

Document Control Information

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Distribution List	
Name	Title
	PCC
	Website



St Bartholomew's, Ducklington **Marriage Policy**

Following a request for a wedding, the administrator will pass the contact details onto the Rector.

The administrator will gather information on the 'Bride and Groom' details form identifying the relevant qualifying connection. This information is entered into the 'Life Events' database, having obtained GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) permission.

If the couple do not immediately meet the qualifying requirements, then they will need to qualify by attending St Bartholomew's for a minimum period of 6 months.

The Rector will meet with the couple to develop a relationship, to plan their marriage service, and to review relevant documentation.

Compliance with Canon Law

In accordance with Canon Law (B30–36), the following principles apply:

- The nature of marriage (Canon B30): Marriage is understood by the Church of England as a lifelong union between one man and one woman, intended by God for mutual love, comfort, and the procreation and nurture of children.
- Legal and pastoral requirements (Canon B31): The Rector will ensure that all marriages comply with the law of the land (e.g. age, consent, freedom to marry) and the discipline of the Church.
- Place and form of marriage (Canon B32): Marriages are to be conducted in the parish church (or another authorised building) using the Church of England's authorised liturgy.
- Publication of banns or licence (Canon B33): A marriage may only take place after the reading of banns or with the appropriate licence (Common Licence, Special Licence, or Archbishop's Licence).

Registers and legal documents (Canon B34): The Rector and administrator will ensure that all marriage documents are properly

completed, signed, and securely kept in line with legal and Church requirements.

Ceremonial and music (Canon B35): Music, readings, and ceremonial aspects should be appropriate for Christian worship and will be discussed with the couple.

Marriage after divorce (Canon B36): Where either party has been previously married and divorced, the Rector will sensitively explore the circumstances, following the pastoral guidelines of the House of Bishops. Remarriage after divorce in church is not an automatic right but may be permitted after careful consideration and prayerful discernment. A Decree Absolute must always be produced.

Practical Arrangements

Information obtained during conversations with the Rector will be used to complete the Marriage Document.

The administrator will record details regarding flowers, bells, and organ/keyboard. Charges for these are reviewed annually.

The Rector will discuss photography, recording, and live-streaming with the couple.

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Signed Parish Priest/Incumbent.....

Churchwarden

Churchwarden

Date: