

# **Bishop Hannington Memorial Church Policy Statement**

## **The Remarriage of Divorcees**

- The PCC of Bishop Hannington Church recognises the divine institution of marriage as being a permanent lifelong union of one man to one woman until the first one of them dies.
- Marriage should be cherished, supported and respected by all, and we seek to support and celebrate all existing marriages within our parish and church family.
- We understand that sometimes marriages fail. Within the church family at Bishop Hannington there are a variety of views on this matter, but we have agreed that remarriage after divorce during the lifetime of the former spouse may be possible at Bishop Hannington Church if there are exceptional circumstances.
- Couples who find themselves in this position and wishing to be married at Bishop Hannington Church should approach the vicar who will talk this through carefully and in depth with them. They should not assume that the answer will be "Yes", as marriage after divorce at Bishop Hannington Church will only be possible in exceptional circumstances.
- The vicar of Bishop Hannington Church may consult with his church wardens and more widely as he sees fit before making his decision, which must be deemed as final.
- The PCC affirms the legal right of any vicar of Bishop Hannington Church to refuse to conduct a marriage after divorce where a former spouse is still living and to refuse to make Bishop Hannington Church available for such purposes.
- This Policy will also apply to Holy Cross on the understanding that the minister of Holy Cross may apply stricter rules according to his conscience.

*Adopted by the PCC on 22 May 2007 and reaffirmed by the PCC on 3 June 2014, 24 May 2016, 22 May 2018 and 19 May 2020.*