

Extract from the Mallorca Daily Bulletin 2nd June 2019.

By Revd. Canon David Waller

WEDDINGS

Summer is upon us and this brings about several changes in the routine of a chaplain's life here on our lovely island. The main one is that the number of wedding blessings is on the increase again. To be honest we don't get many people seeking to come out here in the winter for a wedding blessing, but instead most people quite wisely choose the spring or autumn months and that works well.

For some couples, well they seem wedded (if you'll excuse the pun), to the thought that if late July or August is a good time for a wedding in the UK then it must be for anyone coming out to Mallorca as well. Both I and my colleagues do try to dissuade people from, for example, a 2 pm wedding ceremony outside in mid August, but some people just won't take no for an answer! But these are few and far between!

I love taking weddings! It's one of the real perks of my jobs here as the Anglican Chaplain that I get to go to beautiful Catholic churches, lovely hotels or delightful private villas and meet people who, let's face it, are already pre-disposed to have a good and happy time for such a celebration. I then get to offer what I hope is a dignified, but relaxed wedding blessing service, gently guiding a couple (it's more often the groom who is the nervous one!) through the simple, but meaningful liturgy. The congregation, consisting of family and friends of course, are there usually intently focused on the words of the vows that the gently smiling couple repeat to each other. And then they are proclaimed 'husband and wife', they kiss and the sense of atmosphere and positive tension that has been building dissolves into applause and often cheering! It's a lovely moment to be a part of for me as a priest and I value and enjoy pretty much each of the weddings that I take simply because each couple is unique.

Now, of course, we also offer a service for the renewal of wedding vows for those who have perhaps been married for some years and wish to affirm all that they are together. It might be for, say, a 40th wedding anniversary or something similar. These are lovely services to take and of a different nature to a couple who may not have been together for too long.