

PORTSMOUTH
CATHEDRAL



GETTING MARRIED

IN

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CATHEDRAL

CONGRATULATIONS



The Church of England proudly announces that you are **welcome** to get married in church whatever your beliefs, whether or not you 'go to church' and (usually) whether or not you have been baptised. A complication arises if one of you has been divorced or have entered into a Civil Partnership or are a foreign national – but even then there may be a way forward. We at Portsmouth Cathedral want to endorse this welcome and wish to be of as much help as possible to ensure that you have the best start possible to married life.

Where can you marry? Many people like to marry in their local church and we can help you discover which is the parish church(es) for the areas in which you live. (Otherwise visit www.achurchnearyou.com to find a church in your area). You can also marry in a church if you are on that church's electoral roll having been a regular worshiper in that church for at least the previous six months. Thanks to a recent change in the law, a church which is of special significance to you may also be a possible venue even though you do not live in its parish nor are on its electoral roll. The 'qualifying connections' are detailed on the back page of this leaflet.

Can you be married in Portsmouth Cathedral? If either or both of you are resident in the Cathedral's parish of Old Portsmouth (which includes Gunwharf) or are on our Electoral Roll or wish to get on our Electoral Roll by being a regular worshiper at the Cathedral for at least six months before the banns are read, then in principle we shall be pleased to find a date.

If either of you is serving in the **Royal Navy** on a ship that is based in Portsmouth, then you are also entitled to be married in the Cathedral.

The new law referred to above relating to '**qualifying connection**' with additional churches does not include cathedrals. However, if you believe you have such a connection, it may be possible to apply for an **Archbishop's Special Licence** and we can help you with this.

Big or small? We can usually offer the most intimate or the most grand style of wedding and anything in between - whatever is going to suit you (and your pocket!). Even if you are only going to have a few guests, and do not wish any music, the Cathedral's St Thomas's Chapel is a lovely place in which to be married.

How much does it cost? Currently (2009) the fee for a wedding in the Cathedral is £950 which includes priest, wedding and marriage preparation, calling of banns, rehearsal, facilities, verger and one copy of Marriage Certificate. The organist, choirs, other musicians, bells, special flowers are extra and a quote will be given if any of these are required to help you budget.

What happens next? Canon Michael Tristram, the Cathedral's Pastor, takes the lead on all matters relating to weddings in the Cathedral and you are invited to contact him as soon as you can. He will then guide you about eligibility, electoral rolls, special licences, dates, costs and all other matters. Even if you are not sure whether you are entitled, or have been divorced or one of you is a foreign national, please contact him and he will guide you. His direct telephone number is 023 9273 1282 or send him an e-mail at michael.tristram@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk.

Links You may find these very helpful:

www.yourchurchwedding.org/default.aspx

www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk

www.portsmouth.anglican.org/find_a_church/find_a_church

More churches to choose from ('the new law')

Thanks to a new law, if you do not wish to be married in your parish church(es), it may be possible to marry in a different church provided it has special significance for you through family or other special connections. The engaged couple can now do just that if either of you can show just one of the following seven connections with that parish.

That one of you:

- was baptised in the parish concerned **or**
- was prepared for confirmation in the parish **or**
- has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months **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

In all cases involving church services - i.e. going to normal church services, baptism, confirmation or marriage - this applies only to Church of England services. Even if you cannot demonstrate any of the above connections, we want to help you explore whether it may still be possible for you to marry in your special church. Please contact your local vicar or speak to the Cathedral's Canon Pastor.