

THE QUALIFYING CONNECTIONS

(taken from the Church of England Marriage Measure 2008)

A person has a **Qualifying Connection** with a parish if:

1. That person:
 - a. was baptised in the parish. (This does not apply where the baptism formed part of a combined service of baptism or confirmation); or
 - b. had his or her confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish; or
 - c. has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
 - d. has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

or

2. A Parent of that person has at any time during that person's lifetime:
 - a. had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
 - b. habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

or

3. A Parent or Grandparent of that person was married in the parish.

The references to baptism, confirmation and marriage, and to attending public worship, are all confined to services according to the rites of the Church of England.

Banns

A marriage under the Measure will normally take place following publication of banns.

The banns must be published:

- where the marriage is to take place -

The notice requesting the calling of banns there must be given to the Minister of the parish; and the normal wording should be used for the banns, except that at the point where the banns refer to the person with the Qualifying Connection, the words "N ... of this parish" should be changed to "N ... of the

parish of X who wishes to be married in this church by virtue of his/her connection with this parish”;

and

- in the parish or parishes where each of the couple are resident -

The normal wording should be used for the banns here; and

A certificate of due publication of banns in each parish must be produced to the member of the clergy who is to solemnise the marriage

The banns should not be published in any other parish e.g. a parish where one or both of the couple are not resident but have their names on the church electoral roll.

It is the responsibility of each person who wishes to claim a Qualifying Connection to establish that connection and to arrange for the calling of banns in their home parish before the wedding ceremony