

Marriage – Qualifying Connection

Since the Marriage Measure 2008 came into force, there has been some uncertainty about those cases where benefices are held in plurality, benefices comprising more than one parish, and one or two other exceptions to the general rule.

For the avoidance of doubt, the General Synod has passed supplementary legislation (the Church of England Marriage (Amendment) Measure 2012) that came into force on 1 June. Under this legislation, it is now possible:

- For those who live in benefices held in plurality or in multi-parish benefices, to have their Banns read and marriages solemnized in any of the parish churches ***provided*** that the Bishop has issued a legal instrument to that effect (as to which please be in touch with the Registry)
- In an adjoining parish church if the church in your parish is not technically a parish church or chapel, or is only a 'parish centre of worship'
- In the parish church of a parish where you used to live, even if that parish has now been divided and the part where you used to live is now in a different parish

I hope this is clear. It should certainly resolve a number of the questions that clergy have been concerned about during the last 4 years. If in doubt, please telephone Sara Leader on 01865 297211.

**Canon John Rees
Diocesan Registrar
June 2013**