

The New Marriage Measure

Thousands of couples dreaming of a wedding will find more churches to choose from from 1st October 2008, the day when new Church of England Marriage Measures come into effect. On this day it means that the Church of England's network of 16,000 churches – ancient and modern, intimate or grand, simple or spectacular can offer a wider wedding welcome than at any previous time in the Church's history.



What does this mean?

The new measure still requires that Banns will still have to be called, but there has been some relaxation of the rule that at least one partner of the intending couple needs to be a resident within the parish boundaries of the church where they wish to be married.

For any future weddings taking place from 1st October 2008, a couple will have to complete a declaration, giving their qualifying reasons as to why they might be eligible to get married in a particular Church of England building. Listed below are the qualifying reasons that can be used by either partner:-

1. I was baptised in the parish (*by a Church of England service/form of baptism*)
2. I have been confirmed (*by a Church of England service*) and my confirmation is entered in a register belonging to a church or chapel in the parish
3. My parent and/or grandparent was married in the parish by a Church of England service
4. I have had my usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months (*this can apply whether or not you are still resident in the parish*)
5. My parent has had his or her usual place of residence for at least 6 months during my lifetime (*this can apply whether or not your parent(s) are still resident in the parish*)
6. I have habitually attended public worship at Church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months (*this can apply whether or not you are still attending worship in the parish*)

7. My parent has habitually attended public worship at Church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months during my lifetime (*this can apply whether or not your parent(s) are still attending worship in the parish*)

How do these measures help me?

As you can see, this opens up the possibility of marriage in our parish to those who once lived and/or worshipped here and have had to move away. It will also enable children and grandchildren of both current and former residents to marry here if they so wish. Couples will, however, have to furnish documented proof of their connection to either of our churches.



If someone you know is contemplating marriage, would like to get married in either of our churches and has some past close family connection with the parish, tell them to contact the vicar about the possibility of making their wish come true!