

St David's Messenger

February 2012

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GETTING MARRIED IN CHURCH

One of the more pleasurable tasks a vicar has to undertake is conduct a wedding service. It's sad, as well as something of a mystery why then, that I'm left wondering people aren't coming to church to get married these days?

There may be a number of reasons: some might feel that they don't need a formal marriage ceremony to be together; there's the cost to be considered and some might choose to delay a wedding ceremony until they are financially sound; some choose to marry in a civil ceremony because they want to keep it low key; some people might not want a 'religious' based wedding.

For the past couple of years there has been a noticeable drop in the number of marriages being conducted at St. David's, and I know from talking to other ministers that this is something shared in common with other parish churches. I wonder whether there is a lack of information or too much mis-information about church weddings when couples are in the planning process, so I'd like to set the record straight and give out some general points of information about church weddings.

People may not be entirely clear about who has the right to be married in the parish church. Well anyone living in the parish of any church in the Church of England has a legal right to be married in the parish church. A parishioner has certain rights over members of the regular congregation. So if you live in the parish of St. David, Childwall

you are entitled to be married in St. David's.

Today, people opt for a wedding venue where the marriage ceremony itself can take place, where the photo shoot can take place – often in pleasant, green surroundings – and where afterwards the guests can be entertained to the reception. All without the effort of transporting people to and from different venues, and this is an understandable consideration.

However, most people who get married in church often say that they are glad that they chose to do so and are more often than not pleasantly surprised at the intimacy of the surroundings on the day. At St. David's we do our very best to make people feel comfortable on their wedding day. That's one of the reasons why all the people who will help out on the day from church will have met the couple and their close family beforehand. Friendly faces at church on the day help to make people feel confident.

There is usually a meeting early in the New Year when couples who are to be married in that year will meet all of the people at church who will be there on their wedding day in church. Some time before the wedding the couple will meet with someone who will guide them through the planning for the service eg. music to be played, orders of service and costs. The cost of a church wedding is, perhaps, one of the least expensive items of the whole day. This year there will be no increase in the cost of a

wedding at St. David's.

A couple of weeks before the service the clergy-person conducting the service will meet with the couple to help them prepare for the wedding service itself. This is always an informal meeting. At this meeting a date will be set for the rehearsal, which usually takes place in church a couple of days before the wedding, with guests who will play a prominent part in the ceremony also present. Couples always say that they feel better after having a rehearsal, where all the little worries and niggles about what's going to happen and be said are 'ironed out'. It's also a time to have a little fun and to get the giggles out of the system.

In recent years marriage law has been amended in order to allow a relaxation of just who can be married in church. As well as residence in the parish being a qualification, there are also now, 'qualifying connections' in place. For instance if you don't live in the parish now, but once did for a period of six months; if you were baptised or confirmed at St. David's; if your parents lived in the parish or attended worship at St. David's for a period of six months; if your grandparents were married at St. David's. All these entitle you to be married in the parish church.

If you are planning a wedding and you have queries about being married in church, please ring 722 4549, or visit the Parish Office on Tuesday evenings between 6-7.00pm. We can probably help you with your plans more than you think.

Best wishes, **Robert Williams**

Published by the people of St David's Church for all local residents

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Ji, welcome to your corner! Let's get together for our chat, prayer and puzzle. Welcome to all of our new readers. If you have a birthday this month—**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!** And if you are sickly or very ill—**WE HOPE AND PRAY YOU'LL GET WELL SOON!**

(Little Jim—"Hello everyone, hello Brian! Why have you given me this piece of paper?") Well Little Jim, and everyone else, take a piece of paper—a rectangle about A4 size. Now listen to my story and if you wish get an adult or an older brother or sister to help you.

There was once a wealthy man who was not satisfied with what he had, so he bought a sailing boat. (Fold the top corner of the paper across to meet the other side—then it looks like a sail.) He still wasn't happy so he bought a new house. (Fold the other corner—the top of the sail—across to the other side of the paper to make a roof shape.) He then decided to buy himself an aeroplane. (Fold the roof in half vertically and fold each half down to make the wings of an aeroplane.) He flew his plane into the sky, but still he wasn't satisfied. So he bought a rocket ship to fly into space. (Tear off the wings along the wing folds and unfold the centre fold to make a rocket shape.) He still wasn't happy and had a longing feeling for something else, but this time he did not know what it was. (Let's help him and open up the paper flat to see what would really add happiness to his life.) **A CROSS—JESUS!** This is all his life needed.

(Little Jim—"That was great! I got it wrong the first time and then my mum helped me and it turned out right.")

Prayer

Thank you Lord for being my Friend, Helper and Provider. Amen.

Dates to Note in February

14th - St Valentine's Day.
21st - Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)
22nd—Ash Wednesday (1st Day of Lent)
And don't forget Thursday 1st March—St David's Day.

Puzzle

AMID, BARE, EDGE, RING
Place the four words across the grid so that the same four words are formed in the vertical columns.

(Little Jim's joke—What's small, green and does good deeds—a cub sprout")
Well that's all for now!
Take Care.
Brian.

**SERVICE TIMES
AT ST DAVID'S**

Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Sung Eucharist
Except

2nd Sunday

10.30 am Family/Parade Service
11.30 am Holy Communion

Wednesday

7.30 pm Holy Communion

MONDAYS

AGE CONCERN LUNCH CLUB

12noon. Phone 228 6881 to enquire. Everyone over 60 welcome!

HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY

4.00 pm. For age 5+. For further details phone 482 0443.

TUESDAYS

GLADSTONE BABE AND TODDLERS PLAYGROUP

1.30-3.00pm during school term time. Children, bring your carers along for a cuppa, whilst you play with our toys.

VESTRY HOUR

6.00-7.00 pm in Parish Office, Gladstone Hall. A member of clergy will be available.

KEEP-FIT

6pm to 7pm. Come along for an hour of gentle exercise to music.

YOGA

7.30-8.45pm. Cost £5—Please bring a mat and bottle of water.

WEDNESDAYS

WOMEN'S YOGA

9.30-10.45am - Level suited for mixed ability from beginner to experienced. Cost £5. Please bring non-slip yoga mat and wear comfortable loose clothing. Phone Wendy on 07706500879 or info@womensyoga.co.uk

JUMPING JACKS

1.30-2.15pm. Music and movement for pre-school age children.

THURSDAYS

MUSICAL MINIS

(For under 5's)

9.45-10.30am. Please phone Cathie for details 486 4735 or see www.musicalminis.co.uk

CHILDWALL WARD

COUNCILLORS SURGERY

11.30am-12.30pm—(1st Thursday every month).

FRIDAYS

ZUMBA

6.00-7.00pm. Cost £3.50. Don't forget your water bottle!