



The Parish of Five Saints Remarriage of Divorcees

In this Parish we do, under some circumstances, marry those who have been divorced, However, we emphasize that this is not an 'open door' policy. On the one hand we want to witness to the understanding of Christian marriage as a lifelong committed and caring union. On the other, we want to be compassionate to those whose first marriage unavoidably came to an end and who now wish to make a second and Christian marriage with their new partner.

In a Church of England parish certain conditions need to be fulfilled for a second marriage to take place in church. These include –

- 1) Both partners must want to make a Christian marriage and Christian vows. Normally a couple will come to church regularly during the time of their preparation for marriage and afterwards.
- 2) With regard to the previous marriage, there must be at least a reasonable attitude and consideration to the former partner. A spirit of active acrimony and bitterness cannot be a proper preparation for a second marriage.
- 3) All reasonable duties and responsibilities must be discharged towards the former partner and children of that marriage. For example, it will not be acceptable if maintenance were not being paid to a former partner, or if children were not being remembered and cared for.
- 4) For a couple seeking remarriage in church it will have to be reasonably shown that the occasion of the marriage will not be a cause of scandal or be inappropriate. If, for example, someone had ill-treated their former partner, or deserted a partner, they would not normally be eligible for a second marriage in Church.
- 5) Someone who had been divorced more than once would not be eligible, to be remarried in Church.

We are sympathetic to consider all couples who seek a second marriage in church, but it has to be on the basis of Christian faith and what the Church has always understood about marriage. The clergy in this parish are only too happy to talk through these points, and are sensitive to the hurt some may have experienced in their previous marriage. Our aim is to care for all couples who come along in an atmosphere of honesty and integrity as we try to find the best way forward for any couple. However, you will understand that this has to be done in the light of the Church's overall teaching about marriage and Christian faith.