

Church of England Marriage Measure 2008

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Diocesan Registrar

November 2008

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Preliminaries

Banns and common licence: reformed

Special licence: no change

Welcome approach

"...The Marriage Measure will change the mission landscape with respect to church weddings. It offers the church an opportunity to clarify ... and celebrate its wider welcome, so as to meet the needs for couples requesting church weddings better and to integrate more of them into the ongoing life of the local church."

The Mission and Public Affairs Division, Church House, London

Material and resources

Registrar's letter dated 2.9.08 sent to clergy in diocesan mailing

Guidance from House of Bishops published June 2008

Form for completion by a person who wishes to marry

Guidance and form available on www.cofe.anglican.org & follow links

First contact and meeting

- Welcome and encouragement
- Identify correct preliminary (banns or which licence)
- If not possible in your church put in touch with clergy of other possible church
- Marriage preparation: where – at your church or elsewhere?

Preliminaries – Banns

Existing rights of parishioners and those on ER

- Residence: person lives / has a home in the parish
- Person is on ER
- Banns of both persons to be called

Preliminaries – Banns and Common Licence

What's new:

- Extend legal right to be married in church by "qualifying connection"
- One or both persons may establish QC

The Qualifying Connections:

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if:

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
- Had his or her confirmation entered in a church register book of a church or chapel in the parish; or

The Qualifying Connections:

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if:

That person:

- (b) Has at any time had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
- (c) Has at any time habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

The Qualifying Connections:

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if:

A parent of that person has at any time during that person's lifetime:

- (d) Had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months; or
- Habitually attended public worship in the parish for at least 6 months;

The Qualifying Connections:

A person has a Qualifying Connection with a parish if:

(e) A parent or grandparent of that person was married in the parish.

Some general points: New

Marriage Measure 2008

- Applies to marriage in church only – parish church or other place of worship licensed for marriages by bishop
- Does not apply to school, university, prison or hospital chapels: ABC Special Licence here
- Does not apply to marriage in cathedrals

Some general points: No change

- Couple have no right to choose date or time of day
- Marriage must be solemnised within 3 months of publication of banns or common licence
- Marriage must be solemnised between 8am and 6pm

Some general points: No change

Existing arrangements for:

- Divorcees marrying in church with former spouse still living
- Persons subject to immigration control
- ABC Special Licences

Some general points for calling banns with a QC: Where are banns called?

Banns are published

- In church where marriage is to take place (i.e. where QC relates) AND
- In parish(es) where each of couple resides

Some general points calling banns with a QC: Where are banns called?

Banns need not be called in the parish where couple are on ER if it is neither parish of residence nor parish where marriage is taking place

Some general points: Calling banns with a QC

"I publish the banns of marriage between Rufus Mead of the parish of St Thomas, Cleartown who has a qualifying connection with this parish and Dorothy Champagne of the parish of...."

House of Bishops Guidance para 10

Some general points: Where parish boundaries have changed, where does a person have a QC?

If a person has a QC which relates to

- residence at a particular address or
- an event, or a period of worshipping, at a particular church

then the QC enables a person to be married in the parish where that address or church (or its site) is *now*

Establishing a qualifying connection: 1

Applicant has responsibility to satisfy

For banns, minister of parish

For common licence, surrogate

Establishing a qualifying connection: 2

Minister or surrogate to be satisfied by:

- Applicant producing written information *or*
- Otherwise, e.g. minister's own knowledge

Minister may require "statutory declaration" from Applicant

Surrogate may require evidence of QC in affidavit supporting application for common licence

Establishing a qualifying connection: 3

How is Qualifying Connection established?

House of Bishops has issued guidance

Minister is under legal duty "to have regard to the guidance"

Guidance advises how ministers are to discharge their statutory responsibility

House of Bishops Guidance para 16

Establishing a qualifying connection: 4

Who is the Minister who has the statutory responsibility?

Priest with licence giving special cure of souls – sometimes team vicar –

If none then
Incumbent, Priest in charge, Team Rector –

If none then Rural Dean

House of Bishops Guidance para 23

Establishing a qualifying connection: 5

First steps

- Applicant completes form
- Sends / gives form to Minister
- Minister normally meets couple / applicant in person

House of Bishops Guidance para 24-25

Establishing a qualifying connection: 6

- First meeting
- Welcome
- Do couple marrying have existing rights to marry?
- If no – then is QC clearly established?
- If not – is there further evidence to establish QC?

House of Bishops Guidance para 25

Establishing a qualifying connection: 7

Evidence to establish a QC

Documentary, e.g.

- Relevant certificate of baptism, confirmation, marriage
- Relevant entry in register

House of Bishops Guidance para 25, 29, 30

Establishing a qualifying connection: 8

Evidence to establish a QC

Documentary, e.g.

- Relevant written evidence (document, inscribed gift) produced by applicant
- Independent witness evidence, e.g. letter from Sunday School teacher, predecessor minister, churchwarden

House of Bishops Guidance para 25, 29, 30, 52

Establishing a qualifying connection: 9

Evidence to establish a QC

- Minister's own specific knowledge

House of Bishops Guidance para 25, 29, 30

Establishing a qualifying connection: 10

Evidence to establish a QC

- Statutory Declaration by applicant

House of Bishops Guidance para 25, 29, 30

No qualifying connection: 1

Couple outside Marriage Measure 2008 (no QC available)
then Minister explains alternatives for marriage in this church:

Worship at this church → ER *or*

ABC Special Licence *or*

Common Licence after 15 days living in the parish

House of Bishops Guidance para 25, 33

No qualifying connection: 2

Couple outside MM 2008 and cannot establish a QC to marry, then not possible to marry in this church

- Minister must turn application down
- Minister meets couple or writes explaining grounds for decision
- Advice – Minister should always confirm grounds for decision in writing
- Minister offers advice where church wedding may be possible

House of Bishops Guidance para 34

Qualifying connection – Baptism

- A. I was baptised in the parish
(by a Church of England service / form of baptism)

Qualifying connection – Baptism

- A. I was baptised in the parish
(by a Church of England service / form of baptism)

THOMAS STOUT wishes to marry at St Matthew's

When were you baptised?

1 June 1985

Where were you baptised?

St Matthews Parish Church, Whiteroads

What documentary or other information?

My Baptism Certificate - Copy attached

Qualifying connection – Baptism

- A. I was baptised in the parish
(by a Church of England service / form of baptism)

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When were you baptised?

1 June 1985

Where were you baptised?

St Matthews Parish Church, Whiteroads

What documentary or other information?

My Baptism Certificate - Copy attached

QC ESTABLISHED: NOTHING MORE REQUIRED

Place copy of certificate with application form

Qualifying connection – Baptism

- A. I was baptised in the parish
(by a Church of England service / form of baptism)

JAMES ALEMAN wishes at to marry at St Matthew's

When were you baptised?

1 November 1975

Where were you baptised?

Good Shepherd Mission Church, Bluebridge

What documentary or other information?

Copy of fly leaf of my Bible which says "To James; on his Baptism at Good Shepherd Church on Sunday 1 November 1975 with love from his Godmother Auntie Janet".

[Good Shepherd is the daughter church of St Matthew's parish]

Qualifying connection – Baptism

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[Good Shepherd is the daughter church of St Matthew's parish.]

QC ESTABLISHED: NOTHING MORE REQUIRED

Place copy of evidence with application form

Qualifying connection – Baptism

- A. I was baptised in the parish
(by a Church of England service / form of baptism)

GEORGE COFFEY wishes to marry in his childhood church, which was not his parish church

When were you baptised?

About 1959 – when I was 5 years old

Where were you baptised?

In Church – not sure which? My family was living in Stilton Road, Greenthorpe at the time.

What documentary or other information?

Nothing

Qualifying connection – Baptism

- A. I was baptised in the parish
(by a Church of England service / form of baptism)

GEORGE COFFEY

- Offer guidance how to find Baptism Registers of local churches for 1958 – 1960
- Baptismal certificate produced: QC established
- No evidence of baptism: QC not established
- George has no memory of which church or denomination, therefore he cannot make a Stat Dec
- You may ask the Registrar for advice

Qualifying connection – Confirmation

- A. I have been confirmed (by a Church of England service) and my confirmation is entered in a register belonging to a church or chapel in the parish

Qualifying connection – Confirmation

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HARRY BARLEY wishes to marry in St Matthew's

When were you confirmed?

1 June 1985

Where were you confirmed?

St Matthew Parish Church, Whiteroads

Who prepared you for confirmation?

The Revd John Gorgeous – curate at Good Shepherd Mission Church, Bluebridge

In which Register is your confirmation recorded?

I assume St Matthew, Whiteroads

What documentary or other information etc?

My Confirmation Certificate: Henry John Barley confirmed at St Matthew's Whiteroads + George Bingford 1 June 1985

Qualifying connection – Confirmation

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1 June 1985

Where were you confirmed?

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Who prepared you for confirmation?

The Revd John Gorgeous – curate at Good Shepherd Mission Church, Bluebridge

In which Register is your confirmation recorded?

I assume St Matthew, Whiteroads

What documentary or other information etc?

My Confirmation Certificate: Henry John Barley confirmed at St Matthew's Whiteroads + George Bingford 1 June 1985

QC ESTABLISHED: NOTHING MORE REQUIRED

Place copy of certificate with application form

Qualifying connection – Confirmation

- A. I have been confirmed (by a Church of England service) and my confirmation is entered in a register belonging to a church or chapel in the parish

CATHERINE PORTER wishes to marry at St Matthew's

When were you confirmed?

1 November 1975 (age 13)

Where were you confirmed?

The Parish Church of All Saints at Bigtown

Who prepared you for confirmation?

The vicar at St Matthew's, Whiteroads

In which Register is your confirmation recorded?

I don't know

A search in the St Matthew's Register shows Catherine's name among those who gathered for a deanery confirmation at Bigtown

Qualifying connection – Confirmation

- A. I have been confirmed (by a Church of England service) and my confirmation is entered in a register belonging to a church or chapel in the parish

CATHERINE PORTER wishes to marry at St Matthew's

When were you confirmed?

1 November 1975 (age 13)

Where were you confirmed?

The Parish Church of All Saints at Bigtown

Who prepared you for confirmation?

The vicar at St Matthew's, Whiteroads

In which Register is your confirmation recorded?

I don't know

A search in the St Matthew's Register shows Catherine's name among those who gathered for a deanery confirmation at Bigtown

QC ESTABLISHED: NOTHING MORE REQUIRED

Qualifying connection – Confirmation

- A. I have been confirmed (by a Church of England service) and my confirmation is entered in a register belonging to a church or chapel in the parish

WILLIAM DRANE wishes to marry in Bigtown Parish Church

When were you confirmed?

About 1959 – when I was 13 years old. I was baptised at same time

Where were you confirmed?

All Saints Bigtown

Who prepared you for confirmation?

I cannot remember. We had confirmation classes in Bigtown Secondary School

In which Register is your confirmation recorded?

Don't know

What documentary or other information etc?

None

Qualifying connection – Confirmation

- A. I have been confirmed (by a Church of England service) and my confirmation is entered in a register belonging to a church or chapel in the parish

WILLIAM DRANE wishes to marry in Bigtown Parish Church:

Minister offers guidance as William would potentially have a QC on these grounds to marry at Bigtown

- William can marry in All Saints Bigtown if confirmation certificate produced – or
- Confirmation Register for 1958-1960 – entry found – or
- Confirmation Register now full and deposited at Diocesan Record Office – tell William to search to obtain copy

Qualifying connection – Confirmation

- A. I have been confirmed (by a Church of England service) and my confirmation is entered in a register belonging to a church or chapel in the parish

WILLIAM DRANE wishes to marry in Bigtown Parish Church

- If no entry in any Confirmation Register can be found – Can William produce any evidence of the confirmation, e.g. inscribed gift, a witness or another candidate confirmed with him?
- If no evidence whatsoever, probably QC not established

Qualifying connection –

(Grand)parent's marriage

- E. My parent or grandparent was married in the parish by a Church of England service

Qualifying connection –

(Grand)parent's marriage

- C. My parent or grandparent was married in the parish by a Church of England service

PHILIP REGINALD GLASS wishes to marry at St Matthew's

When and where did the marriage take place?

1 June 1959, St Matthew's Whiteroads

Please give names of the parties to the marriage

Reginald Albert Glass and Joan Crystal. My parents

What documentary or other information etc.

My parents' certificate of marriage. Both are now dead

Qualifying connection –

(Grand)parent's marriage

- E. My parent or grandparent was married in the parish by a Church of England service

PHILIP REGINALD GLASS wishes to marry at St Matthew's

When and where did the marriage take place?

1 June 1959, St Matthew's Whiteroads

Please give names of the parties to the marriage

Reginald Albert Glass and Joan Crystal. My parents

What documentary or other information etc.

My parents' certificate of marriage. Both are now dead

QC ESTABLISHED: NOTHING MORE REQUIRED

**Qualifying connection –
(Grand)parent's marriage**

- E. My parent or grandparent was married in the parish by a Church of England service

SIMON DART wishes to marry at St Matthew's

When and where did the marriage take place?

I think they were married in 1930 at St Matthew's Whiteroads

Please give names of the parties to the marriage

Albert Thurston Dart and Edith Victoria Board. My Grandparents

What documentary or other information etc.

None to prove the 1930 marriage or place of marriage. This is what my Granny told me. My Granny often showed me a wedding photo outside the Church. Photo not available/lost. My parents' Certificate of Marriage (they were married elsewhere.)

**Qualifying connection –
(Grand)parent's marriage**

- E. My parent or grandparent was married in the parish by a Church of England service

SIMON DART wishes to marry at St Matthew's

- Marriage Register – Tell Simon to go to Register office and produce Certificate of 1930 Marriage
- Marriage certificate produced

QC ESTABLISHED: NOTHING MORE REQUIRED

**Qualifying connection –
(Grand)parent's marriage**

- E. My parent or grandparent was married in the parish by a Church of England service

SIMON DART wishes to marry at St Matthew's

- Marriage Register – Tell Simon to go to Register office and produce Certificate of 1930 Marriage
- Marriage certificate not produced

NO QC: marriage cannot take place

NB Civil authorities should always be able to produce a certificate of marriage

**Qualifying connection – Own past or
present residence**

- B. I have had my usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months

**Qualifying connection – Own past or
present residence**

- B. I have had my usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months

PRUE KITCHEN wishes to marry at St Matthew's

Each address at which you have been resident in the parish?

I lived at 44 Leicester Road in St Matthew's parish

The dates between which that address was/has been your usual place of residence:

Between about 1984 and 1995 when I was 4 – 14 years old

What documentary and other information etc?

My Post Office Savings Book; my school report - both have my name and address

**Qualifying connection – Own past or
present residence**

- B. I have had my usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months

PRUE KITCHEN wishes to marry at St Matthew's

Each address at which you have been resident in the parish:

I lived at 44 Leicester Road in St Matthew's parish

The dates between which that address was/has been your usual place of residence:

Between about 1984 and 1995 when I was 4 – 14 years old

What documentary and other information etc?

My Post Office Savings Book; my school report - both have my name and address

QC ESTABLISHED by documents: NOTHING MORE REQUIRED

If no documents: STAT DEC BY APPLICANT OR ADULT RELATIVE
(place document with application form)

Qualifying connection – Parent's residence during applicant's lifetime

- D. My parent has had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months during my lifetime

Qualifying connection – Parent's residence during applicant's lifetime

- D. My parent has had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months during my lifetime

AMELIA BELL wishes to marry at St Matthew's

Each address at which a parent of yours has been resident in the parish:

7 Lymeswold Crescent, Whiteroads

Names of the parents resident there:

David Montgomery Bell and Gertrude Amy Bell (both deceased)

Dates between which that address is/was/his/her/their usual place of residence:

1986-91 (approx). I had left my parents' previous home permanently in 1984 – I have never lived in Whiteroads.

Qualifying connection – Parent's residence during applicant's lifetime

- D. My parent has had his or her usual place of residence in the parish for at least 6 months during my lifetime

AMELIA BELL

Minister offers guidance as Amelia would potentially have a QC on these grounds to marry at St Matthew's

- Documentary evidence, e.g. parents' bank statement, conveyance, probate
- Independent written evidence e.g. letter from neighbour
- Otherwise: Stat dec from Amelia

IF QC ESTABLISHED: Place document with application form

Qualifying connection – Own past or present attendance at worship

- C. I have habitually attended public worship at Church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months

Qualifying connection – Own past or present attendance at worship

- C. I have habitually attended public worship at Church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months

GERRY HOPGROVE wishes to marry at St Matthew's

When did you begin to attend public worship habitually in the parish? *1980 approx (age 16)*

If you no longer do so, when did you cease to do so? *1983 approx (age 18)*

Where you worshipped in the parish during this period? *Good Shepherd (St Matthew's mission church)*

How often/on what occasions?

Maybe once a fortnight – church service before youth club

Qualifying connection – Own past or present attendance at worship

- C. I have habitually attended public worship at Church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months

GERRY HOPGROVE wishes to marry at St Matthew's

What documentary or other information etc?

Churchwarden recalls Gerry attending

Letter from Churchwarden

QC established

If no-one remembers Gerry: Stat Dec from Gerry

See later slide for form of Stat Dec as made by Gerry

Qualifying connection – Parent's past or present attendance at worship

- D. My parent has habitually attended public worship at church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months during my lifetime

Qualifying connection – Parent's past or present attendance at worship

- D. My parent has habitually attended public worship at church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months during my lifetime

CLARE VINE wishes to marry at St Matthew's
When did your parent(s) begin to attend public worship habitually in the parish? *About 2000, when they retired to village in next parish*
If that is no longer the case, when did it cease?

Dad died in 2004 and mum in 2006
Please give his/her/their names and his/her/their addresses over that period
Fred & Louise Vine, Caerphilly Cottage, Greywood

Where he/she/they worshipped in the parish during that period
St Matthew's Parish Church, Whiteroads

How often/on what occasions? *Weekly when they were well enough*
At what types of services? *Midweek BCP Holy Communion*

What documentary or other information?
None – Mr & Mrs Vine were a shy couple who didn't want their name on the electoral roll. But the priest remembers them coming to church.

Qualifying connection – Parent's past or present attendance at worship

- D. My parent has habitually attended public worship at church of England services in the parish for at least 6 months during my lifetime

CLARE VINE wishes to marry at St Matthew's (Clare's circumstances on previous slide)

QC ESTABLISHED on priest's personal knowledge

Statutory declaration – general points

- When required/appropriate see earlier slides and House of Bishops Guidance para 74-80
- Drafting the declaration is the applicant's responsibility
- A Solicitor will charge a fee for its preparation
- Minister may be able to help/assist but responsibility must remain with applicant. Do not put words into his/her mouth
- Declaration must be made before a practising solicitor or commissioner for oaths (fee £5-£10) or a JP

Statutory declaration

I [name] of [address], DO SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY DECLARE as follows:

1. I was born on [date]. I am the son/daughter of [name of both parents].
2. [Separate paragraphs setting out the evidence and knowledge of the applicant deponent for the Qualifying Connection claimed]

AND I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

SIGNED AND DECLARED at)
.....)
in the County of

This day of 2008)

Before me)
Solicitor / Commissioner for oaths)

House of Bishops Guidance para 74-80

Statutory declaration

I Gerald Manley Hopgrove of 10 Leicester Links, Truro, Cornwall, DO SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY DECLARE as follows:

1. I was born on 1 February 1964. I am the son of Manley John Hopgrove and Stella Hopgrove.
2. In 1979 my parents moved to 4 East Parade, Bigtown. A year later, in 1980, I began to attend the youth club at the church of the Good Shepherd, Bluebridge which is within the parish of St Matthew's, Whiteroads. I attended once every fortnight. All members were required to attend the evening service in church before youth club. I attended regularly on this basis until 1983.

AND I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

SIGNED AND DECLARED at)
.....)
in the County of

This day of 2008)

Before me)
Solicitor / Commissioner for oaths)

See H of B Guidance Pg 36 for additional specimen

**Church of England
Marriage Measure 2008**

Questions



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