

The Marriage of Rose Edith Vaughan and Francis Hughes, 1880

From The Stockport Advertiser, 1 October 1880

Christ Church, Heaton Norris, and its precincts were crowded yesterday (Thursday) morning to witness the marriage of Miss Rose Edith Vaughan, the youngest daughter of Alderman J L Vaughan, JP, ex-Mayor, with Mr Francis Hughes, solicitor of London.

Miss Rose Vaughan has for some years been a teacher at the Christ Church Sunday School, and taken an active part in the Church work of the parish; and the esteem in which she is held by her friends was evidenced by the unusually large number of spectators who assembled on the occasion. Few families are more widely known in the town than that of the ex-Mayor, and it is seldom that an event of this kind excites so much interest as was evinced by the crowded attendance at Christ Church yesterday. Eleven o'clock was the hour fixed for the ceremony, but sometime before that the path through the churchyard to the west door was lined with people anxious to obtain a view of the wedding party as they arrived. The guests were driven from Eldon House in neatly appointed broughams drawn by a number of handsome horses in pairs, and each contingent was scanned with eager curiosity as they alighted and passed into the edifice.

The bridegroom was accompanied by his brother, Mr Melvill Hughes, acting as best man. [...] The bridesmaids were four in number [...] and each] had been presented with a handsome silver bracelet by the bridegroom. The bride was escorted to the chancel by her father, and the scene presented at the communion rails, when all the party met, was very charming and attractive. The bride's costume was composed of cream-coloured silk, trimmed with Spanish lace, and ornamented with the customary veil and wreath of orange blossoms. In her left hand she carried a bouquet of choicest white flowers and her jewellery was of the most chaste and appropriate character. The bridesmaids were attired in blue brocade, trimmed with ecru lace, and wore plush caps to match, each carrying a beautiful bouquet of flowers. [...]

The church was crowded both in the body and the galleries, and the proceedings were watched with the closest attention. At the completion of the ceremony, the wedding party adjourned into the registry to sign the register, and the bride and bridegroom received the congratulations of their friends. As the party left the Church Mr Hope [the organist of the church] played Mendelssohn's "Wedding March", and the bells of Christ Church and the Parish Church of Stockport immediately rang a merry peal in honour of the event.

Subsequently Alderman Vaughan entertained the wedding party and several other guests to a recherche breakfast at Eldon House, covers being laid for 38. The health of Mr and Mrs Hughes was then drunk with much heartiness, and in the course of the afternoon the happy pair left, amid a shower of rice and slippers for their honeymoon excursion.

The presents were both numerous and costly.

Thereafter followed a long list, some of the most intriguing being: a Grand piano, given by the bridegroom to the bride; a breakfast service from Melvill Hughes; silver fish knife and fork from Augustus and his wife Fanny; an Oxford Bible bound in Morocco from the teachers of Christ Church School; and Dante's Vision of Purgatory and Paradise, illustrated by Gustave Dore, from the Reverend J H Watmough [sic], Christ Church.

