Emma was marrying Steve in the summer. It would be a big day, for both of them. They wanted everything to go well and for everyone to share their happiness. They were getting married at St Anthony’s church. Father Melly was going to celebrate the wedding. Emma wondered who to ask to be her bridesmaid and page. She talked to Steve about it and they decided it would be good to choose Benjamin and his sister Abigail, because they were Steve’s young cousins and they had never been a bridesmaid and page before and they were two lovely children.

Emma’s cousin had been a bridesmaid when her elder sister got married. Emma and Steve spoke to the children’s parents and asked if would be alright to ask them. They were pleased that their children had been chosen.

Emma and Steve took Benjamin and Abigail bowling and for a meal. Then they explained to them that they had chosen them to help at their wedding by being bridesmaid and page. Benjamin was very excited and pleased and said ‘Yes’ immediately, but then he asked what he would have to wear. He said he did not want to wear a kilt like his friend had worn. Emma and Steve reassured him that he would not have to wear anything too strange, just a smart suit, a bowtie and shiny shoes. Benjamin was happy about that and tucked into more pizza.

Abigail had not said anything. She just looked worried. Emma asked her how she felt about being a bridesmaid. She said she wasn’t sure, and thought Emma ought to choose someone else. Emma took Abigail to get more salad and when she was by herself asked her what was wrong. Abigail was nearly crying. She did not really want to tell Emma, but Emma spoke very gently to her so she told her.

Abigail explained that, because she wore glasses she thought she was not pretty enough and she was always getting into trouble for dropping things. Emma laughed in a kindly way, and asked her to look at her and say what she noticed. Abigail said she thought she was a kind and a pretty person. Emma pointed to her glasses and reminded Abigail that she, too, wore glasses and she would be wearing them at the wedding otherwise she would not be able to see.

She reassured Abigail that the only thing she might drop would be her flowers and they would not break. Emma told her that prettiness is inside you, not outside, and that a smile is the only thing any face needs to be lovely. Abigail laughed, gave Emma a hug and said she would love to be her bridesmaid.

Emma and Steve’s wedding was a very happy day. Abigail and Benjamin were both pleased to have been chosen to be there and their parents were very proud of them.