

PRESS RELEASE

Bride says it with flowers – a thousand times!

Aldeburgh Parish Church celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen by staging an ambitious Flower Festival with a difference. “It’s a marriage of flowers and art”, says the Revd Celia Cook, Curate of St Peter and St Paul’s Church in Aldeburgh. “It was always going to be special because of the occasion it celebrates but now it’s even more special because in this wonderful setting a real wedding takes place.”



“We were wondering what flowers to have”, says bride Stephanie Harsant, “and now we’ve found that the day we’ve chosen is in the middle of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and we shall be surrounded with spectacular flower displays.” Stephanie and her groom, Mark Wakeman, will be married on Saturday 2nd June on the first day of the four day Festival.

More than a thousand blooms will surround the couple. “That’s one for each month of the Queen’s reign with an extra one for each quarter”, says Jean Clouston, one of the organisers. “We’ve planned the displays to reflect the colours in the flags of each of the Commonwealth countries that members of the royal family have visited in her Jubilee year.”

The displays, created by professional florists, Karen Lear of Leiston and Lisa Newrick-Meades from Looma in Aldeburgh, alongside members of the Aldeburgh and District Flower Club and the Church’s own flower arrangers, feature symbols of royalty from the Queen’s reign.

“It’s a real community effort” says Celia Cook, “We’ve had support from the Aldeburgh Business Association and everyone has pitched in. Those creating the displays are the best flower-arrangers in the district and they are doing it for love. It will be a very fitting celebration of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.”

Flowers are not all that will feature in the Festival. “Kate Giles is a very talented local artist and her work reflects the East Anglian landscape”, says Celia. “Kate has agreed to lend us some of her paintings for the Festival but she is also painting five new works for us and we are very excited about that. We’ve called the event **Crowning Glory**, for obvious reasons, and the only clue I will give is that Kate is going to reflect that theme.”

Crowning Glory runs from Saturday 2nd June to Tuesday 5th June (10 am – 5 pm) with a special Songs of Praise at 5.30 pm on Sunday 3rd June. “We have our own refreshment team for the first three days” says Jean Clouston, “but on the Tuesday the Women’s Institute were already planning their own Jubilee tea in the Church Hall and so we’ve joined forces.”

“There has been a huge amount of planning by a dedicated team”, says Canon Nigel Hartley, Aldeburgh’s vicar, who will be marrying Stephanie and Mark, “and it’s very appropriate that love is at the heart of an event like this. What better way to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee than with our own royal wedding as its crowning glory?”

It’s a view echoed by Stephanie, the bride, “The Queen popped in to a wedding recently and surprised the couple. It would be a real thrill if she turned up to ours but surrounded by so many beautiful flowers, more than we could ever have dreamed of, our day will be very special indeed, and to marry in a spectacular church with amazing flower displays as the country celebrates an historic event means that it will live in our memories for ever.”

PRESS RELEASE ENDS:

Information for editors:

Crowning Glory

Diamond Jubilee Flower Festival – Aldeburgh Parish Church

Saturday 2nd June – Tuesday 5th June, 10 – 5 daily, except Sunday from 12 noon

Refreshments in the Church Hall

Sunday 3rd June 5.30 pm Festival Songs of Praise

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

The Festival provides many opportunities to photograph the flowers, the artist and the wedding couple. Please see the attached photograph of Stephanie Harsant and Mark Wakeman.

CONTACTS:

The Revd Celia Cook, Curate at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aldeburgh 01728 453946

Celia is the main co-ordinator between the Church and the Community for this event. Celia can give more information on Kate Giles, the artist.

Mrs Jean Clouston 01728 453999

Jean is in charge of the flower displays and the practical arrangements.

The Revd Canon Nigel Hartley, Vicar of Aldeburgh 01728 452223

Nigel is celebrating the wedding of Stephanie and Mark

INFORMATION ON KATE GILES

Kate's work is inspired by the East Anglian landscape. She has exhibited in Aldeburgh, London, the USA and Canada. Her work is held in private and public collections here in the UK and abroad. Her paintings featuring Kazan Cathedral and St Petersburg have been seen in Russia.

Crowning Glory

Diamond Jubilee Flower Festival – Aldeburgh

Saturday 2nd June – Tuesday 5th June, 10.00 am – 5.00 pm daily

Sunday 12 noon – 5.00 pm

Sunday 3rd June – 5.30 pm Festival Songs of Praise

Press release issued by Nigel Hartley: 26th April 2012

Church website: www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk