

Our Family Wedding

Doug Loveridge

The Banns of Marriage at All Saints announced for three weeks that Thomas Loveridge was to marry Roshni Kara, and if there are any objections they should be mentioned to the Priest. There were none, of course, but did the marriage go ahead? Oh yes.

What happened? The Loveridge family went up to Leicester for three days to join the Kara family, joined by a group of Dutch relatives, friends from University days, work friends, and on 10 August the knot was well and truly tied. We began with a Church of England ceremony lead by Jo, the groom's mother, with Doug preaching. It was a great occasion, bringing almost 200 together to witness the event.



We then went into Central Leicester, where the City Rooms are located, with the feel of a country house in the middle of the city.



Tom changed into an Indian/Hindu marriage garment – a long white coat with golden embroidery, a turban and a long sword! Apparently the sword was purely for ceremonial purposes, though you never know

when you may need to defend your bride....!

Rosh arrived having changed from a marvellous traditional English-style Wedding

Dress into a dramatic red and silver Hindu-style dress looking like a princess. They shared in a beautiful Hindu marriage ritual, with music and vows and prayers, plus traditional games said to indicate who will “wear the trousers” in the relationship.



The ceremonies were followed by a reception, with speeches and toasts, then a club-style dance. Tom and Rosh entered the room to the track “Mo' money, mo' problems” (mo' meaning “more” in this context). I initially assumed it was connected with Tom's work as an

accountant, but they had chosen it together. It moved on to dancing to a very contemporary disco, which – given the age and cultural profile – amazed me in getting almost everyone dancing. But we were celebrating!

The theme I chose for the sermon was Affirmations. I was aware that our family had suffered some losses last year and this year, and there are always problems (not necessarily due to Mo' money by any means). Marriage affirms love as central to our lives, and it suggests that God's love is at the heart of the universe. It affirms that cultural barriers can be overcome, that we can celebrate diversity and affirm faith among people of different traditions. It affirms family life that so many from different situations were able and willing to come together for a celebration of marriage.

Thank you to the many people who have shown interest in our son's marriage – I trust it is clear that we had a wonderful time, and loved the way it brought families and faith together through love. And we were, and will remain, so proud of our marvellous son Tom and his lovely wife.