice, seeds, etc. are NOT to be thrown in the Church or Church porch. It is incredibly hard to clean up.

6. Ushers You are invited to family members or friends as ushers. These people should be at the church about forty (40) before the service begins. These ushers will help distribute the wedding bulletins, service books, and other things for the couple. They may also help guests to their seats before the service.

7. Music There are many pieces of music that are suited to the joy and solemnity of a marriage ceremony. In every case, music should reflect mutual love, and celebrate God's Grace in our lives. Care should be taken in selecting the music, and/ or hymns to be used during the service.

8. Soloists It is common today, for couples to have soloists sing at their wedding, but it is not crucial. If you have chosen a soloist, the lyrics and music are subject to the approval of the Rector. Solos are normally sung at the entrance of the Bridal Party, and during the signing of the register. Solos are not normally sung as the wedding party leaves the Church building. The reason for this is simple - the attention is on you as you leave the church, people are standing and talking and the soloist is often unheard and ignored.

9. Photographers Only your official photographer is permitted to take pictures during the ceremony or signing the register. Videotaping is permitted by your official representative. This rule protects the sacred nature of the Sacrament, and helps ensure that your wedding photos are of the best quality. (Not marred by interference from other people, or the flashes from other cameras.)

The person is not to enter the sanctuary (area behind Altar rail). No books or Church possessions are to be moved. It would be a good idea to talk with the Rector beforehand regarding your choice of a photographer, as they will be able to share past experiences with you.

10. Fees You should never think that you can "book" a Church for a wedding. The Church is not a for profit organization that "sell" its time or sacraments.

You should see your Church as a family. This family is part of the community, living, working, worshiping God together on a regular basis. Remember: Regular Church attendance and financial contributions are the hallmarks of Christians. Even people who live elsewhere can contribute to their Church.

As you consider the appropriate amount for fees. Please take a look at how much or little you (not your parents or grandparents) have contributed to the work of the Church in the past year. Please consider the overall importance of the Church in your actual wedding! Please remember that your "fees" are asked of you as a token of your consideration of the time and care given to you by others who are involved with the Church. Your fees should be placed in clearly marked envelopes and given to the priest or appropriate person before the wedding.

The following is a schedule of fees for those involved with your ceremony:

- The Church: \$100.00 donation is appropriate. It is very appropriate to give an offering to the Church on your wedding day, as a sign of your gratitude to God. (Especially if you have been away, or absent from the Church for a time.)

- The Musicians: As arranged by you. At any rate, you should give them a gift of no less than \$30.00 and a note of thanks should accompany your payment.

-The Sexton: The sexton is the person who cares for the Church, rings the bell and cleans up after you leave. Remember that this person may be giving up a day off to tend to your celebration. You should give them a gift of no less than \$30.00, and a note of thanks should accompany your payment.

-The Clergy: As you choose.

The Service

The preferred order of service in our parish is the 'Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage'. It is found in 'The Book of Alternative Services'. However, you can choose to use the 'Solemnization of Matrimony' in The Book of Common Prayer'. The Rector will help you in planning of your service. You are encouraged to have family and friends involved in the ceremony. A celebration of Holy Eucharist is an option for those who wish to receive it as their first married act.

We want the ceremony to be a special blessing for you! For that reason couples are expected to become familiar with the service! (The services are B.A.S. p. 528 or 541 and B.C.P. p. 564)

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal normally takes place an evening or two before the ceremony. The couple shall notify all members of the wedding party - including the musicians and urge them to be on time.

Wedding Receptions

The priest and spouse (or guest) do not automatically attend the wedding reception, nor should you feel any obligation to ask them. However, if you wish them to attend, please send an invitation as you would for any other guest. Invitations extended at the time of the rehearsal, or on the wedding day generally cannot be accepted because clergy generally will have other family or work related commitments.

Some strong words of advise about your wedding reception. Take care in the selection of your Master (Mistress) of Ceremony! Be sure that the person is well aware of you want or do not want to be said. Moderation should be the watchword. You should bear in mind that crude, offensive, off colour or sexist jokes are not only an embarrassment to many people, but they destroy the specialness of the occasion, and the spiritual beauty that was established by your union in the Church. Receptions should reflect your joy and faith. The most enjoyable and memorable receptions are those which are not too long and drawn out!

Life After Marriage

We will endeavor to prove our Christian love to you at this special time in your lives. The Church like every family wishes to share special events. It is the sincere hope of your Church that you will encounter our Lord Jesus and receive many blessings from Him. As you come to the Church to ask God's blessing on your marriage and lives together, please consider your own commitment to the Lord, and His Church. Consider the Christian Church as part of your family and your life - we welcome you and invite you to join our weekly worship and fellowship. If you live away, please find a Church and be a part of it! May God be with you as you prepare for your wedding, and may he dwell with you in your home, and in your lives forever. Please don't hesitate to contact our office if we can help.

Marriage Application
The Parish of Badger's Quay - Pool's Island
P. O. Box 59, Badger's Quay, NL, A0G 1B0

Page One

Please print and fill in all requested information

	Bride	Groom
Surname		
Given Names		
Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY		
Place of Birth		
Marital Status Never Married/ Widowed/Divorced		
Religion		
Complete mailing address with Postal Code		
Email Address		
Telephone Numbers		
Father's complete name		
Father's place of birth		
Mother's complete name		
Mother's birth surname		
Mother's place of birth		

Marriage Application
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Page Two

Date Requested for Marriage _____

Time _____ Church _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Book B.A.S. _____ B.C.P. _____

Eucharist (Holy Communion) Yes _____ No _____

Musician/Soloist _____

Readings _____

Witness Name _____

Address (with Postal Code) _____

Witness Name _____

Address (with Postal Code) _____

Size of Wedding party Adults _____ Young people _____

Address after Marriage _____

Phone number after Marriage _____