

Top-Five Tips for dealing with church ministers.

So, considering a church for your big day?

Next job is to phone the minister. Fear not, these people are only human. Here's what they're going to ask:



1. Where you live. They will ask this because residency is part of marriage law. Don't avoid mentioning that you live together (if you do). Some ministers even watch Eastenders, read the papers, and live in the real world... They have encountered this before, trust me !
2. Whether either of you have been married before. Whether or not divorcees are allowed to re-marry in church is decided by each church individually. Those that do allow remarriage of divorcees will tend to arrange to meet you before giving a definitive answer.
3. Whether you have a date in mind. This one shouldn't present too many problems! Often churches are quite willing to arrange weddings on days other than Saturdays.
4. Anglican (or "Church of England) clergy might talk about the "parish" you live in. England is divided up into areas in which a particular vicar has care of the people. Often these cover the same area as your town or village; sometimes they are defined by historical areas of a town - maybe with a river as the boundary. He or she will be able to tell you "your parish" by the road that you live in.
5. There are lots of different styles of churches. They all approach weddings in different ways. For example, "Anglican" churches have clergy who act as registrars as well as taking the service. Some other churches will arrange for a registrar to be present. Some churches will restrict marriages to members of their church; others to residents of the parish. Some churches have a traditional church organ - others have a band with drum kits, guitars and singers. Read the blurb, and there's nothing lost by making an enquiry, even if you do not belong to a particular church.



For each church, we have included details of another "appointed person" who is not the minister. If you'd rather make your initial enquiry completely informally, why not try them first ? GO FOR IT.... make that call. And may God bless you both.