

The Wedding of Miss Esther and Mr Stephen

Our Sunday School teacher, Miss Esther Elizabeth Ford, after many months of planning, has finally married Mr. Stephen Sebastian George Davies. The happy pair invited EVERYONE who belonged to the church to their wedding as well as their friends and family. As you can see even the local pets and wildlife were welcome including the local pair of mallard ducks, Esme and Ernest, who live on the nearby pond. Even the new "kid on the block", Percy the spider, was also welcome.....find out more about him below when Priscilla Jane found him when cleaning.....see how the wedding went below.....

It is a short time before the service is to begin and Stephen is already pacing nervously about the church.

Ambrose is admiring the two beautiful nuptial kneelers that have been embroidered for St. Hilary's Church by the embroidery guild! He is showing them off to Alice who he hopes will turn her mind to the idea of marrying HIM in the future!



Nunc Dimittis and a mouse friend of his

also admire the newly embroidered kneelers which will be used for the first time at this special wedding of Esther and Stephen.

The vicar has gathered the bridesmaids, Alice and Megan, at the back of the church as they await the arrival of the bride, Miss Esther Ford.

Priscilla Jane is a VERY observant girl and had just noticed a cobweb on the floor not far from the church door. She went and fetched a feather duster in preparation for cleaning the web away.

However what a surprise she had when she went back to dust the cobweb away. There in the middle of the web, was Percy, the owner of the web! "Oh dear" Priscilla Jane thought, as she was suddenly not so happy about cleaning the cobweb away.



Tom was REALLY proud and delighted to be asked to be the official wedding photographer at this special church wedding!

He thought it would be a good idea to have a little practice by taking a photo of Percy the spider whilst Priscilla Jane was making up her mind whether or not to tidy his web away.....

As you can see Priscilla Jane thought long and hard about it and decided, after asking the vicar what to do, to let Percy stay! Percy was quite relieved to hear about this as you can imagine!

The vicar later explained to the children that spiders in England were very helpful because they ate flies and that is good because flies are pests that carry disease. He then went on to explain that spiders in EVERY country needed to be treated with great respect and not disturbed unless it was considered absolutely necessary.



Priscilla Jane had a really close look at Percy and was even MORE pleased to have allowed him to stay in his web and carry on catching his supper.....

Miss Esther has finally arrived at the church!

Tom is there as you can see ready to take the very first picture of the bride on her arrival at the church!



Poor Mr Stephen!! He looks as if he has waited ages for his bride, Miss Esther, to arrive.

Ben and Phoebe have been practising together really hard for this special day as you can see! Ben has been learning the violin whilst Phoebe has been learning how to play this beautiful spinet. They are going to play some music whilst the bride makes herself ready to process down the aisle.



Poor Miss Esther's father is no longer alive so she was thrilled when young Ambrose offered to walk her down the aisle instead.

Ambrose was worried at first because he couldn't afford to buy or hire a lovely suit like the groom was wearing. However Miss Esther assured him he was "just fine" as he was! After all he was ALWAYS clean and tidy when he came to church. Of that he took great pride!

Look at our feathered bridesmaid here! It is no less than our Esme, a lady Mallard duck who lives in the nearby pond! She was VERY worried that neither Alice nor Megan, the human bridesmaids, had remembered to help Miss Esther down the aisle by holding her wedding train for her.



We think that Esme has made up quite perfectly don't we by holding Miss Esther's train all by herself with her beak?

The vicar takes the couple up to the altar rail after he has married them and gives them God's blessing on their marriage.

The flowers have been especially arranged for the wedding by the church flower ladies. Haven't they done a wonderful job?!

Alice, Megan, Ambrose and Tom await the vicar as he blesses the happy couple at the altar rail.



Tom is eying up a really good photograph for Miss Esther and Mr. Stephen's wedding album.

See the shot he was waiting for below.

Tom ran right to the bottom of the church and stood next to the font to take this picture of the happy couple as the vicar was blessing them.

What a wonderful photo it is too!



After the wedding had finished the happy couple were only too pleased to pose as they cut the wedding cake at the back of the church.

Hasn't Tom taken a really beautiful picture of Miss Esther and her groom, Mr. Stephen?



Mr. Stephen and the vicar asked Ambrose to break open the bottle of champagne bought especially for this occasion by the vicar.

Adele and Ben really WANTED some champagne too but they knew they would have to settle for some pop instead until they were a little bit older!



The happy couple pose happily at the church door as man and wife!



Baptisms

Some people believe that people should be grown up before they are baptised but in St Hilary's all children can be baptised as babies if their parents wish it. See how the baptisms of Clarissa Elizabeth and Rachel Ann went here!

Clarissa Elizabeth is the baby daughter of Rev Ken and Poppy is her older sister. Rachel Ann is the first born child of Miss Esther and Mr Stephen who had celebrated their wedding in St. Hilarys.

Clarissa's mother has brought her along today because she is going to be baptised.

As you can see baby Clarissa is joined by her father, the Rev Ken, her older sister, Poppy, who is sitting on the stairs for a good view, and the vicar with Alice who has agreed to be one of her Godparents.

You can see that Clarissa is wearing her very best here! Her carrying cape made of pure silk!



The vicar has bought her a wonderful baby in-pram entertainment system in the form of a duck mobile to make sure she doesn't get upset or bored.

The vicar picked Clarissa up, held her over the font (which had some water in that had been blessed) and said these words:-

"Clarissa Elizabeth I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit AMEN"

The vicar poured a small amount of water over Clarissa's head three times, to signify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He dipped his finger into the water again, and signed a cross on her forehead. He then said: ***"I sign you with a cross, the sign of Christ"***.



The vicar then gave Clarissa a lighted candle to represent Jesus Christ, "The Light of the World". Of course Clarissa was too young to hold it herself so members of her family and Godparents were able to receive it on her behalf.

Baby Clarissa was very good and didn't cry once!

Unfortunately baby Rachel Ann had a rather more adventurous baptism courtesy of three little characters who decided to join in the ceremony!

Stephen insisted on wearing his bridegroom's outfit for his first child's baptism! He told Esther that he was wearing it because this baptism day of their first born made him just as happy as he was on their wedding day!

You will all notice that we have another new character join St. Hilary's! It is Bardsley! Bardsley is Bishop Cuthbert's dog!

Unfortunately the bishop is away on a long sabbatical at the moment so Stephen and Esther offered to look after Bardsley whilst he is away.

Rita, St. Hilary's resident "lady of the road", is resting at the top of the first flight of the stairs to the bell tower. The vicar is quite happy to let her watch the baptism of Rachel Ann as he knows she has been outside for quite a while and needs to rest.



Stephen has passed Rachel Ann over to the vicar so that he can baptise her. Alice has joined them as she wanted to see how it all went. Has anyone noticed two other little characters who have joined them?

A lady and gentleman frog has decided to check the font out! The vicar had already blessed the water and poured it into the font.

It would appear that this pair of frogs really believes that this may be a good place to have their frogspawn when Spring arrives! Oh dear - but isn't it just as well that Alice has already spotted these two miscreant frogs?

She tells them to go back to their home in

the local duck pond! The frogs gave in and jumped off the font!



New Organ Appeal Coffee Afternoon

The Reverend Gyles Ponsenby-Smyth is delighted with the new church extension. The children just love to sing and dance so the vicar has decided that the church **MUST** have its own new pipe organ! The coffee morning appeal for the extension was **SO** successful he decided that they would have another event to raise money and so he has arranged for them to have a coffee and cakes afternoon.

See how things progressed.....

The vicar has created a new bill board poster to advertise this new appeal to raise funds for a new organ. He stands at the door to greet the first visitors to the coffee afternoon



Alice just loves pushing their tea trolley around the church with the urn, teapot, cups and saucers and cakes! She **SO** loved it none of the other children were allowed to touch it!

She had lots of practice when they had their coffee morning to raise funds for

their new extension!

Priscilla Jane is being **SO** careful with this cup of tea.

She doesn't want to spill it because it will make a mess on her dress.



Emily loves jam tarts. She enjoyed them when they held the coffee morning appeal so she grabbed another plate of them today!

Oh dear - look at the mess she is making! She never learns does she?

Emily has brought her windmill to church today to show it off to Amelia. Amelia, however, is not at all interested. She just carries on reading.....and reading.....and reading.....



This young lady, Adele, is always first to come up to the table with the cakes on! Which cake WILL she choose?



Tom has brought his camera today to record the event for the church records.

He is seen here taking a photo of the porcelain pedestal with a beautiful flower arrangement on it. It was especially made for this coffee afternoon by the flower ladies.

Ben is enjoying a nice cup of tea as he chats to young Robert Alexander!

It is NO surprise to see that Robert Alexander has brought his pet dog, Georgie, and his football with him!



Look how busy everyone is in the church!



Even Homer has come in but STILL he has to clutch a bottle of fruit flavoured mineral water in case there is not a drink available that HE likes! The new windows and extension really have made the church look even MORE beautiful. The vicar oversees everyone with his ever benevolent eye.