**Can I Get Married in the Five Parishes**

**The Law and Rules About Marriage in Church**

(i) **If you live within what is known as The Five Parishes ecclesiastical parish boundary,** and neither person is divorced,you are entitled to be married in Broxted, Tilty, Great Easton or Little Easton churches.

(ii) In the autumn of 2008, changes in the regulations came into place. This means that an engaged couple are welcome to be married in church in a parish **if just one of these applies:**

* one of them was baptised or prepared for confirmation in the parish
* one of them has ever lived in the parish for six months or more
* one of them has at any time regularly attended public worship in the parish for six months or more
* One of their parents has lived in the parish for six months or more in their child’s lifetime
* One of their parents has regularly attended public worship there for six months or more in their child’s lifetime
* Their parents or grandparents were married in the parish.

(ALL OF THESE REFER TO CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES).

*An additional form has to be completed along with the Banns Application Form.*

(iii) **If you both live outside the parish and neither one of you has a qualifying link with the parish,** the only option open isfor one or both of you to attend church regularly in The Five Parishes twice per month for a 6-month period so as to fulfil one of the qualifying criteria. This must be completed at least 3 full months prior to your proposed wedding date to allow time for the banns of marriage to be called. Failure to meet this criteria would mean that your wedding could not take place in this parish.

*Additional forms have to be completed along with the Banns Application Form.*

(iv) **If either or both parties have been divorced, it is necessary for the couple to complete an application form and meet with the Priest-in-charge of the parish before choosing a date for their wedding, so that the Parish Priest can consider whether the proposed marriage can take place in church.**

This is in accordance with the Church of England Rules relating to marriage in church.

 Aaugust 2023