



---

# STAFFORDSHIRE C E R E M O N I E S

Registration Services | Staffordshire County Council

---

## MARRIAGE

# Traditional Ceremony Choices

## *Readings*

Your Ceremony. Your Choice.



Staffordshire  
County Council

# Order of Ceremony

*Option to play music as your guests wait for your ceremony to begin (approx. 15 minutes). Your music choice can be submitted via our online ceremony choices system.*

## **Registrar announces start of ceremony.**

*You can choose how you enter the ceremony room. Would you like to enter the ceremony room together or have a more traditional entrance with one of you waiting for the other? Would you like anyone to accompany you, for example parent/s, sibling/s, bridesmaids, groomsmen, other.*

*If you would you like a special piece of music to be played you can inform us when you submit your online choices.*

## **Welcome and Introduction by the Registrar**

### **Giving Away**

*Option for either party (or both) to be given away. It is completely your choice as to who performs this special duty and joins you as you walk down the aisle.*

### **Reading 1**

*Suitable place for a reading. You may choose from the readings provided. This can be read by the Registrar or one of your guests.*

### **Declaratory Vows**

### **Reading 2**

*Suitable place for a reading. You may choose from the readings provided. This can be read by the Registrar or one of your guests.*

### **Contracting Vows**

### **Promises**

*Option to include a promise to one another from our selection. You may choose to make the same promise to each other or a different one.*

### **Exchanging of Rings**

*Option to include rings within your ceremony. You may both wish to exchange rings, or one of you may wish to give a ring to the other.*

### **Closing Remarks by Registrar**

### **Signing of the Marriage Schedule**

*The Registrar will guide you as you sign the marriage schedule along with a maximum of 2 witnesses, chosen by you.*

*You will also have the choice of music to be played as you and your witness's sign.*

### **Registrar's final words of well wishes.**

*Option to play a final song as you exit the ceremony room, followed by your guests.*

The background is a deep blue with a subtle, embossed texture. It is adorned with delicate, light blue line art of leafy branches, some of which are also rendered in a slightly darker shade to create a layered effect. In the center, a white rectangular card is tilted at a slight angle, serving as a backdrop for the main text.

# Readings

***Throughout your ceremony you may wish to include readings.***

***You can choose from our selection.***

***These can be read by one of your guests or by the Registrar and are optional.***

***Up to 2 readings can be included.***



## ALWAYS LOVE EACH OTHER

If you can always be as close,  
and as happy as today.  
Yet be secure enough to grow,  
and change along the way.  
If you can keep alone,  
your love as man and wife,  
Yet find the time to share your joy,  
With others in your life.  
If you can be as one,  
and walk through marriage  
hand in hand,  
yet still support the goals  
and dreams,  
that each of you had planned.  
If you can dare  
to always go,  
your separate ways together,  
then all the wonder of today,  
Will stay with you forever.

Larry S Chengges





## "TAKE TIME"

Take time to be gentle to each other.

Remember, words that are harshly spoken,  
trouble the spirit, heart and mind.

Take time to talk to each other.

The secret to understanding, is in open communication.

Don't be afraid to speak your mind, but listen in return and listen  
carefully, wisely and not selfishly.

Take time to remember, why you chose one another.

And don't try to change one another,  
but learn to grow and value one another.

Take time to show respect, and be a friend to each other.

Admiration can be seen by others, by that look,  
by that smile, by that touch.

Be a good teacher, be a good student,  
you each have so much to share, and offer one another.

Take time to be alone, so that you can gather your innermost  
thoughts, and then share them with each other,  
when you're together again.

Take time to reflect, and be thankful for each other,  
and what you have achieved.

And when change is needed, express it with a mix of  
individualism and togetherness.

Take time to disagree with one another,  
it clears the air and the lungs,

and agree never to carry a row over to tomorrow.

Remember, there others in this world. Don't live only for each other.

You are also part of families and have friends. Don't block their love.

Lastly, take time to be loving. Its what everyone needs.

Every hour, every day and for the rest of you lives.

Love each other as we love you. Today and always.

And go on your way, knowing there are others here today,

Who love you almost as much.

As you love one another.

FROM AN AMERICAN INDIAN CEREMONY

May the sun bring you new energy  
by day.

May the moon softly restore you  
by night.

May the rain wash away your worries,  
and the breeze blow new strength  
into your being.

And all the days of your life,  
may you walk gently,  
through the world,  
and know its beauty.

Now you will feel no rain,  
for each will shelter the other.

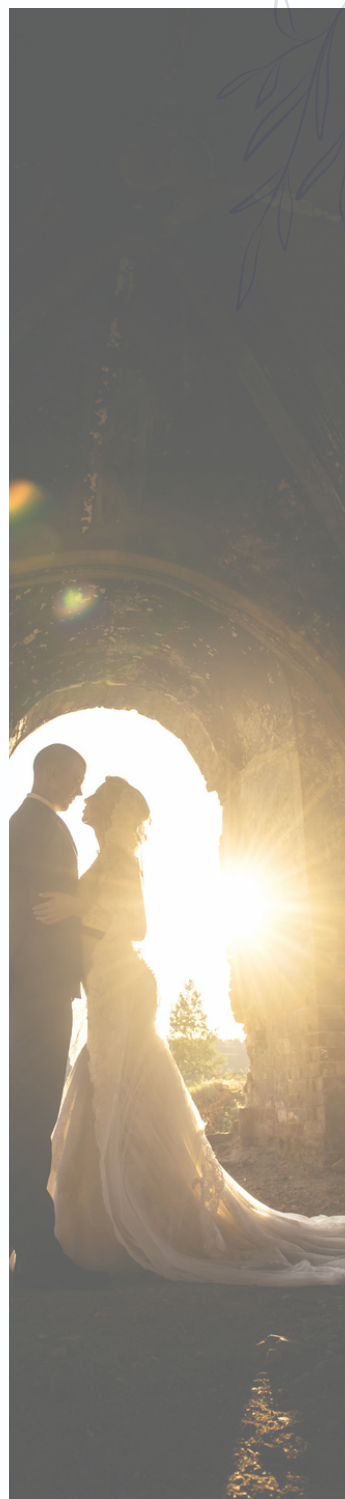
Now you will feel no cold,  
for each warm to the other.

Now there is no more loneliness,  
you are two people,  
but there is only one life before you.

Go now to your dwelling,  
to enter into the days of your life  
together,

and may your days,  
be good and long upon the earth.

Apache



## WHEN YOU MARRY HER

When you marry her, love her.  
After you marry her, study her.  
When she is blue, cheer her.  
When she is talkative,  
by all means listen to her.  
If she dresses well, compliment her.  
When she is cross, humour her.  
If she is jealous, cure her.  
If she is lonely, comfort her.  
When she looks pretty, tell her so.  
Let her feel you understand her.  
But never let her know she isn't boss.  
When you marry him, love him.  
After you marry him, study him.  
If he is secretive, trust him.  
If he is sad, cheer him.  
When he is talkative, listen to him.  
When he is quarrelsome, ignore him.  
If he is jealous, cure him.  
If he cares not for pleasure, coax him.  
If he favours society, accompany him.  
When he deserves it, kiss him.  
Let him think you understand him.  
But never let him know you manage him.

Susan Branch





## LES MISERABLES

You can give  
without loving,  
but you can never love  
without giving.

The great acts of love,  
are done by those,  
who are habitually performing,  
small acts of kindness.

We pardon to the extent,  
that we love.

Love is knowing,  
that even when you are alone,  
you will never be lonely again.

And great happiness of life,  
is the conviction that we are loved.

Loved for ourselves.

And even loved  
in spite of ourselves.

Extract





## CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

Love is a temporary madness  
It erupts like a volcano,  
and then subsides.  
And when it subsides  
you have to make a decision.  
You have to work out,  
whether your roots  
have so entwined together,  
that it is inconceivable  
that you should ever part.  
Because this is what love is.  
Love is not breathlessness.  
It is not excitement.  
It is not the promulgation  
of eternal passion.  
That is just  
being 'in love'  
which any fool can do.  
Love itself is what is left over,  
when being in love  
has burned away,  
and this is both an art  
and a fortunate accident.  
Those that truly love,  
have roots, that grow  
towards each other underground.  
And when all the pretty blossom,  
has fallen from their branches,  
they find that  
they are one tree,  
and not two.



Extract

## WHAT IS LOVE

It's a journey of promise  
that two make together,  
to find the happiness they'll share forever.  
It's a smile, a word, a gentle touch,  
that can't be explained and yet  
means so much  
It's making plans  
and seeing them through,  
and finding new things that two can do.  
It's knowing the sky isn't always blue,  
but smiling, until the sun breaks through.  
It's trust, and confidence no hidden fears.  
That adds to the happiness  
through the years  
It's dreaming dreams, just made for two,  
and sharing the joy, when they come true.  
It's closeness shared, in a crowded street,  
and that special thrill, as true lovers meet.  
It's making a world  
where happiness holds,  
a special magic, as each day unfolds.  
It's when little thoughts,  
give the heart a lift,  
an occasion remembered  
a simple gift.  
It's the faith and the hope,  
the pride and the care,  
and the wonderful world,  
that you both share.

Anon







## THIS DAY

This day I marry  
my best friend,  
the one I laugh with,  
as we share  
life's wondrous zest,  
as we find new enjoyments,  
and experiences,  
all that's best.  
The one I live for,  
because the world  
seems brighter,  
as our happy times  
are better,  
and our burdens  
feel much lighter.  
The one I love,  
with every fibre of my soul.  
We used to feel  
vaguely incomplete,  
now together  
we are whole

Anon

## THE ART OF MARRIAGE

A good marriage must be created.  
It is a relationship based on love, respect and  
determination, on the part of both husband  
and wife.

In marriage the little things are the important  
things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.  
It is remembering to say "I love you", at least  
once each day.

It is never going to sleep angry.  
It is having a mutual sense of values, and  
common objectives

It is standing together and facing the world.  
It is forming a circle of love, that gathers in  
the whole family.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and  
demonstrating gratitude, in thoughtful ways.  
It is having the capacity, to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere, in  
which each can grow.

It is a common search, for the good and the  
beautiful.

It is not only marrying the right person.  
It is being the right partner.

Wilferd Arlan Peterson



## WEDDING DAY

Now comes the knitting,  
the tying, entwining into one.  
Mysterious involvement  
of two whole,  
separate people,  
into something  
altogether strange,  
and changing,  
new and lovely.  
Nothing can ever be,  
we will never be,  
the same again;  
Not merged into each other  
irrevocably,  
but rather  
from now on  
we go the same way,  
in the same direction.  
Agreeing not  
to leave each other lonely  
or discouraged,  
or behind.  
I will do my best  
to keep my promises,  
to treasure you  
and keep you warm,  
and we will make  
our wide bed  
beneath the bright  
and ragged quilt  
of all the yesterdays,  
that make us who we are;  
The strengths and frailties  
we each bring to this marriage,  
and we will be rich indeed.

Rowena Edlin-White



## YOUR WEDDING DAY

Today is a day  
you will always remember,  
the greatest day in anyone's life.  
You'll start off the day  
just two people in love  
and you'll end it as husband and wife.  
It's a brand new beginning,  
the start of a journey,  
with moments to cherish and treasure.  
and although there'll be times  
when you both disagree,  
these will surely be  
outweighed by pleasure.  
You'll have heard many words of advice  
in the past,  
When the secrets of marriage were  
spoken,  
but you know the answers  
lie hidden inside,  
where the bond of true love  
lies unbroken.  
So be happy forever,  
as lovers and friends  
It's the dream of a new life for you,  
as you stand there together,  
with love in your eyes.  
From the moment you whisper "I do".  
And with luck, all your hopes  
and your dreams can be real.  
May success find its way to your hearts.  
Tomorrow can bring you  
the greatest of joys  
But today is the day it all starts.



Anon

## MARRIAGE JOINS TWO PEOPLE IN THE CIRCLE OF ITS LOVE

Marriage is a commitment to life,  
the best that two people can find,  
and bring out of each other.

It offers opportunities for sharing and growth,  
that no other relationship can equal.

It is a physical and an emotional joining,  
that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love,  
marriage encompasses all of life's  
most important relationships.

A wife and husband are each other's  
best friend, confidante, lover,  
teacher, listener and critic,

and there may come times, when one partner is  
heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other,  
may resemble the tender caring  
of a parent for a child.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.

Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher,  
commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more  
strongly and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives  
the mistakes life is unable to avoid.

It encourages and nurtures new life,  
new experiences and new ways

of expressing a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for  
each other in marriage,

they create a spirit unique unto themselves,  
which binds them closer together than any spoken  
or written words.

Marriage is a promise, a potential  
made in the hearts of two people  
who love each other  
and takes a lifetime to fulfil.



Edmund O'Neill



## WEDDING DAY

The day of your wedding, is a time to reflect,  
on the things you can hope for,  
and the things to expect.

You could hope for great riches,  
huge bundles of cash,  
but then lose it all,  
in a Stock Market crash.

Or you could hope for,  
a life of great ease,  
with the time and the money,  
to do as you please.

But it's better to hope,  
for the good things in life,  
Like a long happy life, as husband and wife.

Like the smile and the kiss,  
as you walk through the door,  
and the baby that wakes you,  
at a quarter to four.

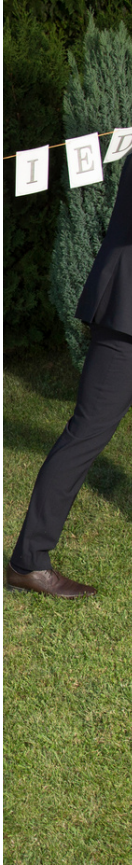
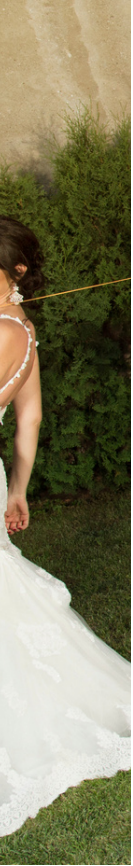
And a life of variety, with sunshine and rain,  
and Frosties for breakfast,  
instead of champagne.

Expect times of anger, the occasional huff,  
because no-one annoys you,  
like the one that you love.

But don't look for problems,  
that the future may bring,

Just to love and be loved, is a wonderful thing  
Life's not all plain sailing, not always a ball,  
but I know you'll be happy,  
because love conquers all.

Robert Palmer







# Contact

## **General Enquiries**

[registrarsenquiries@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:registrarsenquiries@staffordshire.gov.uk)

0300 111 8001

## **Registration Office**

[burton.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:burton.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk)

[cannock.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cannock.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk)

[lichfield.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lichfield.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk)

[newcastle-under-lyme.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:newcastle-under-lyme.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk)

[stafford.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:stafford.registrationoffice@staffordshire.gov.uk)

## **Enhanced Ceremony Support**

[ceremonysupport@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ceremonysupport@staffordshire.gov.uk)

Your Ceremony. Your Choice.