

John and Annabel Childs: A Bouquet and Passport



John and Annabel Childs on their wedding day, 4 September 1971. Photos courtesy of unknown photographer.

The couple met when Annabel was just 19 years old and John was 23. John and Annabel shared many mutual friends and were both part of the St Mark's community. As an Ascham girl, Annabel was confirmed at the church and attended throughout her childhood. The couple also both belonged to the St Mark's fellowship.

John believes the St Mark's fellowship provided him with invaluable Bible-based teaching. He explains it was engaging and inspiring, and he has carried these lessons with him through life.

John and Annabel were married at St Mark's on 4 September 1971.

Their traditional wedding featured a choir, a trumpet voluntary, and a passport. Annabel - who favours a deadline, according to John - purchased her shoes on the morning of the wedding and excitedly carried her new passport down the aisle.

As they were honeymooning in Europe, Annabel had organised her first passport using her married name. After signing the register, then-rector Reverend Canon James Whild (who had been looking after the passport), handed it to her. She proceeded down the aisle as Mrs John Childs, passport and bouquet in hand.

Before their wedding, Canon Whild sat the couple down and emphasised the significance of marriage. He explained that they needed to accept each other as they were, and that faith was going to be a crucial pillar of support: they were to be partners in faith and life.

John believes their Christian faith has enabled them to overcome life's challenges. He explains that they both became Christians at a young age and their faith has been an anchor in difficult times.

Christianity has taught them to be mindful of every day and to accept that although life is volatile, God will provide comfort and guidance.

John believes daily prayer is a bastion of focus. When working, he would pray during his morning drive - with his eyes open, adds Annabel - and it would provide a sense of calm before the day ahead.

When John ran a business, his days could be stressful and at times, overwhelming. Fortunately, he had his faith. He believes it gave him perspective and reminded him to not take everything *too* seriously. He was not solely in control of his path: God was and continues to be.

John and Annabel both highlight the important friendships they have formed through St Mark's. These friends share their Christian values and beliefs, and they have been invaluable additions to their lives. John and Annabel believe St Mark's offers a community of like-minded individuals.