

Ways to say 'Yes!'

The Parish Church guide to wedding acceptance

Shaded area shows the only cases where baptism is required of either the bride or the groom

Yes, a couple can marry in this church if:

one of them:

- 1 lives in the parish **or**
- 2 is on the church's electoral roll.

And yes, they can also marry in this church if:

one of them:

- 3 has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- 4 has regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- 5 was baptised in the parish **or**
- 6 was prepared for confirmation in the parish **or**

one of their parents, at any time after they were born:

- 7 has lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **or**
- 8 has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months **or**

one of their parents or grandparents:

- 9 was married in the parish.

If none of 1-9 applies, yes, they can still marry in this church if:

- 10 they are granted a Special Licence.

Where the connection is through church services (baptism, confirmation, marriage or attendance) we mean Church of England services.

If in doubt, your Diocesan Registrar can advise you:

How to say 'Yes!' even if you have to say 'no'.

When people invite us to their wedding, we'd like to do all we can to accept.

Even if legally there is not a route for the couple to marry in your parish, the spirit of the law encourages us to help them find a parish where they can. www.achurchnearyou.com can help you refer a couple to another church.

What about differing views on divorce?

People may come to you for a wedding who have been married before and whose former partner is still living. If a couple in this situation is keen to be married in your parish, but you can not in conscience offer a full marriage service, you may refer them to another church where they have a connection. Alternatively, the suggestion to have a civil wedding followed by a Service of Prayer & Dedication in the church still stands.

Useful downloads:

- [welcome form](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/project/welcomeform.aspx)
www.yourchurchwedding.org/project/welcomeform.aspx
- [online ceremony planner](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/planner)
www.yourchurchwedding.org/planner
- [more about the Marriage Measure](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/marriagemeasure)
www.cofe.anglican.org/marriagemeasure
- [more about licences](http://www.facultyoffice.org.uk/Marriage.html)
www.facultyoffice.org.uk/Marriage.html

The clear and reasonable guide to charging for a wedding

To simply marry in church, everything that is legally required will cost less than £350.*

But couples may want more for their wedding, like flowers, organists, bells and choir. If these are offered, they should clearly be presented to couples as optional extras.

Additional costs for these optional extras should be reasonable, only passing on the actual expense incurred by the church. It is good practice to set out the constituent costs clearly, in itemised quote form.

An annually-renewable Church Copyright Licence covers most songs reproduced for wedding ceremonies. It also permits live music during the service (including worship) to be recorded.

www.ccli.co.uk/weddings

If the wedding is filmed; we recommend that any 'facility fee' should simply reflect the expense incurred by the church of having a video camera in the building. It is very likely that this will be nil.

Donations (but not fees or optional charges) may be gift aided. While many couples give generously, no one should feel under any obligation to do so.

Meanwhile the General Synod is working towards making clearer provision for the total and real costs within the set national fee.

More at: www.yourchurchwedding.org/project/fees.aspx

