



Applications to Marry at St Mary de Haura, Shoreham-by-Sea

Dear Applicants,

Thank you for your enquiry about getting married at St Mary's Church. This paper sets out the current position regarding eligibility to marry here.

If either of you **reside** within the **ecclesiastical (church) parish of New Shoreham** (*see below*), then you are entitled and very welcome to marry at St Mary's Church, which is the parish church of New Shoreham, provided neither of you has been married before and has a former spouse still living.

If either of you **reside** within the **ecclesiastical (church) parish of Old Shoreham** (*see below*), then you are entitled and very welcome to marry at St Nicolas' Church, Shoreham-by-Sea, which is your parish church, provided neither of you has been married before and has a former spouse still living. *However, residents of Old Shoreham may normally marry at St Mary's instead of St Nicolas', if they wish to do so, since the Vicar serves both churches.*

If neither of you reside within the parish of New Shoreham or the parish of Old Shoreham, then unfortunately you are not eligible to marry at St Mary's unless you otherwise have a **'qualifying connection'** with this church as defined in the new **Church of England Marriage Measure 2008**. This has widened the criteria for marrying in a parish other than that in which applicants actually reside, if any one of the following 'connections' apply:

- 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.

If any of these 'qualifying connections' with the church of St Mary de Haura applies in your case then you are also entitled and very welcome to marry here.

If you do not reside in the parish of New Shoreham or the parish of Old Shoreham, and you do not otherwise have a 'qualifying connection' with the Church of St Mary de Haura, then it would still be possible to marry here if one of you were to 'regularly attend public worship in the parish for six months or more' beforehand. In order to satisfy this condition, it would be necessary to attend a Sunday service at St Mary's at least once a month during the six-month period. We would 'pencil in' your wedding in the Church Diary at the outset, and make it a firm arrangement at the end of the six months' churchgoing.

However, **if either of you has been married before, and has a former spouse still living**, then we shall be unable to conduct a Marriage Service for you at St Mary's. It may be possible for us to offer you a **Service of Prayer and Dedication after Civil Marriage** (usually known as a 'Service of Blessing') at St Mary's instead of a Marriage service, if this seems appropriate, but only if you reside within the parish of New Shoreham or the parish of Old Shoreham, or else have a 'qualifying connection' with St Mary's Church, as defined above.

The Ecclesiastical (Church) parishes of Shoreham-by-Sea

THE PARISH OF ST MARY DE HAURA, NEW SHOREHAM

The parish is fairly small and covers the historic town centre of Shoreham-by-Sea.

It is contained within these boundaries:

- (West) Old Shoreham Road
- (South) Ropetackle/High Street/Brighton Road
- (East) Eastern Avenue (*south of the railway line*)
- (North) Ham Road–the Railway Station–the southern part of Buckingham Road (*west side*)–Mill Lane (*south side*)–Overmead–Freehold Street.

- To identify whether you live in St Mary's parish, please see the official parish boundary map: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/parishmap.php?pcode=10/102>
- Zoom into this map ('+' sign) to view the street name where you live – if it is within the red shaded area, then you are in St Mary's parish

THE PARISH OF ST NICOLAS, OLD SHOREHAM

of which the Vicar of New Shoreham is also the Vicar

This parish covers all of Shoreham *North* of Ham Road–the Railway Station–the lower part of Buckingham Road (*west side*)–Mill Lane (*south side*)–Overmead–Freehold Street, but *West* of Eastern Avenue–Parkside–Trueleigh Way.

THE PARISH OF KINGSTON BUCI

St Julian's Church and St Giles' Church

This parish covers all of Shoreham to the *East* of Eastern Avenue–Parkside–Trueleigh Way.

THE PARISH OF SHOREHAM BEACH

Church of the Good Shepherd

This parish covers the whole of Shoreham Beach.
