



St. Mary's Church  
Chiddingfold

## Qualifying Connection Information

Many couples wish to marry in a church that has special significance for them, even if it is not the church within their current parish of residence. With the introduction of The Marriage Measure (October 2008), the Church of England has made it easier to achieve this.

If you are not resident within the parish of St. Mary's Church, Chiddingfold, you will still be able to marry at our church through one of the following Qualifying Connections.

Either:

- One of you was baptised at St. Mary's;
- One of you has been confirmed and was prepared for confirmation in the parish of St. Mary's;
- One of you has, at any time, lived in the parish of St. Mary's for at least 6 months;
- One of you has, at any time, regularly attended public worship at St. Mary's for at least 6 months – please see below for further information.

Or:

- One of your parents has lived in the parish for at least 6 months at any time since either of you were born;
- One of your parents has regularly attended public worship at St. Mary's for at least 6 months at any time since either of you were born;
- One of your parents or grandparents was married in the parish.

### Qualifying by becoming a regular worshipper

If time between your engagement and your wedding day permits, and you have no other Qualifying Connection, you may become 'regular attenders' for 6 months, which would enable you to marry at St. Mary's. You would be required to attend 13 Sunday services within an agreed 6-month period (13 being half the number of Sundays in 6 months). This is how it works:

- Your wedding date is booked and will not be made available to anyone else, although final confirmation of this date will only be given once you have completed your attendance.
- You will be given 13 'Attendance Slips' on which you should write the date of your attendance, your surnames and the date of your wedding.
- When you attend services at St. Mary's please remember to place one of the slips in the collection plate when you arrive at Church or in the collection bag, along with any donation you may wish to make. You can also give the slip to one of the Churchwardens or Welcomers.
- After church a note will be made of your attendance on a form that is held in a file in the vestry. A separate form is kept for each couple qualifying in this way.
- Following the last of your 13 Sundays of attendance at St. Mary's, you will receive confirmation that you now have a Qualifying Connection with our church.

**We hope that you will be able to hold your wedding at St. Mary's Chiddingfold, should you wish to do so, and are happy to help with any further enquiries.**