

# Married twice in the same church!

**CARRIE and Ian got married once in Holy Trinity Church, Fareham. Thirteen years later to the day, they were married there again.**

The first time, in June 2004, was for a mock wedding being videoed to use in local schools. Carrie Coates, then 23, was asked to play the bride and asked her friend Ian Horner, then 20, to be the groom.

Their family and friends filled Holy Trinity Church for the filming, Carrie's dad gave her away, and her six-year-old cousin Brooke was their bridesmaid.

The couple lost touch for a few years, but were brought together via Facebook and then fell in love. And when Ian proposed, there was only one date and one venue they wanted for their real wedding day.

So on June 9, 2017, their fairytale wedding once again saw Carrie's dad walk her up the aisle of Holy Trinity Church, Fareham, to give her away, and Brooke once again as their bridesmaid.

Carrie, now 36, said: "My mum's a hairdresser and one of her clients wanted to film a wedding for a video that would be used in schools. I happened to have a wedding dress, as I had been Miss Fareham. But I needed a groom, and I asked Ian as we were Redcoats together at Butlins.

"I didn't know at the time that he held a flame for me, but I should have been suspicious because he lived in Brighton and he kept popping over to see me in Fareham. So he was very happy to do the mock wedding, and you can see on the video – when the vicar says 'you may now kiss the bride', he really goes for it!

"Brooke was very excited to be the bridesmaid, and she even said at the time she hoped she would be old enough to come to my real hen party.

"My mum was having a garden party for my nana's birthday, and we live near the church, so we got the guests to come over to be filmed and my family were extras. I think they filmed a baptism and a funeral on the same day.

"When Ian and I met up again in 2013, we used to joke about being husband and wife, and he was listed on my phone as 'husband'. We used to wind each



**Above: Ian and Carrie are married by the Rev Garry Roberts (Mark Robbins Photography); right: the mock wedding back in 2004 with bridesmaid Brooke; far right: the three of them in 2017**

other up about it, but then we did fall for each other.

"Once Ian proposed, there was only one place and one date that we wanted to get married. The first thing the people at the church said was 'have you been married before?', which made us laugh. Walking down the aisle the second time actually wasn't so nerve-wracking. I felt at ease, because I'd done it before!"

Ian was working at a sports company called Extreme Events, and Carrie was a singer and fitness instructor at Goodwood. They were able to get married at Holy Trinity Church because of the family connections.

The curate who married them, the Rev Garry Roberts, said: "It is always an honour to officiate on a couple's big day, but the first time I met Ian and Carrie, I knew this one would be extra special. Playing a part in such a unique and joy-filled day will stay with me forever. I am so pleased they came back to Holy Trinity and I was able to share it with them."

And Ian, now 33, said: "We are so proud of our story. It's such a perfect fairytale. We were always meant to be together and now we are. What a wonderful service we had for our wedding. Everyone loved it and it was so personal to us."



## Bishop sees academy pupil's cross



**The bishop with Tarron Ridge at Charter Academy with the cross on the wall behind**

**BISHOP** Christopher visited Charter Academy to see a cross made by student Tarron Ridge.

The 12-year-old completed the project in around three days, creating it out of two 4in x 2in lengths of wood.

Tarron finds some lessons hard work, but finds practical tasks easier. He has to take the core subjects of English, maths and

science, but is able to do constructive projects at other times.

"I made the cross because we are a Christian school, and I thought it would be good to make a decent one," he said.

"I had to chisel it, file it down and glue it, and we also put a plaque on.

"It has been put on the wall facing the playground, which makes me feel proud."

## Day helps us combat modern slavery

OUR diocese will be running a training event in our cathedral next month, designed to help us combat modern slavery.

It is focussing on the shipping industry, and aims to help us to spot the indications of labour exploitation and know what to do about it.

'Modern Slavery in the Shipping Industry' happens on October 9, and is being organised in partnership with the Clewer Initiative, which is the national Church of England's project to combat modern slavery.

It is designed to give you the confidence and ability to run training on this issue in your own parish, and to provide you with the resources to do so.

The cathedral session will begin with a network lunch at 12.30pm, which will help delegates to get to know each other. The three-hour training session will then follow that.

Among the issues it will tackle is how modern slavery is perpetrated, what stops victims coming forward, and what support they can expect if they do. The training is being delivered by the Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority.

For more details about the day, please contact the Rev Edwina Fennemore, our diocese's lead on modern slavery on [cefennemore@gmail.com](mailto:cefennemore@gmail.com).

For more information on this issue, please see [www.theclewerinitiative.org](http://www.theclewerinitiative.org) or [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/modernslavery](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/modernslavery). You can also book a place on the training via that web page.