

## QUALIFYING CONNECTIONS

### 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**

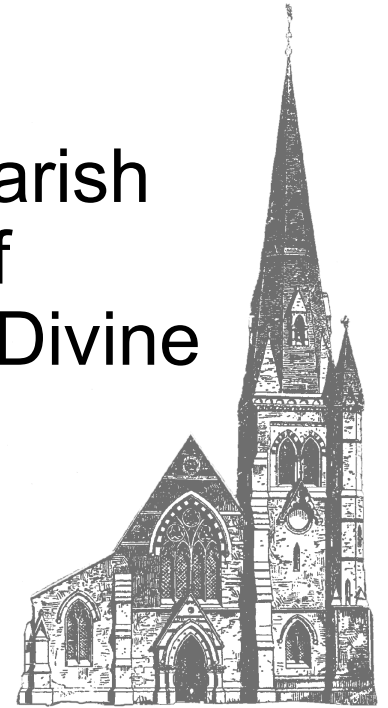
### That one of your parents, at any time after you were born:

- 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.

# Horninglow Parish Church of Saint John the Divine



## Wedding Arrangements for

and

on

## **Congratulations!**

We are delighted that you have chosen to get married at S. John's Church, and we should like to help your wedding day to be happy and memorable.

The wedding service is a mixture: in it you become parties to a legal contract, and it is a Christian ceremony in which we seek God's blessing for you both as you set out together on married life.

This booklet is designed to answer some of your questions and help you plan the details of your service.

## **Useful Telephone Numbers**

Administrator Mrs Sue Oakes      01283 512539

## **Booking the Wedding**

For a couple to marry in a parish church it is usual for at least one of them to have what is called a 'qualifying connection' with the parish. See the last page of this booklet. Please ask if you are in any doubt. When you enquired about having your wedding in S. John's, you were probably given an application form which asks for details required by law. Most of the details will appear on your marriage certificate and in the marriage registers which you sign on the day.

## **Flowers**

Please make your own arrangements for flowers. You will need to contact the vicar or the administrator, so that the church can be opened for the florist at a mutually convenient time.

## **Wedding Fees**

These are set each year. Some are prescribed by law, and others set by the Parochial Church Council. Details are enclosed.

Payment should be made at least one month before the wedding. Please bear in mind that failure to pay risks the cancellation of the service.

Cheques should be made out to St John's PCC. (PCC is short for 'Parochial Church Council'.)

For on-line banking use:

Account Name:

PCC St John the Divine Horninglow

Sort code:

08 92 50

Account Number:

61054228

Please use your full name as the reference.

We must know the choice of music and hymns a month before the wedding.

## **Photographs**

Your official photographer is most welcome, and is asked to introduce him/herself to the vergers or priest before the service, who will be able to explain what is possible. During the service itself, photographers should refrain from using flash. Flash photography is allowed for the signing of the registers.

Members of the congregation are not permitted to use cameras during the service - it can be disruptive.

## **Video Recording**

You are welcome to record your wedding on video. The fee payable to the church for this facility can be found on the enclosed sheet.

It is important that the video operator has a copyright licence, or signs the form enclosed with this booklet, which must also be signed by yourselves. The licence or the form must be carried by your video operator on the day. The video camera should be stationary during the service, but can be brought into the Ladychapel for the signing of the registers at the end of the service.

Please include a telephone number on which you can be contacted up to and including the date of the marriage, preferably a land line rather than (or as well as) a mobile.

## **Banns**

Banns are read at the main service (10 am) on three consecutive Sundays during the three months before the wedding. The dates are printed below. We hope you will want to come and hear them being read.

If one of you lives in another parish, you will need to ask for banns to be read there as well as here. You will need to get a certificate from the vicar there, for which there will be a fee. You must give this certificate to us before the wedding takes place.

Your banns will be read on:

It is also possible to fulfil legal preliminaries to marriage not by having banns read but by obtaining a Common Licence or a Special Licence. One of these may be necessary if the wedding has to be arranged in a hurry, or if neither of you has a 'qualifying connection'. Further details on request.

## **The Marriage Service**

The usual order of service is this:

- The Bridal Procession
- The Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 1st Hymn
- Preface (setting out what marriage is about)
- The Declarations (when you say “I will”).
- The Collect (a special prayer)
- A reading (or readings, but usually just one)
- The Vows
- The Giving of Ring(s)
- The Proclamation and Blessing of the Couple
- 2nd Hymn
- The Prayers (including the Lord’s Prayer)
- 3rd Hymn (if required - just 2 hymns are usual)
- The Signing of the Registers
- The Blessing of Everybody
- The Procession of the Bride and Groom

There are many options within the Marriage Service, including choosing hymns, reading(s), music and particular prayers. These will be explained in detail at your Marriage Preparation Evening and at the rehearsal for your marriage. Two witnesses over the age of 16 are needed for the signing of the registers. It is usual to choose an adult from each family, or two friends (eg best man and chief bridesmaid).

## **Printing your own Order of Service**

You are welcome to have a professionally printed, or home produced, order of service. We insist that a proof is approved by the priest taking your service before the final print run. Many embarrassing errors have been prevented by doing this in the past! A ‘pro forma’ is included with this booklet to show you what should be included. Most commercial orders of service are little more than ‘words for the hymns’, and are not helpful guides through the service for the congregation.

## **Preparing for the Service**

A date will be arranged when the vicar or other priest will meet you to give advice and to answer questions about the service, to check details of hymns, music and so on.

You are welcome to bring your parents, best man and chief bridesmaid, or another close friend to be with you.

## **Music**

This is one of the most important aspects of the service. Please come to the Marriage Preparation Evening where the possibilities will be discussed. Some couples bring their ‘own’ organist, and this is possible by arrangement in good time. The fee for use of the organ still has to be paid to the church.