

**The Three Churches**

**St Peter and St Paul’s, Black Notley**

**The Church in Great Notley**

**All Saints, Rayne**

**Weddings: Frequently Asked Questions:**

Congratulations on your engagement! We hope the following helps you decide whether a Church wedding is right for you.

**Can we get married at your church?**

If you are legally allowed to marry each other, you can do so at one of our churches if you:

1. live in the parish (please note that if you live in Great Notley you are part of the parish of Black Notley and so can choose to get married at St Peter and St Paul's or the Church in Great Notley).
2. are on the electoral roll (you can be entered on this if you are over 16 and have worshipped here regularly for at least 6 months);
3. have been baptised at any of the churches
4. were confirmed or prepared for confirmation here
5. have lived in the parish or worshipped in the parish for at least 6 months at any time in the past

You also qualify if your parents or grandparents were married at any of the three churches, or if one of your parents lived in the parish, or worshipped here, for at least 6 months during your lifetime.

If you aren’t sure whether you qualify, contact us and we’d be delighted to help. We may need to ask you for further documentation or information.

**What if one or both of us is divorced?**

It may be possible for you to still get married in church. Before agreeing to marry you, the minister will meet to gently talk about your current and past relationships to discern whether marriage in church is possible.

**What is the process for booking a Church of England wedding service?**

Contact one of the ministers to find out whether you can book your chosen date. The minister will then meet with you to ask to see a copy of your ID and to chat about your qualifying connections (and to see any documentation if necessary).

If you are to be married by banns, you will be asked to fill out a form.  Reading your banns will take place on three consecutive Sundays approximately two months before your wedding day and the priest will invite you to attend these readings.

Please note: If either or both of you lives outside the parish, you must have your banns read in the other parish(es) too. You will have to produce a banns certificate from the other parish(es) to the minister. We suggest you contact the other parish(es) as soon as possible about applying for your banns to be read.

If you are a foreign national the process is slightly different and can be found on the Church of England weddings page.

**What is the process for booking a URC wedding service at the Church in Great Notley?**

If you are looking to be married at The Church in Great Notley by our URC minister David Sebley, then please contact him directly for information.

**What kind of marriage preparation will there be?**

You will have at least three meetings with the minister to discuss your relationship and the marriage service, as well as the logistics of your wedding day. Small group preparation is also sometimes available.

**How do I put together the Order of Service?**

In your meetings with the minister you will discuss the outline of the service and the minister can provide you with a draft copy.