

# *What does the Church of England believe about marriage?*

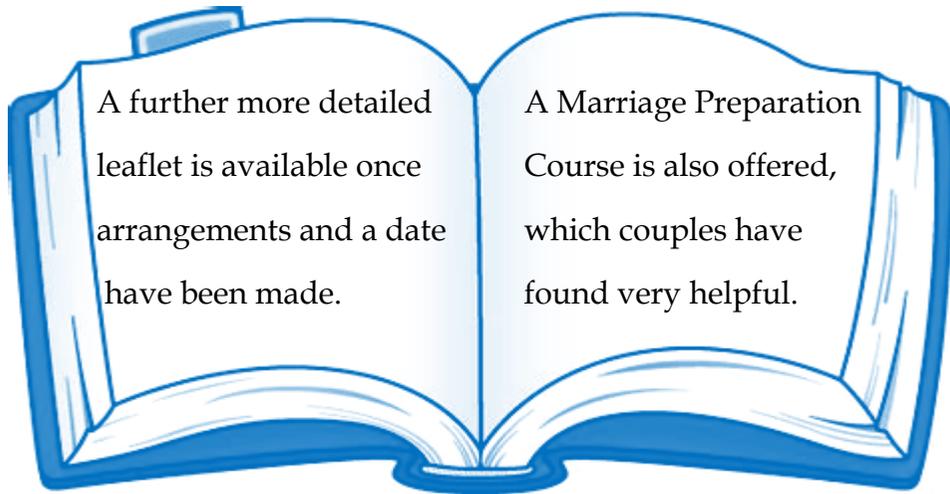
Marriage is God's gift, available to everyone, whatever our background or belief. It is the lifelong commitment of one man and one woman to each other. The Church welcomes the opportunity to you to make your solemn and joyful promises to each other not just in front of your family and friends, but also in God's sight and with his blessing.



## *What is the next step?*

Please contact Rev'd Philip Rowe: 01454 613223

or email: [vicar@stmaryssevernside.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmaryssevernside.org.uk)



Church of England Weddings  
at St Mary's, Almondsbury

*Would you like a  
Church Wedding  
in Almondsbury?*



We are delighted to welcome couples from our local community and beyond who wish to begin their married life at St Mary's.

We hope that the information given here will answer many of your questions.

## Who is eligible?

We gladly marry all people we legally can. We will be pleased to marry you here if either of you can show just one of the following connections with the Parish:

### That one of you:

was baptised in the Parish **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 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 6 months **or**

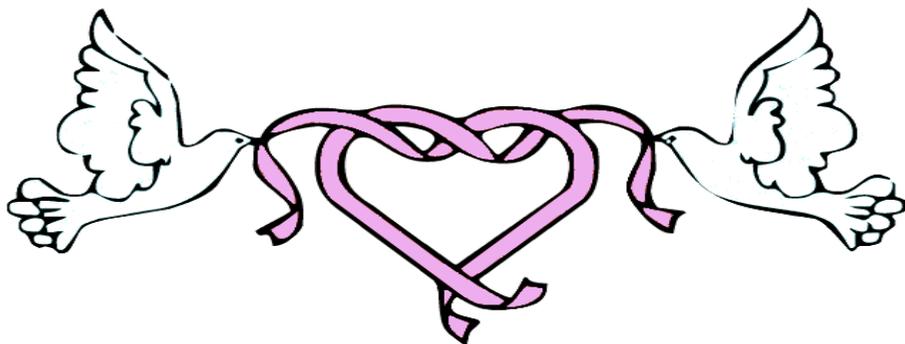
has regularly gone to normal services in the Parish Church for a period of at least 6 months **or**

### That one of your parents or grandparents:

was married in the Parish.

*If none of these apply, it is possible to apply for an Archbishop's Special Marriage Licence.*

Special Marriage Licences are issued to those who have a genuine connection with a particular church or chapel.



## What is the Parish?

The Parish, of which Philip Rowe is the Vicar, covers the village of Almondsbury and Pilning. Please ask for further details.

## What if I've been married before?

### Please talk to us

We consider marrying people who have been divorced, in accordance with the Bishop's guidelines. We need a private conversation before deciding the next step. The Church requires your priest to explore with you what has happened in the past, before advising you on planning your wedding and your marriage. This may be an emotional and also a healing thing to do.



## Does it cost a fortune?

### No!

In 2020, a church wedding at St Mary's costs anything from £554 to £1019 - it depends if you want the choir, bells and other extras. Secular venues are often much more expensive.

