

GUIDE DOG AT WEDDING

At West Farring Church they're expecting a wedding. It's not very important - except to Kathleen Danton, the bride, and she's the only one who will see nothing of it. The lovely cake her friend Mrs. Wood made is only a shape to Kathleen.

20-year-old Ann Stuttard is the bridesmaid. For ever a year she's written Kathleen's letters for her. Usually Kathleen doesn't need to rely very much on friends - except for her constant companion, a black and white collie, Gipsy - and today is Gipsy's big day, too. She's to take the place of Kathleen's father who is too ill in hospital to take her to the church. It was Gipsy who first introduced Kathleen to her husband-to-be in a homecraft shop.

There's a little crowd now to wish Kathleen Danton good luck, as she arrives alone with Gipsy, and her faith in the little dog shines in her swift, sure walk.

The old, 13th century church has seen many weddings, and the kindly rector deemed it not unseemly that the bride should be accompanied by her faithful friend. The bridegroom, Paul Nicholas, met Kathleen because Gipsy made a big fuss of him as soon as she saw him. Normally she never takes notice of anybody except Kathleen. Now Gipsy has her two friends together for always.