

# Weddings – guidance as to the procedure for a couple wishing to be married

1. In accordance with English law, you can be married in a particular Anglican church only if you can show:-

## **That one of you:**

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

## **That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:**

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

## **That one of your parents or grandparents:**

- was married in the parish

If neither of you can fulfil at least one of these conditions, then, in the normal course of events, the wedding cannot normally take place within Helmsley Parish.

2. If either of you have been married previously and the previous partner is still alive, then the conditions need to be discussed. A church wedding can still take place in most circumstances. It is vital that you mention this when emailing us.

3. If either or both of you are not British Nationals, then the wedding may still take place, but only under licence. Please ask for details if you think this may apply.

4. If the above are in order, then a legal requirement means that Banns of Marriage (*an announcement that two people intend to marry, and to give opportunity for anyone to raise objections*) have to be called in the Parish Church of the Parish where each of you resides and in any event in the church where the wedding is to take place. Please note that this means Church of England Parishes. Banns are called on three successive Sundays within the three months leading up to your marriage ceremony, and it is usual for the couple to be present in Church on at least one occasion when these are called. Thus Banns may have to be called in up to three different churches for the marriage to be legal, and a certificate of Banns obtained from any church where the marriage is not going to take place. There is a cost for this procedure of £22 per church for the reading of the Banns and £12 for any certificate of Banns required. Any certificate/s of Banns required must be given to the minister conducting the ceremony in good time, so as to allow for any difficulties that may arise. It is up to you to organise the reading of Banns in any church other than this one although we may be able to help you find the appropriate contact in another Parish.

5. The fee current payable by law at any Church of England church for the actual marriage service is £265.50. At our church there will also be a fee of £30 for the verger (who essentially acts as our “front of house”) and £50 if heating is required. Optional additional fees are £100 for the services of our organist and £150 for our bell ringers. We do not have a choir as such, but it might be possible to arrange one – if you would like us to look into this then please mention it when emailing us. Fees may be increased before the wedding takes place, and therefore the cost may be higher than originally stated. (Statutory fees are laid down by the authorities, over which we have no control.) Payment is required by the rehearsal prior to the wedding at the very latest and must be in cash and/or by cheque. A deposit of up to £140 is asked for on booking.

6. We do normally have our own small flower displays, except during Lent and Advent. If you wish to decorate the church with your own flowers, please mention this so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

7. Video recording is permitted only by licence and applies to **each and every person** making any kind of recording. This will incur additional fees due to copyright laws.

8. If you are a couple who have decided to make a connection with the parish through attendance at worship over a six month period this obligation must be fulfilled before you can be married.