



**Charles and Ann Wade: Partners in Life and Faith**



Charles and Ann Wade on their wedding day, 6 February 1957. Photos courtesy of unknown photographer.

Charles and Ann met through mutual friends in 1955, just before she departed for Europe.

After a fleeting date in Sydney, Ann moved overseas and Charles was stationed internationally. The couple were eventually reunited in London and were married on the 6 February 1957.

Charles and Ann celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2017, and they continued to be loving partners in life.

St Mark's was Charles' first church. He was born in Woollahra and christened at St Mark's. Charles later became a server and member of the parish council.

After living internationally and in other pockets of Sydney, Charles and Ann returned to Darling Point in 1998. Charles worked for Qantas for 34 years and his role required the couple to live in seven different countries.

They moved to St Mark's Road and could hear the church's morning bells. Charles explains that although he was usually ready for the 8am Sunday service, Ann was not. They compromised and attended the 10am service.

Charles believes God and his faith in Christianity has saved his life on multiple occasions. The first, he explains, was when he was in Papua New Guinea as a 21 year old. He stood on a deadly stone fish but survived. Soon after this near-death misstep, he experienced another. His canoe was hit by a shark, tossing him into the water. Despite circling him, the shark refrained from attacking and Charles made it safely back to shore. Shortly after, he had a stroke.

At the time, Charles did not perceive his survival as an act of God. Now, with retrospect, he believes it is undeniable.

He experienced this realisation at the St Mark's annual retreat. Charles reaffirmed his baptism vows at St Mark's on 9 June 2019, to commemorate this realisation.

Charles highlights the importance of the St Mark's community. After fracturing a vertebra, he was told it was unlikely to heal. Fortunately, he explains, the St Mark's community prayed for his recovery and his fracture healed.

Charles and Ann formed lifelong friendships through the St Marks' community, and the church has been an integral part of their marriage.



Faith has been omnipresent in Charles and Ann's life together. Charles believes their mutual commitment to Christianity aids their marriage: religion has never been a point of contention. Despite challenges, they have maintained their faith and their trust in God is unwavering.

Charles keeps the Bible by his bed and reads it daily. He has attended the Alpha Course and recommends it to all. Charles continues to attend the St Mark's Bible studies group on Tuesdays when possible.