YOUR DAY IN
Northamptonshire
www.yourdaynorthants.com

A Guide to Celebratory Services

Marriages | Partnerships | Renewal of Vows | Naming Celebrations
The Courtyard Hotel

West Street, Stanwick NN9 6QY

The Courtyard Hotel is a beautiful small hotel in the Northamptonshire countryside, in the village of Stanwick, close to Wellingborough.

Our purpose built events suite can seat up to 150 guests formally and 250 informally, as well as catering for smaller, intimate weddings. All food is prepared by our in-house chef and we have a wide range of menu options. Two acres of beautiful gardens are perfect for your photographs. Our 20 en-suite hotel rooms can provide accommodation for your guests.

01933 622233
weddings@courtyardstanwick.co.uk
www.courtyardstanwick.co.uk

Whittlebury Park Orangery

Whittlebury Park, Towcester NN12 8XW

Whittlebury Park offers three stunning venues for your wedding, The Orangery, The Pavilion and The Atrium. Set in over 600 acres of picturesque parkland, with beautiful settings, perfect for your wedding photographs.

Licensed to hold civil ceremonies, and also offering perfectly matched venues for receptions from 25 to 250 people; they are justifiably proud of their reputation built up over the years for the excellent food, personal service and individual attention that has made them one of the finest wedding venues in the area.

01327 850040 | 01327 850000
weddings@whittlebury.com
www.whittleburyweddings.co.uk
We are delighted that you are planning to hold your ceremony in Northamptonshire. I hope this brochure will help you with your celebratory arrangements and help you plan your special day.

It contains a summary of the important information that you need. Full information can be found on our dedicated ceremonial website www.yourdaynorthants.com

Everyone's ceremony is special and we will help to make your day a very happy occasion for you, your family and friends. We wish you a very enjoyable celebration.

In Northamptonshire we have 70 approved venues providing charming and memorable settings for all our ceremonies. Many approved venues will also arrange your reception. Our brochure also contains details of the facilities at our Registration Offices for your special day.

Janet Blunden
Superintendent Registration Officer, Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire: the heart of England

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For a memorable ceremony, choose an unforgettable county - Northamptonshire.

We have a wealth of historic country houses, iconic modern architecture, world-class boutique hotels and some stunning barn conversions to suit any ceremony.

Whatever your budget you will not be disappointed by our choice of more than 70 venues approved for civil ceremonies.

Historically known as ‘The Rose of the Shires’, Northamptonshire has acres of open, rolling countryside with chocolate box villages and quaint market towns, canals, rivers, lakes, and woods. A picture perfect background for any celebration.

Set in the heart of England, Northamptonshire is within easy reach of London, Birmingham, Oxford or Cambridge, and has five international airports within one hour’s drive. With three rail networks and major motorways crossing the county, none of your guests will have any trouble arriving.

Let us help you plan your perfect day here in Northamptonshire.
A CEREMONY

A ceremony is designed for you when the celebratory requirements outweigh all other considerations. A ceremony is ideal if you want a more bespoke and glamorous celebration for yourselves, family members and your guests. The ceremony includes:

• An extensive choice of Registration Office ceremony rooms or any of the Approved Venues across the County
• Personalised ceremony content
• Ceremony planning facility
• Choices of readings and additional promises - see p31-36 for examples
• Music, either from our Registration Service standard collection or from your own favourite playlist of meaningful and memorable music
• Rings handed to the Registrar during the ceremony by the ring bearer
• Personal recording of the event
• Your event will last up to 60 minutes.

There is a wide choice of ceremony availability for marriages covering weekdays, weekends, locations and times.

A REGISTRATION

A registration is a basic legal marriage. This is suitable for you where budget could be a major consideration or if you would like a more intimate ceremony just for yourselves and two adult witnesses but no additional guests.

The registration is delivered with the same high degree of solemnity and dignity as with all of our services and focused on the legal requirements of a marriage.

The marriage registration takes place in a small registration room, where computers and files are in situ. Guests will be limited to two witnesses only. Registrations are only available on weekdays and will last up to 30 minutes.
All non-religious marriage ceremonies in the county are conducted by Northamptonshire County Council’s Registration Service ceremony team. We offer two different options to suit your requirements and budget. 

• A marriage ceremony
• A marriage registration

DID YOU KNOW?

A marriage and other celebrations can take place any time between 07:00 and 22:00 subject to accommodation availability.

Please visit our website for more information.

Booking

Please visit our website for more information and details of how to book your celebratory event, as well as our fees and booking conditions.

www.yourdaynorthants.com
There are certain actions that are required in law before you can marry

(unless you are marrying in the Church of England or church in Wales by banns or common licence).

You both need to give your notice to marry. This means making a legal declaration that you are both free to marry each other and will require you to provide certain documents, for example, we will need to see your passports or full birth certificates as well as a document proving your address such as driving licence or recent utility bill.

When you give notice, the Registrar will ask questions about you and your partner. You will be asked:

• Full names and addresses
• Your date of birth
• Whether either of you have been through any form of marriage previously, in this or any other country
• Your occupations, nationalities and whether you are related to each other by blood, marriage, surrogacy, adoption or civil partnership.

Reminder

Your marriage cannot go ahead unless the legal matters have been successfully completed. It is essential that formal notice is given by each party to the Registrar of their council area. In Northamptonshire, local residents can give their notices at any of our Registration Offices across the county.
Legal Matters

It is necessary for you and your partner to provide us with proof of age, identity and nationality and also evidence that you are free to marry.

If one of you is subject to immigration control, for example staying in the UK on a visa, then you will need to follow special procedures. Please see our FAQ’s for more information on page 13.

If either of you have been in a marriage (or civil partnership) before, you will need documents to show that your last marriage (or civil partnership) was legally ended. All documents must be originals and not photocopies.

If any documents are not in the English language, please provide a certified translation.

Northamptonshire residents can give their notices to marry at any of our 7 Registration Offices across the county. You both have to live in England or Wales for at least 9 clear days immediately before giving your notice.

If you live outside the county and want to be married in Northamptonshire, you can give your notices at your own council area Registration Office. However by law, after giving notice you must wait a further 16 clear days** before the ceremony can take place (for example, if notice is given on 1st February the ceremony may take place on or after 17th February).

**After March 2015 the notice period will be extended to 29 clear days. Where there has been a referral to the Home Office this period could be extended.
On The Day

Marriage

A Northamptonshire County Council Ceremony Officer will conduct the pre-ceremony interview and ceremony and will be happy to answer any last minute questions that you may have.

CEREMONY CONTENT

MARRIAGE CEREMONY WORDS

In a marriage ceremony you say...

Declaratory Words

The choice of words below are spoken aloud during the ceremony in the presence of witnesses by both partners as a declaration that they are free to marry.

(a) Traditional: “I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I [full name] may not be joined in matrimony to [full name of partner]”

(b) Modern: “I declare that I know of no legal reason why I [full name] may not be joined in marriage to [full name of partner]”

(c) Simplified: “(If the answer to my question is yes please reply I am). Are you [full name] free lawfully to marry [full name of partner]?”.

Contracting Words:

The choice of words below are spoken aloud during the ceremony in the presence of witnesses by both partners to signify they are entering into a contract of marriage.

(a) Traditional: “I call upon these persons here present to witness that I [full name] do take thee [full name of partner] to be my lawful wedded husband/wife”

(b) Modern: “I [full name] take you [full name of partner] to be my wedded husband/wife”

(c) Simplified: “I [full name] take thee [full name of partner] to be my wedded husband/wife”.

ARRIVAL

You will be greeted by the Ceremony Officer for a brief meeting. This meeting is to ensure that all the information on the certificates for marriage are correct. You will also be asked to confirm the information given on your Notices, including your natural, step or adopted father’s full names and occupations. These details will be recorded in the marriage register and on your marriage certificate(s) and any commemorative certificates.

Don’t be late! It may have been “fashionable” for the bride to be late but don’t be - you and your guests must be on time as the Ceremony Officer will have other ceremonies to attend on the same day.

Please consider this when advising guests of their arrival time. See your ceremony confirmation letter correspondence for the suggested arrival time.

For details of guest and seating capacity in our ceremony rooms, please see p15-16. For information on approved venue seating, please contact the venue.

Photos, opposite page -
DD: www.daringtodreamphotography.com
VA: www.vividartweddings.co.uk
WG: www.wendygrantphotography.com
On The Day

The typical order of events

A typical running order for the ceremony is:

**MARRIAGE CEREMONY**

- Introduction and welcome
- Declaration of freedom to marry
- First reading
- Contracting words
- Exchanging of rings
- Additional promises
- Second reading
- Signing the register.

The marriage legalities conclude with the formal signing of the register which will take place after you have been declared husband(s) and/or wife(s).

**Witnesses**

- The law requires that you have two witnesses at your marriage
- They can be relatives or friends and must be able to speak and understand English. Children and young people can sign the register as additional witnesses
- All witnesses must be able to understand what is taking place and testify to what they have witnessed.

**Flowers**

- All ceremony rooms in the Registration Offices are decorated with either silk or dried flower arrangements.

**Confetti**

- Confetti is a familiar part of any marriage. We simply ask your guests not to throw confetti inside the building.

No other embellishments for a marriage registration can be offered due to the location and limited time available for a registration. Guests are limited to the two witnesses only.
Recording the event

• This is up to you and your guests but recording needs to be discreet during the ceremony
• The ceremony cannot be interrupted for recording
• Some of our Registration Offices have their own gardens for photography, while others are close to attractive public parks.

Please let us know in advance when you submit the planning form so we are prepared. See our website for more information.

Use of an interpreter

• If one or both of you is unable to speak and/or understand English, you will need to provide an interpreter
• Interpreters will be asked to sign a statement that he/she has translated the questions and answers correctly
• You are not able in law to interpret for each other.

Reminder

Please let us know which elements you want in your ceremony by completing the online planning form on our website.
So... you want to get married - how to go about it

A civil marriage ceremony is what most people would call a traditional wedding, with both partners making legal vows in front of family and friends. The ceremony can include music and readings, but no religious content.

Contact your chosen approved venue for their booking process. You are advised to make a provisional booking with the venue – but DO NOT CONFIRM that booking until you have booked a registrar.

To book a registrar to attend and conduct your ceremony on the same day as you book the venue go to the website above and complete and submit the online Enquiry Form. We try to reply within three days.

The Registration Service ceremony team will contact you to confirm dates and times. If we are available, we will take a deposit over the phone and send you a contract.

Check the contract is correct. Sign it and return the detachable section to our administration team within 14 days. If we do not get your signed confirmation by then, the booking will be released.

This is a legal requirement where you book an appointment to see a registrar with key documents of your identity. This must be done at least one month before a ceremony but can be up to 12 months ahead (subject to change in 2015). There is a statutory fee to give notice of marriage.

Visit the website and fill in the online Planning Form. This lets the registrars know your order of events for the ceremony. The Registration Service recommends you submit the form 6 to 8 weeks before the ceremony to let them check there are no religious references in readings or music. About this time the Registration Service will also contact you to take any outstanding balance of fees.

DO NOT BE LATE! Registrars have other ceremonies to attend and if you do not start on time they may have to postpone your ceremony.
Countdown

24 MONTHS BEFOREHAND
Visit our website and find out the things you need to do
Complete and submit our online enquiry form
Book your wedding with our ceremony team (in conjunction with the venue).

12 MONTHS BEFOREHAND
Book your appointment online to each give your Notice of Marriage.

9-12 MONTHS BEFOREHAND
Book photographer/video, reception venue, caterers, music,
decoration of room/tables
Book your honeymoon
Decide on best man/woman, bridesmaids, page boys, ushers
Start making guest list
Plan and book what you will wear e.g. the dress, the suit, what the attendants’ will wear
Check on wedding ceremony insurance (recommended)

6-9 MONTHS BEFOREHAND
Begin thinking about your gift list
Make your transport arrangements, including ceremony cars, to and from the venue.

4-6 MONTHS BEFOREHAND
Order your ceremony stationery
Choose your florist and place order
Buy ring/rings
Choose reception menu and order cake.

3-4 MONTHS BEFOREHAND
Finalise the honeymoon arrangements
Apply to passport office for change of name on passport
Book overnight hotel if necessary if not already done
Send out invitations/ceremony gift list
Research and send lists of local accommodation to guests who may need it
Buy attendants’ presents
Complete our online planning form
Pay any remaining ceremony fee balance.

1 MONTH BEFOREHAND
If you have not already done so urgently book your Notices of Marriage appointment online to see the Registrar**
Chase up guests who have not replied
Order honeymoon currency
Notify bank/doctor, etc. of change of name and address
Give final guest list to caterers
Arrange hen/stag night
Book your big day hair appointment
Phone local paper to arrange an announcement report.

1 WEEK TO GO!
Time the journey to make sure there are no unexpected delays
Give your gown/suit, attendants’ dresses etc. a final check for fit
Ensure all hired clothes are collected in time
Pack for your honeymoon.

**After March 2015 the notice period will be extended to 29 clear days.
Where there has been a referral to the Home Office this period could be extended.

Reminder
Your marriage cannot go ahead unless the legal matters have been successfully completed. It is essential that formal notice is given by each party to the Registrar of their council area. In Northamptonshire, local residents can give their notices at any of our Registration Offices across the county.
FAQ

Marriage or Civil Partnership

Can same sex couples marry or form a civil partnership?

Yes. The introduction of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 enables same sex couples to marry. This legislation came into effect in March 2014. Same sex couples not already in a legal relationship will have the choice to marry or form a civil partnership through a civil ceremony. The act also provides approved venues with automatic approval for the marriage of same sex couples on their premises.

I want a civil marriage ceremony

• You can marry in any Registration Office or approved venue in England or Wales
• You both need to give your Notice of marriage to the Registrar in the Council area where you both live. Then visit our website and complete the online enquiry form
• You need to have lived in that Council area for at least 9 days before giving your Notices.

How do I book a marriage at an approved venue?

• Contact your venue to check availability of dates and times
• Then visit our website and complete the online enquiry form to enquire about Registrar availability.

I don’t live in Northamptonshire but want our ceremony in Northamptonshire. What do I need to do?

• Book your approved venue in Northamptonshire. See our approved venues list on p17-18
• Book Northamptonshire ceremony team for the ceremony. To do this, go to our website and complete our online enquiry form
• Give your Notices to the Registration Service in the Council area where you live
• You just need to have lived there for at least 9 days before giving your Notices.

How quickly can I get married?

• Your Notice of marriage has to be displayed in a public area for 16 days before the event
• Book your Notice of Marriage appointment online a minimum of one month before the event
• Only in exceptional circumstances can the 16 day** period be reduced, for example where the bride or groom is seriously ill. If this is the case, contact us immediately on 0300 126 1000 for advice
• If a close relative is seriously ill it may be possible to help but this would be subject to legal restrictions.

**16 day period may increase during the life of this brochure. Go to our website for more information.

Can my partner and I get married even if he or she isn’t a UK or EEA citizen?

• You can, but there are some restrictions where either of you are subject to immigration control
• For details of the restrictions and how to satisfy them, visit www.gov.uk and go to Marriage and civil partnership in the UK
• If you have a query about immigration matters, please visit www.gov.uk

How far in advance can I book?

• Up to 2 years prior to the ceremony. Please complete the online enquiry form on our website
• The legal Notice of Marriage may be given up to 12 months in advance of the ceremony or registration. You can book your Notice appointment online via our website. This should be done a minimum of 1 month before the date of the wedding.
What are the marriage fees?

• Please visit our website for the up to date information.

I am under 18 years old. What do I need to do?

• If you are under 18 when Notice is to be given you will need to obtain consent. In order to establish whose consent is required in law, visit www.gov.uk go to Marriage and civil partnership in the UK, then see the Overview.

I want to get married abroad. What do I do?

• For specific information please visit: www.gov.uk and look up Marriage, civil partnerships and divorce, then see: Getting married abroad.

How many guests can I invite to the ceremony?

• It’s up to you, but each Registration Service ceremony room has a maximum seating number. Please visit our website for ceremony room seating capacity.
• There is no opportunity to have guests at an office-based marriage registration apart from two witnesses.

Are there any restrictions on the music and readings I want?

• The choice is yours but...
• A civil ceremony cannot have any religious content
• Detail your choices on the online planning form and submit them to us
• We will review your choices detailed on your ceremony planning form and let you know if there are any issues.

Do I need to bring any proof of identification to the ceremony?

• Only if there has been a change of name by deed poll between the date the Notice was given and the date of the ceremony, otherwise no identification is needed on the day.

I don’t want to marry, how do I form a civil partnership instead?

• Information about forming a civil partnership, including the legal preliminaries is available on our website www.yourdaynorthants.com

How can I convert my civil partnership to a marriage?

• Please visit our website for information on the conversion process.
Corby Cube is an iconic, eye catching glass-clad building which was opened in November 2010. It is home to the Council Chamber which is licensed to hold civil ceremonies, situated on the second floor. The spacious room seats 100 guests. There is plenty of parking at the rear of the building.

Daventry Registration Office is situated in the prestigious Civic Offices. The ceremony room is in the Council Chamber on the first floor and provides seating for up to 50 guests. There is ample car parking close by.

Guests are welcomed into the comfortable and friendly surroundings of the Mayor’s Parlour within the grand Borough Council building. The ceremony room is on the ground floor and will accommodate up to 42 guests. There are delightful municipal gardens next door offering photographic opportunities.

Our Registration Service venues offer a cost effectiveness and convenience unrivalled within the county of Northamptonshire, no matter where you live, work, or were born; our facilities are available to you and your guests for your ceremony, subject to availability.

Our facilities and features differ from one location to another so please take a look at what we can offer you. Wheelchair users can access all Registration Service ceremony rooms.
NORTHAMPTON Registration Office
The Guildhall, St Giles Street, Northampton NN1 1DE

The Guildhall, completed in 1864, is a splendid example of fine Victorian architecture. Its interior has been beautifully restored to its original elegance complementing the traditional design which has some touches of Venetian Gothic. It is an excellent place for a marriage ceremony. Seating is for up to 35 guests and 15 standing. There is plenty of car parking in the locality.

OUNDLE Registration Office
The Old Courthouse, Mill Road, Oundle PE8 4BW

Oundle Registration Office is situated in the Old Courthouse, which is a rare surviving example of this type of mid-19th-century civic architecture. It was built in 1877 and is a listed Grade II building. The large ceremony room on the first floor has a fine hammer beam roof and seating for up to 50 guests. The building also accommodates a museum and gallery. Car parking is available at the nearby Drill Hall.

The Oundle Registration Office may move to Fletton House in Fletton Way, Oundle during the life of this brochure.

TOWCESTER Registration Office
Sunny Banks, 55 Brackley Road, Towcester NN12 6DH

The Registration Office at Towcester is in an attractive three-storey, predominantly stone built property which was extended in the late 19th century. Our ceremony room is on the ground floor and has seating for up to 28 guests and 22 standing. The building is set in well maintained gardens, which provide excellent opportunities for photographs. The car park provides ample parking.

The Towcester Registration Office will be moving to the Forum in Moat Lane from March 2015.

WELLINGBOROUGH Registration Office
Council Offices, Swanspool House, Wellingborough NN8 1BP

Wellingborough Registration Office is located at the Council Offices, Swanspool House. The original house is a Grade II listed building set in magnificent gardens which make a delightful setting for wedding photographs. The spacious ceremony room, which is also the Council Chamber, has a seating capacity of up to 55 guests. The parties can make their exit from the ceremony room directly into Swanspool gardens. There is adequate parking at the front of the building on Saturdays only. During the week parking is available in the Swansgate Car Park, situated opposite the building.

To make an enquiry about a ceremony and our availability please complete the online enquiry form.
Whether you are looking for an intimate setting or the elegance of a country hotel, with 70 venues to choose from we have just the place for your ceremony. Our County has charming and beautiful locations in the very heart of England - there is something for everyone.

The information for Northamptonshire Registration Offices and approved venues was correct at the time of publication so please visit our website for the most up to date information and our opening hours.

To make an enquiry about a ceremony and our availability please complete the online enquiry form.
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Althorp House</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Aynhoe Park</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Barton Hall Hotel</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel</td>
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<td>Boughton House</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Brampton Heath Golf Centre</td>
<td>01604 843939</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Bridge Hotel</td>
<td>01832 732128</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Cherwell Edge Golf Club</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Cold Ashby Golf Club</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Corby Masonic Complex</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Crockwell Farm</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Daventry Court Hotel</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Dodford Manor</td>
<td>01327 349761</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Dodmoor House</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Fawsley Hall Hotel</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Grendon Hall</td>
<td>01604 236297</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Grendon Lakes</td>
<td>01933 665303</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Hampton By Hilton-Corby</td>
<td>01536 210001</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Hellidon Lakes Golf &amp; Spa Hotel</td>
<td>01327 262550</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Highgate House</td>
<td>01604 505505</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Hilton Hotel Northampton</td>
<td>01604 700666</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Holdenby House</td>
<td>01604 770074</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Corby-Kettering A43</td>
<td>01536 401020</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Northampton</td>
<td>01604 622777</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Northampton-West</td>
<td>01327 349022</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Rugby-Northampton</td>
<td>0871 942 9059</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Hothorpe Hall</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Kelmarsh Hall</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Kettering Conference Centre</td>
<td>01536 414414</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Kettering Park Hotel</td>
<td>01536 416666</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Kingfisher Hotel, Golf &amp; Country Club</td>
<td>01908 562332</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Lamport Hall</td>
<td>01604 868272</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Northampton Marriott Hotel</td>
<td>01604 768700</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Northampton Rugby Football Club (Franklins Garden)</td>
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<td>Northamptonshire ACRE</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<td>46</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>Sulgrave Manor</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>Sunley Conference Centre</td>
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<td>The Banqueting &amp; Conference Suites at the Kettering Ritz</td>
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<td>Whittlebury Park (Orangery &amp; Atrium)</td>
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<td>Wicksteed Park</td>
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<td>Winchester House School</td>
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Barton Hall

Perfect New Wedding Venue

* Orangery licensed for ceremonies
* Stunning bedrooms available
* Wedding packages from £70 per person
* Exclusive use available
* Function room for up to 180 guests
* Beautiful grounds

01536 515505
enquiries@bartonhall.com
www.bartonhall.com

Boughton House & Gardens

Sitting at the heart of the Northamptonshire countryside, Boughton House is one of England’s best kept secrets.

Surrounded by a beautiful landscaped estate, featuring sweeping lawns, private gardens and striking architecture, Boughton offers an idyllic backdrop for your wedding day.

Whether you are looking for a ceremony in the magnificent Great Hall or outdoors amongst the arches of the colonnade, the House offers a unique setting to start your married life.

01536 515731
weddings@buccleuch.com
www.boughtonhouse.co.uk

Brampton Grange

‘Northampton’s hidden Gem’ - an exclusive venue set within 25 acres of beautiful and tranquil countryside. Host to an elegant and romantic English Country house, paired with our stunning converted barns makes for a perfect setting for your dream wedding.

• Licensed for civil ceremonies up to 160
• Dedicated and experienced Wedding Planner
• Finest cuisine and individually tailored menus
• Up to 220 guests for wedding breakfast and 300 evening

01604 844717
sales.events@bramptongrange.net
www.bramptongrange.co.uk

Brampton Heath Golf Centre

A Grand Wedding - located in the picturesque village of Church Brampton, in one of the most scenic locations in Northamptonshire and overlooking the beautiful Brampton Valley Way. Friendly staff are dedicated to making your day special and our Events Co-ordinator will create a bespoke package just for you.

Weddings from £1000. Licensed for Civil Ceremonies. We also welcome any type of family celebration for up to 150 guests, with exclusive use of the 1st floor and balcony.

01604 843939
info@bhgc.co.uk
www.bhgc.co.uk
Collingtree Park Golf Course
90 Windingbrook Lane, Northampton NN4 0XN

A unique venue with stunning views across the signature 18th island green, a perfect setting for your wedding day. Offering incredible food, wedding breakfast packages and evening options. We can create bespoke packages upon request.

With an experienced wedding co-ordinator dedicated to creating your dream wedding.

Now licensed to hold civil ceremonies!

01604 700000 (option 2)
events@collingtreeparkgolf.com
www.collingtreeparkgolf.com

Crockwell Farm
Eydon, Daventry NN11 3QA

The venue that’s a world away

Set against a backdrop of rolling South Northamptonshire countryside, undiscovered lanes and sleepy stone built cottages, lies Crockwell, let your perfect day begin...... Exclusive use for 2 days and nights
A personal approach with 12 years experience
Flexibility to cater for parties from 20 to 180 guests
Stone vaulted hall and permanent insulated marquees
Eight award winning en-suite bedrooms
Extensive gardens and free parking

01327 361358
info@crockwellfarm.co.uk
www.crockwellfarm.co.uk

Grendon Lakes
Main Road, Grendon NN7 1JW

A beautiful lakeside wedding & function venue to meet all your needs:
• Licensed for indoor & outdoor civil ceremonies
• Lakeside setting with views across the Nene Valley countryside
• Private & exclusive hire of marquee, lawn, patio, terrace, function room & bar
• Parties of 10 to 150 catered for
• Personal & professional service from a family run team
• Camping & Glamping available

01933 665303
info@grendonlakes.co.uk
www.grendonlakes.co.uk

Highgate House
Grooms Lane, Creaton, Northampton NN6 8NN

Highgate House is an elegant 17th century country house set in beautiful countryside, just seven miles outside of Northampton. Its magnificent setting makes it the perfect wedding location.

With three licensed ceremony rooms, a selection of delightful function rooms and 97 bedrooms, Highgate House can accommodate your wedding from ceremony to reception and beyond.

01604 731999
highgate@sundialgroup.com
www.sundialweddings.com/highgatehouse
Holiday Inn Corby-Kettering

Geddington Road, Corby NN18 8ET

Set in the heart of leafy Northamptonshire, the Holiday Inn Corby-Kettering hotel marries flexible facilities and a choice of excellent value wedding breakfast packages with meticulous Wedding Co-ordinators dedicated to organising a personalised and memorable celebration.

From an intimate wedding breakfast for 20 guests to a grand affair for up to 250 guests, we can cater for your every requirement. We offer wedding packages from only £40 per person or bespoke weddings to suit your style.

01536 401020
events@hicorby.com
www.hicorby.com

Lamport Hall

Lamport Hall

Lamport NN6 9HD

A superb setting in the heart of Northamptonshire, exclusively yours for the day. Lamport Hall provides an atmospheric location for either a civil ceremony only or the full memorable occasion.

With two stunning rooms to choose from, both steeped in history with an intimate grandeur, the Hall can accommodate up to 70 guests.

The Victorian Dining Room gives a beautiful backdrop for a wedding breakfast.

01604 686272
admin@lamporthall.co.uk
www.lamporthall.co.uk

Plum Park

Watling Street, Towcester NN12 6LG

Plum Park is an exclusive wedding venue and boutique hotel set in formal gardens and manicured parkland.

We are an approved venue for civil ceremonies and can comfortably seat in excess of 200 guests for a silver service wedding breakfast but are equally happy catering for intimate celebrations. Our chef will design a bespoke menu to suit your taste and budget.

An elegant bridal suite and well-appointed guest rooms are available on the night of your wedding.

01327 811515
info@plumpark.co.uk
www.plumpark.co.uk

Royal & Derngate

Royal & Derngate

Guildhall Road, Northampton NN1 1DP

Let us help you create a truly memorable day in one of the most unique venues in Northampton.

01604 655729
weddings@royalandderngate.co.uk
www.royalandderngate.co.uk
Rushton Hall Hotel & Spa
Rushton NN14 1RR

The most romantic setting for your wedding in the Midlands.
- 16th Century hotel, with 46 luxurious en suite bedrooms
- 4 Red Star hotel & 3 Rosette restaurant
- Licensed for civil ceremonies
- Exclusive use available
- Private dining & superb wine cellars
- Spa & treatment rooms
- Traditional afternoon tea

01536 713001
weddings@rushtonhall.com
www.rushtonhall.com

Sulgrave Manor
Sulgrave, Banbury, Oxon OX17 2SD

Get married in an authentic Tudor Hall then enjoy your reception in our Courtyard Hall with its timber beams and modern catering facilities or perhaps a marquee on our lawns.
Sulgrave Manor offers an idyllic rural setting, beautiful gardens for photographs and plenty of parking space.
We can provide a one stop shop for all your wedding needs while allowing you freedom to create a truly bespoke day.

01295 760205
enquiries@sulgravemanor.org.uk
www.sulgravemanor.org.uk

The Granary Hotel
Fawsley, Daventry NN11 3BU

The Granary at Fawsley’s idyllic English countryside setting creates the perfect backdrop for your special day.
Exclusive Use Venue • Oak beamed room for intimate weddings and country barn for larger events
10 - 200 people • Flexible catering options from a la carte wedding breakfasts to hog roasts, buffets to carveries
10 guest bedrooms • Dedicated wedding planner.
Call us to book a free venue consultation.

01327 361730
info@granary-hotel.com
www.granary-hotel.com

The Guildhall Northampton
St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE

Grade II star listed and in the heart of the town, The Guildhall Northampton truly is Northampton’s best kept secret’. Its stunning architectural features and exquisite décor will provide a stunning back drop to your day.
From your ceremony through to your reception we have a selection of stunning spaces and packages allowing us to cater for celebrations from 4 to 220 guests.
For further details please contact one of the dedicated wedding co-ordinators to discuss your big day.

01604 838400
guildhalloffice@northampton.gov.uk
www.northampton.gov.uk/theguildhall
The Hind Hotel, a wonderful Grade II* listed building dating back to the 1600's and embodies all the charm and original features you would expect from a historical coaching inn but with all the comforts of a modern hotel. Why not book a meeting with our wedding team to see how we can make your day extra special. We are able to offer bespoke wedding packages tailored to your requirement and much more.

01933 222827
enquiries@thehind.co.uk
www.thehind.co.uk

Park Inn by Radisson Northampton with its town centre location, beautiful interiors, exquisite cuisine, personalised service, and the utmost attention to detail is the ultimate wedding venue in Northampton. Our events space of varying size can cater for civil ceremonies for up to 500 people. We can cater for evening receptions for up to 400 people. Our 146 en-suite rooms can provide accommodation for your guests, and we have on-site Beauty & Leisure facilities.

01604 739988
conference.northampton@rezidorparkinn.com
www.parkinn.co.uk/hotel-northampton

Towcester Racecourse, one of the country's most beautiful and scenic racecourses. The award winning Grace Stand is the perfect location to host your ceremony and reception, with its amazing views overlooking the Northamptonshire countryside. With exclusive use of the stand you can make the facility your own and with the day prior set aside for dressing, your dream can become a reality at Towcester Racecourse.

01327 353414
info@towcester-racecourse.co.uk
www.towcester-racecourse.co.uk

Places to Marry is the perfect place to start the search for your ideal venue - we have details of every approved venue in Northamptonshire. We're only a click away from your perfect day!

01925 486445
info@placestomarry.com
www.placestomarry.com
Say "I do" again...

Renewal of Vows ceremonies

What is a Renewal of Vows ceremony?

So...you and your partner have been married or registered as civil partners for a few years. No matter how long you've been together you can still celebrate all over again. A second, third or fourth chance to recreate that magical day is only a phone call away and this time you'll be less nervous and enjoy yourself even more.

The Northamptonshire Registration Service has many years experience in recreating the special day that was your wedding or civil partnership ceremony. Whether your original ceremony was in the distant past, or a more recent event, we can help you recreate that magical experience by helping you to renew your vows in a ceremony designed around how you want to celebrate. The activities within the ceremony are created by you.
**Why would you want to?**

A Renewal of Vows ceremony is designed to celebrate your commitment to each other. This can be for example, for those hopeless romantics who want the opportunity to celebrate through a renewed commitment of love towards each other or where a difficult period in the relationship has been overcome, but these are just examples.

A Renewal of Vows ceremony is particularly attractive where your marriage or civil partnership ceremony was held abroad, stood on a warm beach on a romantic island as the sun was setting. Now you can have a bespoke ceremony but this time where family and good friends can take part. It’s up to you.

Whatever your motivation, the Registration Service team want to help you celebrate. A Renewal of Vows ceremony does not have any standing in law, but this becomes a celebratory advantage as the restrictions are minimal about where the ceremony can take place. However we do draw the line at ceremonies involving a shark tank, high speed pursuits or the like!

**When should a ceremony take place?**

• It’s up to you. You choose when in your lives you want it.

**How long does a ceremony last?**

• That depends on the content and the different options you choose  
• Why not look at our online planning form to see the options  
• After the ceremony the celebrations can continue as long as you like.

**Is there a choice of ceremony?**

• There certainly is. The ceremony is devised by you and your partner from a wide range of choices (excluding the shark tank bit)  
• You create an event that is right for you, and that you and your guests will remember for years to come  
• You may wish to exchange rings - the originals or new ones, choose poems or personally meaningful text, and choose music that is special to you  
• Your children, guests who were at your original ceremony, friends and relatives can all take part  
• Two of them could act as witnesses and sign a commemorative certificate. ...it’s your choice.

**Are there any restrictions?**

• Renewal of Vows ceremonies are primarily celebratory in nature  
• They have no legal status and are not legally binding on those who participate  
• The ceremony cannot have any religious content  
• We also need to see your marriage or partnership certificate.

**Who conducts the ceremony?**

• The ceremony will be led by a member of the ceremony team  
• The ceremony team does not act in any official or legal capacity  
• Our ceremony team are all trained to conduct different ceremonies in a professional and customer focused manner  
• This ensures your ceremony is an enjoyable and memorable occasion for you, your partner and everyone else attending your celebration.
What's in a name?

Naming ceremonies

What is a Naming ceremony?
The most precious people in a loving relationship are our children. Despite the mud on the carpet, fussy eating, loud music and increasing demands on mum and dad's taxi service, we love them. What better way could there be to celebrate that love than to have a ceremony dedicated to them? Naming ceremonies are formal events that celebrate their existence be it by birth or as new family member in their later lives.

A Naming ceremony is, in every sense, an opportunity to welcome, demonstrate your love, care and support. As parents, a Naming ceremony can be used as a public or private declaration of how you will bring them up, how you will guide and support them and cherish their contribution to the family. It is also a unique opportunity for friends and other family members to take part and promise their support to your son or daughter’s future.

The age of the children does not matter, you determine when you want to celebrate. A Naming ceremony can also be used as a formal welcoming event for adopted children and step children into a new relationship and form part of the family bonding within an extended family unit.

Quite often, Naming ceremonies are booked alongside a civil marriage or civil partnership where the Naming immediately follows their own ceremony. This brings a much richer dimension to the day of celebration and commitment across the whole family.

Can we choose our own ceremony content?
• Yes, both you and your child can design your celebration from the options available and to tailor your ceremony so it becomes special for you all
• Every Naming ceremony is different, so you can create something unique for you and your child to remember and treasure.

What happens at a Naming ceremony?
• The ceremony may be as simple or as grand as you like
• We provide the framework for you to build a celebration event around you and your child’s requirements
• The ceremony cannot have any religious content
• Naming ceremonies do not have any legal standing.

Who conducts the ceremony?
• The ceremony will be led by a member of the ceremony team
• The ceremony team does not act in any official or legal capacity
• Our ceremony team are all trained to conduct different ceremonies in a professional and customer focused manner
• This ensures your ceremony is an enjoyable and memorable occasion for you, your child and everyone else attending your celebration.

How long does a ceremony last?
• That depends on the content and the different options you choose
• Why not look at our online planning form to see the options
• After the ceremony the celebrations can continue as long as you like especially if the Naming ceremony is combined with a marriage or civil partnership.

How do you book a Naming ceremony?
• Any parent can make the arrangements. The parents do not have to be married or in a civil partnership
• Anyone who has recognised parental responsibility or legal guardianship of the child can make the arrangements
• Simply complete the online enquiry form on our website.
HOW TO BOOK

Simply complete the online enquiry form on our website.

Where can the ceremony be held?

There are lots of choices, for example:

Any of our Registration Office ceremony rooms around the county. Northamptonshire County Council also have an amazing variety of open-air venues in our county parks (weather, health and safety requirements permitting).

An approved venue within the County.

A venue of your choice (subject to health and safety requirements).

www.yourdaynorthants.com

www.wendygrantphotography.com

www.daringtodreamphotography.com
Become a Citizen
Citizenship ceremonies

The Citizenship ceremony

There are two types of Citizenship ceremony available:

Group Citizenship Celebration
• This is a shared ceremony where other people and their guests attend. Usually held at County Hall in Northampton.

Private Citizenship Celebration
• An increasingly popular choice of celebration
• For those who prefer a more personal celebration with friends or family
• The ceremony takes place in a Registration Office ceremony room
• This is a bespoke service and an additional fee applies to this option.
The Home Office, which administers all applications for British citizenship, believes that all new citizens should be encouraged to feel and have a sense of belonging to the wider community. The Citizenship ceremony by virtue of being public and celebratory in nature helps to foster this.

Everyone who applies for British citizenship is required to take an oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown, and make a pledge of loyalty to the United Kingdom.

Legal Matters

Under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, all applicants over the age of 18 who are accepted for naturalisation or registration as a British citizen are required to attend a Citizenship ceremony.

The heart of the Citizenship ceremony involves new citizens making an oath or affirmation to Her Majesty the Queen and a pledge of loyalty to the United Kingdom. When an applicant receives their letter of approval from the Home Office they should contact the Northamptonshire Registration Service to obtain details of which Citizenship ceremony they may attend. Attendance at a Citizenship ceremony must be within 3 months of the date your application for British citizenship was granted.

What happens at the Citizenship ceremony?

- The ceremony begins with a formal welcome
- The hosting dignitary will address you and the audience on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen
- You swear or affirm the oath of allegiance and the take the pledge to Her Majesty the Queen
- On behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, the hosting dignitary presents the citizenship certificate and a welcome gift from the Northamptonshire County Council’s Registration Service to you
- You are then a British Citizen.

Further information

- Information about applications for British Citizenship can be found at www.gov.uk
- Alternatively our Citizenship and Nationality Checking Service team can be contacted at: registrationservice@northamptonshire.gov.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

Guests

- For a Group ceremony you are welcome to bring up to 2 guests
- Private citizenship ceremonies can accommodate a guest list of your choosing up to the maximum occupancy of the room
- Access to citizenship ceremonies is by invitation only.

Where is the Venue?

- Group Citizenship ceremonies are held in County Hall in Northampton
- Private Citizenship ceremonies are held in a Registration Office ceremony room.

Can children of applicants attend?

- Yes
- Where an application includes your children, there is no legal requirement for children to attend a Citizenship ceremony
- If children wish to attend their parents’ ceremony and take the oath and pledge they are welcome and encouraged to do so and make the ceremony a family celebration.

How can you book your ceremony?

- Once the Home Office has confirmed that you have been granted British citizenship, you will be invited to book your ceremony date
- You will be advised of the date and time of your ceremony
- If this is not convenient we will try to book another date and time
- It is most important that you attend a ceremony no later than 3 months from the date you were granted Home Office approval.

Please visit our website for fee and payment details.
Readings

(not available for marriage registrations)

You can personalise your ceremony with a piece of verse or prose, a selection of which is below. This could be read by you or one of your guests. You can choose your own readings, something more meaningful to you and your ceremony, please note they cannot have any religious content.

You can include your reading choices when you submit the online ceremony planning form in advance of the ceremony.
A Walled Garden *

Unknown

‘Your marriage’, he said, ‘should have within it, a secret and protected place, open to you alone.
Imagine it to be a walled garden, entered by a door to which you only hold the key.
Within this garden you will cease to be a mother, father, employee, homemaker or any other of the roles which you fulfil in daily life.
Here you are yourselves, two people who love each other.
Here you can concentrate on one another’s needs’. So take my hand and let us go back to our garden. The time we spend together is not wasted but invested. Invested in our future and the nurture of our love.

A Marriage *

Mark Twain

A marriage...
Makes of two fractional lives a whole;
it gives to two purposeless lives a work, and doubles the strength of each to perform it;
it gives to two questioning natures a reason for living, and something to live for;
it will give a new gladness to the sunshine, a new fragrance to the flowers, a new beauty to the earth, and a new mystery to life.

I promise *

Dorothy R Colgan

I promise to give you the best of myself and to ask of you no more than you can give.
I promise to respect you as your own person and to realise that your interests, desires and needs are no less important than my own.
I promise to share with you my time and my attention and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship.
I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the window of my world into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams.
I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face changes in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting.
I promise to love you in good times and in bad with all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know how. Completely and forever.

My True Love *▼

Sir Philip Sidney

My true love hath my heart, and I have his.
By just exchange one for another given.
I hold his dear, and mine he cannot miss:
There never was a better bargain driven.
My true love hath my heart and I have his.
His heart in me, keeps him and me in one,
My heart in him, his thoughts and senses guides:
He loves my heart, for once it was his own:
I cherish his, because in me it bides.
My true love hath my heart and I have his.

Sonnet 116 *

William Shakespeare

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments, love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove.
O no! it is an ever fixèd mark,
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wand’ring bark,
Whose worth’s unknown, although his height be taken.
Love’s not Time’s fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle’s compass come,
Love alters not within his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom:
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

Amo ergo sum (I love therefore I am) *▼

Kathleen Raine

Because I love, the sun pours out its rays of living gold,
pours out its gold and silver on the sea.
Because I love, the earth upon her astral spindle winds,
her ecstasy-producing dance.
Because I love, clouds travel on the wind through wide skies, skies wide and beautiful, blue and deep.
Because I love, ferns grow green, and green the grass,
and green the transparent sunlit trees.
Because I love, larks rise up from the grass and all the leaves are full of singing birds.
Because I love, the iridescent shells upon the sand take forms as fine and intricate as thought.
Because I love, there is an invisible way across the sky, birds travel by that way, the sun and moon, and all the stars travel that path at night.
Because I love, there is a river flowing all night long.
Because I love, all night the river flows into my sleep.
Ten thousand living things are asleep in my arms, and sleeping wake, and flowing are rest.
Because I love, the summer air quivers with a thousand wings, myriads of jewelled eyes burn in the light.
Marriage is the greatest happiness of all *
Michele Gallagher

In a marriage, two people become as one, yet they are individuals, each with their own ideas and goals. In a marriage, two people share their thoughts, they give advice, sharing their feelings, being open and loving. They must trust each other and hold onto faith, while going through ups and downs. They have their smiles, and they have their tears. When one is low, it is up to the other to support them, to get them back on the right track. Communication is the key. Two people united learn so much. They learn to depend yet be independent, sometimes letting each other have time to themselves. They care for each other and protect; they make a family and become a lifeline. They begin their dreams, their future, loving and growing together. With their commitment and true love, they find happiness.

Reading *
Unknown

You share today the joy of a deep commitment And a sacred trust, and you have given each other The most precious gift of love Treasure it, nurture it and encourage it With all the honesty you used in creating it You are sharing something rare and beautiful Always speak the truth and listen attentively So that you may understand each other's thoughts and intentions Inspire each other by sharing your accomplishments Say I love you often to retain the warmth between you Laugh a lot too, even when you are angry Remember you are each other's best friend Stand together and for each other always May each day be a blessing And the fulfilment of your dreams.

Look to this day *
Unknown

Look to this day for it is life the very life of life. In its brief course lie all the realities and truths of existence; the joy of growth, the splendour of action, the glory of power. For yesterday is but a memory. And tomorrow is only a vision. But today well lived makes every yesterday a memory of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day.

O tell me the truth about love *
W H Auden

Some say that love's a little boy, And some say it's a bird, Some say it makes the world go round, And some say that's absurd, And when I asked the man next door, Who looked as if he knew, His wife got very cross indeed, And said it wouldn't do. Does it look like a pair of pyjamas, Or the ham in a temperance hotel? Does its odour remind one of llamas, Or has it a comforting smell? Is it prickly to touch as a hedge is, Or soft as eiderdown fluff? Is it sharp or quite smooth at the edges? O tell me the truth about love. I looked into the summer-house; It wasn't ever there: I tried the Thames at Maidenhead, And Brighton's bracing air. I don't know what the blackbird sang, Or what the tulip said; But it wasn't in the chicken-run, Or underneath the bed. Does it howl like a hungry Alsatian, Or boom like a military band? Could one give a first-rate imitation, On a saw or a Steinway Grand? Is its singing at parties a riot? Does it only like Classical stuff? Will it stop when one wants to be quiet? O tell me the truth about love. When it comes, will it come without warning Just as I'm picking a rose? Will it knock on my door in the morning, Or tread in the bus on my toes? Will it come like a change in the weather? Will its greeting be courteous or rough? Will it alter my life altogether? O tell me the truth about love.

The art of marriage *
Anon

A good marriage must be created, In the marriage, the little things are the big things. It is never being too old to hold hands. It is remembering to say 'I love you' at least once a 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 beautiful. It is not only marrying the right person - It is being the right partner.

Marriage *
Unknown

A marriage is a promise that two hearts gladly make. A promise to be tender, to help, to give and take. A marriage is a promise to be kind and understanding To be thoughtful and considerate, fair and undemanding. A marriage is a promise to share one life together... A love-filled promise meant to be kept lovingly for ever.
Always love each other

*Unknown*

If you can always be as close And happy as today Yet be secure enough to grow And change along the way If you can keep for you alone your love as husband 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

Our Love

*Bruce B Wilmer*

Our love is something we have built from passions, hopes and dreams. It's safe from any passing moods, secure from all extremes. It's something real and special, something solid, something pure. It's something we can always count on, ringing sound and sure. It's something grounded in the heart. Emitting confidence. It lives in our emotions; It is something we can sense. Our love remains a binding force, resistant to all strife. Amidst the outer pressures, it's our anchor throughout life.

Extract from Captain Corelli's Mandolin

*Louis De Bernieres*

(De lannis counsels his daughter)

Love is a temporary madness, it erupts like volcanoes 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 that is what love is. Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises 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 that is both an art and a fortunate accident.

Your mother and I had it, we had roots that grew towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom had fallen from our branches we found that we were one tree and not two.

Partners

*Patience Strong*

The first dance of all when they danced heart to heart They knew, they both knew, it was only the start Of something more wonderful than a mere dance More than a thrill of a passing romance. They knew without saying that Love, the real thing had touched them that night with its shimmering wing. No word had been spoken and yet they both knew That suddenly all sorts of dreams had come true. It's many a year since the night that they met But that first dance they will never forget Then a boy and a girl and now husband and wife Still happy, still dancing and partners for life.

My advice

*Unknown*

Mum and Dad get married today I'd like to help them on their way So here's some special advice from me To help them with our family Keep our house filled with laughter Let’s have fun forever after Keep the drawer filled up with sweets And give us children lots of treats Make sure you spend time together To keep your happiness forever Make sure you spend lots on us And then us kids won’t make a fuss But the most important thing for you Is to show your love in all you do A caring word, a kiss, a touch And those family cuddles that mean so much

Friendship

*Unknown*

It is often said that it is love that makes the world go round. However, without doubt, it is friendship which keeps our spinning existence on an even keel. True friendship provides so many of the essentials for a happy life - it is the foundation on which to build an enduring relationship, it is the mortar which bonds us together in harmony, and it is the calm, warm protection we sometimes need when the world outside seems cold and chaotic. True friendship holds a mirror to our foibles and failings, without destroying our sense of worthiness. True friendship nurtures our hopes, supports us in our disappointments, and encourages us to grow to our best potential. This couple came together as friends, they pledge to each other not only their love but also the strength, warmth and, most importantly, the fun of true friendship.
I will be here

Curtis Chapman

If in the morning when you wake,  
If the sun does not appear,  
I will be here.  
If in the dark we lose sight of love,  
Hold my hand and have no fear,  
I will be here,  
I will be here,  
When you feel like being quiet,  
When you need to speak your mind I will listen,  
Through the winning, losing and trying we’ll be together,  
And I will be here.  
If in the morning when you wake,  
The future is unclear,  
I will be here.  
As sure as seasons were made for change,  
Our lifetimes were made for years,  
I will be here.  
I will be here,  
And you can cry on my shoulder,  
When the mirror tells us we’re older,  
I will hold you, to watch you grow in beauty,  
And tell you all the things you are to me.  
We’ll be together, and I will be here.  
I will be true to the promises I’ve made,  
To you  
And I will be here.

Where there is love

Helen Steiner Rice

Where there is love the heart is light,  
Where there is love the day is bright,  
Where there is love there is a song,  
To help when things are going wrong  
Where there is love there is a smile  
To make all things seem more worthwhile,  
Where there is love there’s quiet peace,  
A tranquil place where turmoil’s cease—  
Love changes darkness into light  
And makes the heart take “wingless flight”.

Extract from Les Miserables

Victor Hugo

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.
Additional Promises
(not available for marriage registrations)

If you wish, you can personalise your ceremony by including Additional Promises. Here are a few examples:

**Additional Promise A**
I promise to give you my love and friendship.
To support and comfort you through good times and through troubled times.
I promise to care for you with love and with patience to respect and cherish you and to be faithful always.
These promises I make to you sincerely for the rest of my life.

**Additional Promise B**
I promise to care for you, to trust and confide in you and to be faithful to you always.
I give you my love and friendship, my comfort and support and promise to respect and cherish you through all that life may bring.
These promises I make to you sincerely for the rest of my life.

**Additional Promise C**
I promise to give you my love and friendship to support and comfort you through all that life may bring.
I promise to care for you with love and with patience to respect and cherish you.
I promise never to take you for granted and to be faithful to you always.
These promises I make to you for the rest of my life.

**Additional Promise D**
I promise to care for you to remain true to you and above all to love and respect you always.

**Additional Promise E**
From this day on I look forward to sharing my life with you. I will always be there for you.
And will support you with love and friendship.
These promises I make to you for the rest of our life together.

**Additional Promise - Personal choice**
Personal choice of the couple. Any personal choices will need to be agreed with the ceremony staff to ensure they are in keeping with the solemnity of the ceremony.

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