



*The United Benefice of  
The Ramseys and Upwood*

[www.ramseysandupwood.org](http://www.ramseysandupwood.org)

## Some Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I get married in any Church of England church?**

Not quite, but you can either get married in your local parish church, or in any other church where you can demonstrate a relevant qualifying connection. To find your local parish church visit [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com). In the United Benefice of the Ramseys and Upwood, you can get married in any of the three churches if you live in any of the parishes. For more details about qualifying connections contact [Reverend Becky](#).

### **I'm not baptised (christened) / I don't attend church. Can I still get married in a church?**

Yes you can! If as part of the process of preparation for marriage you feel that you would like to be baptised, we would be very happy to talk that through with you too.

### **We have a date in mind, what should we do next?**

Before you book anything else, please contact Reverend Becky. We realise that you will be under pressure to book reception venues, florists, photographers, cars etc., but if we don't have a minister or the church available then we are not able to offer a service. Please speak to us to make sure that date is free before you book anything else.

### **Are there any restrictions to when a wedding can take place?**

Marriages can only take place between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm, but can take place on any day of the week. In the periods leading up to Easter and Christmas we are a little busier than usual, so please speak to us early if you are thinking of these times of year.

### **What if one or both of us has been married before?**

We recognize that sometimes things go wrong, irreparably, in relationships. And we also believe in a God who forgives and gives new life. So in most cases we are happy to offer remarriage after divorce, although the priest officiating at the service will want to talk through with you what happened in the previous marriage.

You will need to complete a form called "Marriage in Church after Divorce". Please contact Reverend Becky for more information.

### **What happens if one of us is a foreign national?**

This depends on your circumstances, and different rules apply for EU and non-EU nationals. If one or other of you is non-resident in the UK, please have a look at [www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/visitingtheuk/marriage-cp-visitors/](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/visitingtheuk/marriage-cp-visitors/) to see if you need any entry clearance. Once you have Home Office entry clearance, or if you both live in the UK, the

next step is to find a church in which you can legally marry according to English law (see our 'Connections' section). You will also need to contact the Diocesan Registrar to see if you need a Common Licence in order to get married. We can talk to you about this, but you will most likely need to talk to or meet our legal team, the Diocesan Registrars, [www.elydiocesanregistry.co.uk](http://www.elydiocesanregistry.co.uk)

## **What if we are British citizens living abroad / in the Armed Forces deployed overseas?**

You can get married in any church where you have a qualifying connection. You will need to apply for a Common Licence. This also includes residents of Scotland, as the banns system only applies to England and Wales. If you are in the Armed Forces this is likely to apply to you too.

## **Can we have special performers/singers in for our wedding service?**

All content of the service including any music performed by others has to be agreed in advance with the priest who is taking the service. In addition to agreement the priest may wish to talk with external performers to ensure the sanctity of the service is kept.

## **We have a friend/relative who is ordained. Can they take the service?**

We will be happy to discuss involvement of other clergy in the service, although Richard or Becky will also want to be involved. Please note that, as Church of England clergy also act as registrars for weddings in churches, ministers of other churches and denominations cannot officiate at marriages – though there are other ways in which they can be involved in the service.

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