

## ***St. Mary's Chiddingfold***

### **Qualifying Connection information**

**Many couples wish to marry in a church which has special significance for them, even if it is not the church within their current parish of residence. With the introduction of The Marriage Measure (October 2008) the Church of England has made it easier to achieve this.**

If you are not resident within the parish of St. Mary's Chiddingfold you will still be able to marry at our church through one of the following Qualifying Connections.

Either:

- One of you was baptised at St. Mary's.
- One of you has been confirmed, and was prepared for confirmation in the parish of St. Mary's.
- One of you has, at any time, lived in the parish for at least 6 months.
- One of you has, at any time, regularly attended public worship at St. Mary's for at least 6 months\*. (see below)

Or:

- One of your or your fiance/e's parents has lived in the parish for at least 6 months at any time after you were born (or, in the case of your fiance/e's parents, at any time after your fiance/e was born)
- One of your or your fiance/e's parents has regularly attended public worship at St. Mary's for at least 6 months at any time after you (or your fiance/e) were born.
- A parent or grandparent of yours or your fiance/e's was married in the parish.

### **Becoming a regular worshipper:**

If time between your engagement and your wedding day permits, and you have no other Qualifying Connection, you may become 'regular attenders' for 6 months which would enable you to marry at St. Mary's. You would be required to attend 13 Sunday services within an agreed 6 month period (13 being half the number of Sundays in 6 months). It works like this:

- Your wedding date is booked and will not be made available to anyone else. However, final confirmation of this date will only be given once you have completed your attendance.
- You will be given 13 small brown envelopes, on which are to be written your surnames, together with the date of your Sunday attendance and the numbers 1-13.
- When you attend services at St. Mary's, please put your cash offering inside the envelope and place it into the collection box when you arrive at church.
- After church the collection is counted and a note made of any couples who have placed an envelope in the box. A separate sheet for each couple is kept in a file in the vestry to record attendance.
- Following the last of your 13 Sundays you will receive confirmation that you now have a Qualifying Connection with our church and that your wedding may proceed.

**We hope that you will be able to hold your wedding at St. Mary's Chiddingfold, should you wish, and are happy to help with any further enquiries.**