

A Wedding in the Woottons

Matt and Rachel share their experiences with us



Matt proposed to me on a beautiful, white, snow covered, Christmas morning, last year. Although neither of us had attended Church regularly since childhood, it was important to me to have a Church wedding. My beloved Nannie had passed away a year earlier and the strength of her faith in her final few days had been an incredible comfort.

Matt and I visited the church one Sunday morning in March and were overwhelmed by the friendliness and welcome that we got from both Rector James and the congregation. We explained (somewhat apprehensively) that my parents lived in the Parish and that, although they attended another church in King's Lynn, we wondered if there was any possibility of us marrying in North Wootton. James allayed our fears and invited us round to the Rectory for a chat.

We were greeted at the vicarage door with an extremely enthusiastic, wet, sloppy kiss (from James' dog) and very warm and friendly handshake from James and his wife Linda. Over a cup of tea and a chat we explained to James how we had met and our reasons for wanting to marry in All Saints. James said he would be delighted to marry us at All Saints and we were thrilled and excited that our church wedding was going to happen.

Proposing to Rachel was just the beginning of it all and I had no idea how quickly things would move on from that point. Before I knew it we were discussing reception venues, guest lists and catering. As far as the Church was concerned, the next stage was an invitation to a 'Marriage Preparation Day' – a day spent with James and his wife Linda, his colleagues, and other couples soon to be married - to focus the mind on what might be beyond the wedding day itself – a guide to the partnership we were about to become. I had some reservations about this one but it turned out to be useful and informative covering topics like managing finances and resolving disputes. With the day of the wedding approaching rapidly we had a final meeting with James to confirm how things would happen on the day and to answer any niggling questions we still had.

I woke up on the morning of our wedding full of excitement at the thought of marrying Matt in All Saints Church surrounded by our family and friends. Rather flustered, but surprisingly not nearly as nervous as I had expected to be, I arrived, very late, at the church and apologised profusely to a very understanding James. The part of the service during which we said our vows, were the most important and moving of my life and I will never forget how right and how powerful those words felt as we looked in to each other's eyes and made our vows.

The service was exactly as we wanted and it all went to plan. James had re-assured us that, having once dropped the rings, he now held them carefully to prevent it again. True to his word he held Rachel's ring in place before dropping mine on the floor! It was a funny moment that raised smiles during a beautiful service. We were pleased to have the choir and organist as part of our service and we had many positive comments from our guests.

I tried my best to take everything in, the prayers, the hymns, all of the people there with us, the beautiful flowers and the glorious surroundings of the historic building in which we were being married. The lighter moments added to the atmosphere and helped make the service individual and truly special to us. I know that we will continue to treasure the memories of our day as we share our future lives together.

