

Getting married in the Six Parishes

(High Easter, Good Easter, Margaret Roding, High Roding, Aythorpe Roding and Great Canfield)

Please come to us first with a date before booking a venue

We are delighted you are considering getting married in one of our Parish Churches. A marriage service is a public declaration of love and commitment. By getting married in church, you are showing that you want to make this public declaration before God.

Please find below some initial information you will need about the process of getting married in one of our church buildings. Please get in touch via the Parish Administrator and we will be very happy to talk through the options and discuss the next steps, (parishadministrator@thesixparishes.org.uk).

Who can marry in our churches?

- (i) **If you live in one of our six ecclesiastical parishes** you can get married in your village church or one of the churches within the benefice.

The parishes are grouped into two benefices; High Easter, Good Easter, Margaret Roding and Aythorpe Roding, High Roding, Great Canfield.

- (ii) In the autumn of 2008, changes in the regulations came into place, which are designed to make it easier for people who have a genuine connection with the parish to marry in the parish church, even if you do not currently live there or worship with the particular church. This means couples are welcome to be married in a parish **if just one of these applies:**

- one of you was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish
- one of you has ever lived in the parish for six months or more
- one of you has regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more
- one of your parents has lived in the parish for six months or more in your lifetime
- one of their parents has regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more
- your parents or grandparents were married in the parish.

- (iii) **If you both live outside the parish and neither one of you has a qualifying link with the parish** you are able to meet the qualifying connection if one or both of you attend church regularly, at least twice per month, for a 6 month period prior to your wedding. Failure to meet this criteria would mean that your wedding could not take place in this parish.

- (iv) If either or both parties are divorced with his or former partner still living you are invited to have a conversation with the Priest-in-charge who can talk through the position and any possibilities.

We think marriage is very important and it is to be entered into with the intention of being lifelong. Couples are encouraged to attend a marriage preparation course.