

‘QUALIFYING CONNECTIONS’ FOR MARRIAGE

- **If either prospective bride, groom - or both - live in the parish they normally qualify automatically to be married in the parish church.**

The law also makes it possible for a couple to marry in a church away from where they live because it has special significance for them through family or other connections.

A couple need to show that one or both of them has one of the ‘Qualifying Connections’ that are listed below.

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if:

that person:

- **was baptised in the parish.** (This does not apply where the baptism formed 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 6 months;** or
- **has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months**
(This qualifying connection can be established during the period between booking a wedding and the start of calling of banns. - ‘habitually’ would normally mean attendance at the Sunday morning service at least once a month); 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 6 months;** or
- **habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;** or
- **a parent or grandparent of that person was married in the parish.**

In all cases involving church services - i.e. coming to/going to/attending normal church services, baptism, confirmation or marriage - this applies only to Church of England services.