

# THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY DE HAURA, NEW SHOREHAM



From the Revd Victor Standing  
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## Applications to Marry at St Mary de Haura, Shoreham-by-Sea

Dear Applicants,

Thank you very much 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 I am Vicar of both churches.**

If neither of you reside within the parish of New Shoreham or the parish of Old Shoreham, then I am afraid 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. Please let me know if you would like to explore this possibility further.

However, **if either of you has been married before, and has a former spouse still living**, then I am afraid 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.

I hope this paper answers your enquiry. If you are eligible to marry at St Mary's and would like to do so, then I shall be glad to meet you to discuss dates and other arrangements with you; but if not, then I am sorry to have disappointed you. If you are still unsure about your position, please do ring 01273 452109 to discuss the matter.

## **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.

### **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.

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