

## Reading of Banns

Banns are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place. Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives as well as the parish church in which you are to be married, if that is somewhere else. You must have your banns read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. This is often done over three consecutive Sundays but does not have to be.

If there is not enough notice given for the Banns to be read before the marriage is due to take place, or in the case of the marriage of people whose nationality is not British, or if one or both of you do not live in England, it is recommended that the Licence procedure be used rather than Banns. This is especially recommended if there is any doubt as to the legal requirements of the home country of a non-British person for recognition of an English Church marriage.

To have your banns read please print out and fill in the form below, and return it with a cheque for £34 made out to the PCC of your parish church. For example if you live in the parish of St Mary's you would make the cheque out to 'St Mary's PCC'.

To check what parish you live in please follow the link to the 'Church Near You' website on the home page and type in your postcode.

Please return completed form and cheque to the Partnership Office (address on the homepage).

You will then be contacted about when your banns are going to be read and how to arrange collection of the certificate.

## Notes on Completing Banns Form below

### NOTES

(Numbers refer to sections overleaf)

At least seven days notice is required before the first reading of banns.

(3) If either of you will not be 18 by the proposed date of the wedding, the priest will need to know whether the consent of parents or guardians has been obtained.

(4, 11, 12) The Church's official rules do not permit the marriage in church of anyone who has been divorced from a husband or wife who is still alive. Anyone in this position should consult their parish priest.

(6) Make sure you include the name of the town, county, and postcode.

(15) This means the Church of England parish in which you *live*. If either of you lives in a different parish from that in which the marriage is to take place, you have to arrange for the banns to be read there too and obtain a banns certificate.

# Banns of Marriage Application

**PLEASE READ**

This form may be completed by one of the partners on behalf of both.

Only the sections marked \* need be completed if the marriage is to take place in another parish.

The notes overleaf are important and should be read before each section is completed.

2 *Full name (block capitals)	3 *Age at proposed date of wedding	4 *Condition (strike out what does not apply)	5 Rank, profession, or occupation	6 *Address at time of publishing banns (and telephone no.)	7 Father's full name (if deceased add deceased)	8 Father's rank, profession, or occupation
(Man)		Bachelor Widower				
(Woman)		Spinster Widow				
9 Nationality	10 Date of birth	11 Have you been previously married?	12 If so, was the previous marriage terminated by death?	13 Have you been baptized? If so, where?	14 *Since when have you lived at the address in 6 above?	15 *Which is your parish church?
(Man)						
(Woman)						
16 Are you related, or connected by marriage? If so, how?	17 *At what church do you wish to be married?		18 *On what date?	19 At what time?	*I hereby certify that to the best of my belief the answers to the above questions are correct.	
(Both)					Signature	
					Signature	
					Date	
For use by clergy					Future address	
					Dates for publication of banns	