



KINGS NORTON TEAM PARISH

Marriage

at St Nicolas Church

Enquirer's Information

**All arrangements for marriages are made through The
Marriage Clerks on Thursday evenings
between 6.30 pm and 8 pm in St Nicolas Church**

Can I be married in St Nicolas Church?

If you are over 18 and if one or both of you live in the parish, the answer is a straightforward Yes, as long as one of you is baptised, both of you are British citizens and if neither of you have been divorced and have a former partner still living. If you do not fulfil all these conditions, it may still be possible for you to be married here. Please ask about what needs to happen.

Please note: If neither of you is baptised or if one or both of you have been divorced and have a former partner still living, you will need to talk first with the Rector or one of the other clergy about the possibility of being married here and about how that might happen. This can be arranged through the marriage clerks on a Thursday evening in St Nicolas Church (see front page).

Anyone wanting to be married has to prove that they are legally free to marry. Marriage by Banns is the usual way of proving this, but in some cases, marriage by Bishop's Licence may be required. We will advise you.

Marriage by Banns

This means that, by law, banns (notice of marriage) must be "called" in the parish in which you are to be married for three consecutive weeks in the three months before the wedding date. Anyone who knows any reason in law why you may not be married is asked to declare it. Your banns will be called in St Nicolas' during the 10.30 am service on the three Sundays following your **second** meeting with the marriage clerks (see back page).

1. If you both live in the parish of Kings Norton, you do not need to arrange for banns to be called elsewhere.

2. If one or both of you live in other parishes, you need to arrange for banns to be called in these other parishes as well. This is a legal requirement. As soon as you have seen the marriage clerks for the **second** meeting, about three months before your wedding, you must contact the parish priest(s) or parish office(s) where you live and arrange for them to call your banns. They will charge a fee for this which changes on a yearly basis. The parish priest(s) will complete a banns certificate after the banns have been called for the third time. You must collect this and bring it to your wedding rehearsal. You may like to ask for your banns in other parishes to be called in the weeks following their calling in St Nicolas', so you can go and hear them.

1. **If you both live outside the parish of Kings Norton**, the law requires you to “qualify” for marriage here:

Either by

Qualifying Connection

The Marriage Clerks will explain what this means in more detail when you first ask them about being married at St Nicolas. If you have a Qualifying Connection, you will be asked to complete and return a special form, together with the documentary proof of the Qualifying Connection which we need before we can approve.

Or by

Joining the Church Electoral Roll

To do this, if you both live outside the parish, one or both of you must attend worship at one of the parish’s churches regularly for at least six months before the banns can be called. This means that you will need to begin attending worship at least nine months before the date on which you would like to be married. The law requires that we have documentary proof that you are attending regularly. The Marriage Clerks will explain how you will provide this.

You must notify the Parish Office at once if you move house or any of your contact details change.

Marriage by Bishop’s Licence

This is what happens if:

- A wedding has to be arranged without there being time for the banns to be called or has to be re-arranged at short notice
- For good reason a couple do not wish their names to be read out in public
- One or both of the couple is not a British citizen

In any of these cases, you will need to apply for a Bishop’s Licence instead of following the banns procedure. If you are in any doubt, please arrange to talk to the Rector. Please note that you are only eligible for a Bishop’s Licence

- if one or both of you live in the parish or can demonstrate a qualifying connection
- if one or both of you is baptised,
- if **neither** of you is divorced.

If we advise you that you will need to be married by Bishop’s Licence, we will tell you what you need to do next.

What we do

The First Meeting

When you first come on a Thursday night, you will find out if marriage is possible here and how to make any special arrangements.

If all is clear, you will be able to book a date and time. If it is not, we may still be able to make a provisional booking.

You will need to bring:

A booking fee of £100 required to confirm any arrangement (This is non-returnable except in very special cases.) Please keep the receipt safe.

You will receive:

All the information you need to help you prepare for the service.

All the explanation you might need about Banns and, if you need it, about Qualifying Connections, Electoral Roll and Bishop Licences

All the various forms you need to complete, with a checklist of when to return them.

We will also arrange dates for:

The Second Meeting

usually three months before the wedding, when we confirm details and arrange for Banns to be called

The Rehearsal

“The Third Meeting”, usually one month before the wedding, when you will go through the service with the priest who is taking your wedding and we ensure all fees and details are complete.

Two preparation meetings on marriage in St Nicolas

Please keep a careful note of all dates. If you are unclear about anything, do come again on any Thursday between 6.30pm and 8pm.