

# Getting Married



A happy marriage is a wonderful way of life, and the start of married life together is a really important time. In the Benefice of Thornton Dale with Allerston, Ebberston, Ellerburn and Wilton, we not only provide a venue for your wedding and help with the practical details,

but also help you to prepare emotionally and spiritually as you take this important step. If you'd like to discuss booking a wedding in the Benefice, this leaflet provides some initial information and details of what to bring if you'd like to explore booking a wedding with us.

Marriage Law in England changed in 2008, making it easier for you to get married in a church with which you have some existing connection (rather than just the one closest to where you live).



You can be married in any of the church buildings within a parish if you have any of the following

**'Qualifying Connections':**

- One of you, or one of your parents, has regularly worshipped there for at least six months (either currently or in the past);
- One of you, or one of your parents, live in the parish (a geographical area around the church, which is not exactly the same as the council parish area) or have lived in the parish at any time for six consecutive months or more (you can check which parish you live in at [www.achurchnearyou.com/parishmap.php](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/parishmap.php) );
  - you were baptised or confirmed there; or
  - any of your parents or grandparents were married there.



Having established a Qualifying Connection with any one of the churches in the Benefice you can now, from August 2014, be married in any of the five church buildings:

St John's Allerston, St Mary's Ebberston, St Hilda's Ellerburn,  
All Saints' Thornton Dale and St George's Wilton.

**Divorced (and former husband or wife still alive)?**

This is not necessarily a block to being married in church, but you will need to inform us and have a discussion with the Rector.

## **One of you not a UK national?**

There are particular procedures to enable you to be married in any church, so you will need to inform us and have a discussion with the Rector.



Before you come to book a wedding please complete as much of the enclosed form as you can. If you are unsure about anything or would prefer to discuss it in person, please leave it blank. Similarly, if you are not sure about whether you are eligible or would like to be married in the church, we'd be very happy to discuss that with you when we meet.

## **Marriage Preparation**

We want to give you the best possible start to married life together, to this end we offer Marriage Preparation (including preparation for the service itself). We strongly encourage all couples we marry to take part. You'll be offered dates when you come to book.

## **What's next?**

Contact the Rector,  
The Rev'd Dr Jo White  
(01751 474244) to arrange a time to make a booking. This is usually following the Sunday morning service or before the evening service.



Please bring with you:

- A completed Wedding Booking Form, available online ([http://www.visitthorntonledale.co.uk/assets/cabinet/The\\_Benefice\\_Wedding\\_Booking\\_Form\\_Sept\\_14.pdf](http://www.visitthorntonledale.co.uk/assets/cabinet/The_Benefice_Wedding_Booking_Form_Sept_14.pdf)) or at the back of churches.
- Photographic identification for each of you (for example, passport or driving licence).
- Proof of address, baptism details etc for your QC.
- £50 fully refundable deposit.

### **When you book**

The person taking the booking will confirm the date and time of the wedding and give you a leaflet with more information (including the full cost). They will also book the reading of the banns and the date and time of the rehearsal – usually a couple of evenings before the wedding day itself.

All that said, if you have any questions at all in the meantime please do contact the Rector,  
The Rev Dr J.M.White:

e-mail: [jo@handjwhite.uk](mailto:jo@handjwhite.uk)

phone: 01751 474244

or see a Church Warden after a Sunday service.