

# Ten ways to say ‘Yes!’ to a church wedding

This simple summary of the House of Bishops Guidance on the Church of England’s Marriage Measure 2008 is printable and can be pinned to your office notice board for easy reference for when a couple calls.

**Shaded text** 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 a parish or

2. is on the church’s electoral roll

**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

**Yes, they can marry in this church if one of their parents, at any time after they were born has:**

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

**And yes, they can marry in this church if 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, or in some cases, a Superintendent Registrar’s Marriage Schedule.

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

NB If a person has a connection to one parish in a benefice, the bishop can extend that to every church in the united benefice – this has happened in some dioceses but not all. If you’re not sure whether your bishop has brought in this direction in your diocese, please check with your registrar. For more information about marriage law see the **House of Bishop’s Guidance**. If in doubt **your Diocesan Registrar** can advise you.