

A SOCIETY WEDDING!

The marriage of Vanessa MacAllan and Jonathan Layfield took place within 'A Celebration of Holy Communion' at St. Mary's Church, Nantwich on 7th June 2008 at 4.00pm.

Most of us will look back on the summer of 2008 and think 'what an awful summer we have had', but Vanessa and Jonathan will remember their Wedding Day as being a lovely, warm, sunny day with happy, smiling faces all around them.

Vanessa arrived, absolutely on cue, in a beautiful ivory, silk dress overlaid with organza, which was bead and sequin encrusted with a design of 'peace' doves and flowers; it had a built-in train, narrow bead encrusted straps and small bead encrusted buttons adorning the back of the bodice. This was complimented by a long-sleeved matching bead and sequin encrusted organza bolero. The radiant bride wore her hair swept back into a pleat and carried a bouquet of white lilies, roses and freesias. She was attended by two Bridesmaids, daughters Miriam and Lydia, who wore pale green dresses with ivory sashes and carried posies of white roses, and Pageboy, son Timothy. Tom and Jonathan jnr. were asked to be Ushers.



With Vanessa and Jonathan being so involved in music one would have been surprised had the service not reflected this. An Introit: My beloved spake (Song of Solomon) by Howard Layfield, father of Jonathan, was sung by the Nantwich Singers. The choir, augmented by quite a number of NCS members, led the Bridal Procession up the aisle with a fine rendering of All creatures of our God and King.

The Kyrie eleison – Harold Darke, was sung by the choir, as was Psalm 121: I lift mine eyes unto the hills – Walford Davies. During the signing of the Register the choir sang Let all the world in every corner sing – Ralph Vaughan Williams. The Sanctus and Benedictus – Ralph Vaughan Williams were sung by the Nantwich Singers and the Agnus Dei – Ralph Vaughan Williams by the choir. These along with a number of well-chosen hymns were all ably accompanied by Simon Russell, St. Mary's organist, who concluded the Service with Theodore Dubois' Toccata in G major as the enjoined couple Recessed down the aisle.

We all know how much Vanessa and Jonathan are in tandem with one another and many of us have seen them, complete with crash helmets pedaling their 'bicycle made for two'. However, contrary to the words of the song Daisy, Daisy, this was a stylish marriage and the happy couple were driven to their Wedding Breakfast at Rookery Hall in a 1930's Vintage Bentley Mk 5. There they entertained their guests on the terrace with champagne and music by 'Blast From The Past', who charmed all and sundry with medieval music played on Mandolin, Recorders and Shauim.

The banqueting hall was bedecked in the colour scheme of the wedding, green and white with tall vases of white lilies. The buffet was followed by the usual speeches during which we heard that Jonathan was thoroughly indoctrinated as a youngster, as both parents were music teachers, and he used to make musical 'instruments' out of almost anything that was recyclable. The Best Man produced a replica of a French Horn that Jonathan had made out of a long piece of garden hose and a funnel, whereupon Jonathan made a stirring effort to give a short rendering of Mozart's Horn Concerto!! On another musical note, Jonathan related that when he first set eyes upon Vanessa, she was singing opposite him in St. Mary's Church Choir and that he was mesmerised by the alto who could both talk and sing at the same time!! The Bride and Groom led the medieval country dancing to the musical tones of 'Blast From The Past' who were dressed in keeping with the period of their music.

Vanessa and Jonathan spent their honeymoon at Fuschl in Austria, and, well, what else would you expect but that, being near the birthplace of that great musician, Mozart, they visited and enjoyed all the tourist attractions in historical Salzburg and returned home with the 'Sound of Music' ringing in their ears!!!

Vanessa and Jonathan feel it is significant that, of all the things that brought them together, their Christian faith has played a big part. It was important to them that they made their vows in God's house, and to share their love of God with their friends in this wedding service – filled with some of the most beautiful liturgical music that they know. They wish to express their sincere gratitude for all the love and support given to them and wish also to thank those whose generosity helped to swell the donations for 'World Vision' and the 'Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths' to the grand sum of £2500. Maire Pedder (*soprano*)