

# Getting married in our parish...

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### BEFORE YOU BOOK

Make sure you have read and understood the qualifying criteria below, before completing the application form. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Weddings Coordinator.

### QUALIFYING CRITERIA and CONNECTIONS

#### Residency

If you live in our Parish, i.e. Marlow, Marlow Bottom, Little Marlow or Bisham, you qualify to marry in one of our three churches (All Saints' Marlow, All Saint's Bisham or St John the Baptist, Little Marlow). We encourage couples to have their wedding in the church of the area of the parish where they live, although legally you can get married in any of the three.

#### Regular Worshipper

If you worship regularly with us, and has been doing so for at least the last 6 months, you can qualify by becoming a full member of that church and joining its **electoral role**.

#### Special "Qualifying Connections"

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2008, you will also be eligible to marry in our parish, under the new Marriage Measure, provided you have at least one of the following 'qualifying connections':

That:

- One of you was baptised in the parish concerned
- One of you has been confirmed, and was prepared for confirmation in the parish
- One of you has at any time lived in the parish for at least 6 months
- One of you has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months

Or:

- One of your or your fiance/e's parents has lived in the parish for at least 6 months at any time after you were born (or, in the case of your fiance/e's parents, at any time after your fiance/e was born)
- One of your or your fiance/e's parents has regularly attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months at any time after you (or your fiance/e) were born.
- A parent or grandparent of you or your fiance/e was married in the parish.

#### Divorce and re-marriage

The Church of England believes that marriage is for life. But it recognises that sadly, some marriages do fail. In exceptional circumstances, the Church accepts that a divorced person may marry again. If you are divorced, and meet criteria we will happily explore with you and your fiancé the possibility of having a wedding in church, or if this is not possible, a service of prayer and dedication after a civil ceremony.

If you do not meet any of the above criteria, please, explore getting married in the parish where you currently reside.

## BOOKING YOUR WEDDING

If you do qualify to marry in one of our churches, please, complete the downloadable form from the website and email it to the Weddings Coordinator. Please, make sure all the information given is correct. You will hear from us within 14 days of sending/submitting the application.

**Please, note that the requested date cannot be guaranteed and will only be confirmed, or an alternative date/time given to you, after your application has been processed.**

## AFTER YOU BOOK

Once the application has been processed and the date and time of your wedding confirmed, you will be invited to attend our **Marriage Preparation Course**. These courses run regularly, on Sundays (12:00h-17:00h), and include lunch, workshops and talks, in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Dates will be made available on the invitation letter.

You will also be contacted by the priest in charge of taking your wedding, to discuss the order of service, book a wedding rehearsal and answer any questions you may have.

More information can be found in our booklet "Weddings in the Marlow Area Team Ministry" (downloadable also from the website).

**If you do not attend any of our churches yet, why not start coming regularly to a service now? It will give you the opportunity to get to know us better and for us to get to know you. You will also be able to get familiar with the church building and start feeling at home. We have a wide range of services in the parish (weekly and monthly), and a number of groups you may be interested in. To find out more check our websites:**

[www.marlowanglican.org](http://www.marlowanglican.org)

[www.morethansunday.co.uk](http://www.morethansunday.co.uk)

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