

The United Benefice of Catherington and Clanfield
% The Parish Office
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR WEDDING ENQUIRY – SOME BASIC INFORMATION FOR YOU

Thank you so much for enquiring about a wedding at All Saints Church, Catherington or Saint James Church, Clanfield. Here is some basic information about weddings in our Benefice churches that you may find useful in your planning.

To marry in either of our churches you must have a connection (called a Qualifying Connection) with one of them. Because we are something called a United Benefice with particular permissions in place, a relevant connection to one or other church is sufficient to marry at either All Saints or St James. The most straightforward connection is that you live in the parish – and you can check that by entering your address at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>.

If you don't live in either parish now, then you may still have a Qualifying Connection in any of the following apply:

- Either of you has at any time lived in the parish for a period of at least 6 months; or
- Either of you was baptised (christened) in the parish concerned; or
- Either of you is confirmed and your confirmation was entered in the register of confirmations for a church or chapel in the parish (this will usually be the case if you were prepared for confirmation in the parish); or
- **Either of you has at any time regularly gone to normal church services in the parish church for a period of at least 6 months.**
- Any of your parents, at a 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
- Any parent or grandparent was married in the parish.

You will note that one of the Qualifying Connections above is highlighted in **bold**. In the event that there is no existing Qualifying Connection, you can establish one by attending a Sunday service at one of the churches at least monthly for six calendar months. This needs to be an unbroken chain of monthly attendances to qualify. If you are planning to attend either church to establish your qualifying connection then please use the form at the end of this letter to record your attendance, signed by the minister taking each service for verification. Please note that you need to attend Sunday worship at the same church for the whole six-month period, but not necessarily at the same time every Sunday.

You probably already have a date in mind for your ceremony, but please be aware that you will need to demonstrate your Qualifying Connection with evidence before we will take a £100 deposit from you to secure your chosen date in our church diary. Should you be seeking to establish your connection by attendance, then we can “pencil you in” while you are doing that, but if someone else with a proven Qualifying Connection wishes to book that date then we will be obliged to offer it to them.

In most cases, weddings in Church of England churches are conducted after the reading of Banns. This is the formal notification of your forthcoming marriage and is a legal requirement. Banns must be read in the Parish Church of anywhere that either party lives and in the church where the service is taking place. If you both live within the United Benefice then the Banns only need to be read in the church where you are marrying. However, if you live separately in different Church of England parishes outside the United Benefice you will need to have Banns read here, and in both churches of your places of residence.

There is lots of useful information about a Church of England wedding at the link below. This includes the compulsory legal costs for marrying in the church. You will have thoughts on other things you may wish to include in your wedding service, and we can let you know the cost for different options; but please be aware that there are additional costs that we include for people who are there for the safety of your guests on the day, and for extra measures we take to ensure that the documentation completed at the service makes it safely to the Register Office.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding>

There is obviously lots more that will go into making your wedding the truly amazing start to married life together that it will be, and we will meet with you to talk about arrangements and help you think about your married future in the run up to your special day. We look forward to meeting with you as your plans progress!

Blessings,



The Reverend Richard Hutchins, Priest-in-Charge

CHURCH ATTENDANCE RECORD FORM

Name(s): _____

| Date | Church Attended | Service Attended | Minister Signature |
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