



Parish of Bledlow with Saunderton and Horsenden

Princes Risborough Team Ministry

Marriage Policy

Couples have a legal right to be married in the parish church of the parish in which one or both of them reside. They may also be married in the parish church if they reside outside the parish but can provide evidence of one of the following qualifying connections:

That person:

- was baptised in the parish. (This does not apply if the baptism was part of a combined service of baptism or confirmation); or
- had his or her confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish; or
- has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least six months; or
- has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least six months;

or:

a parent of that person has at any time during that person's lifetime:

- had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least six months; or
- habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least six months;

or:

a parent or grandparent of that person was married in the parish.

The date and time have to be agreed with the minister of the church, subject to the normal rules in the Marriage Act 1949 (i.e. the marriage must be solemnised within three months after the publication of the banns has been completed and between 8 am and 6 pm); the services of an organist, a choir, bell-ringers etc is a matter for agreement.

Marriage after divorce

In some cases it may be possible for a couple where one or both have had a previous marriage dissolved to marry in church. This is at the discretion of the parish priest and the parish priest cannot be forced to marry a couple where one or both have had a previous marriage dissolved. The booklet "Marriage in Church after Divorce" must be read and the relevant forms completed. (<http://www.churchofengland.org/media/1162432/leafletforenquirers.pdf>)

The couple must then discuss the completed form with the parish priest.

Same-sex marriage

The law prevents Church of England ministers from carrying out same-sex marriages. Although there are no authorised services for blessing a same-sex civil service, the parish priest and the church can still support same-sex couples with prayer. Please feel free to discuss this with the parish priest.

Fees

Church of England and local fees apply, and an up-to-date statement of fees is available on application.

Updated and re-adopted on 18 July 2019