



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S
MARESFIELD

SEEKING TO KNOW, LOVE AND FOLLOW JESUS

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Thank you for enquiring about the possibility of getting married here at Maresfield and Nutley Churches.

Since 2002 remarriage following divorce has been permitted in the Church of England under “exceptional circumstances” As a Christian minister, I am called to be faithful to Jesus’ teaching in relation to marriage and divorce and make sure the best decision is made for all.

Jesus teaches that marriage is intended to be a life-long union between one man and one woman in a relationship that is designed to point us to the love Jesus has for his church.

However, the Bible does acknowledge the reality that relationships break down and indicates the circumstances in which remarriage after divorce is permissible, these are:

- Following the death of a spouse
- Being the victim of an adulterous spouse
- Being abandoned against your will
- Suffering abuse, whether physical, spiritual or emotional that requires you to leave the marriage.

In all of these instances, the grieved individual has been left in a position in which their spouse has left the marriage against their will or has acted in such an un-Christlike way as to relieve them of any obligation to stay in that marriage.

If you feel that any of these situations reflect your own, then please do get in touch. This will involve arranging at least one meeting where your previous marriage and the cause of its breakdown can be explored.

I recognise that this may be a painful and difficult experience, so please be assured that you can take your time, that we can meet on more than one occasion and that your partner can join you.

On our website you will also find an application form that asks for of our discussion and should be returned at least 48 hours before the meeting. Following the meeting, I will usually take 48 hours to pray before phoning with a decision.

It will be necessary to see copies of your Decree Absolute when we meet and if we are able to move forward then I will also need to see proof of your identity in the near future. Either a) a valid passport or b) a birth certificate plus one other proof of the use of your current name, such as Utility Bill or Bank Statement from the past year. I suggest making sure you have these to hand as soon as possible.

I apologise that this sounds like a lot of “process” especially when you will be keen to start making plans for your wedding. However, it’s important that we take our time and do our best to the right decision that is in keeping with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Kind regards

Rev’d Ben Sear