

Your day in Northamptonshire



Northamptonshire
County Council

www.yourdaynorthants.com

Kelmarsh Hall

Kelmarsh, Northampton NN6 9LY



This spectacular palladian style country house is set in award winning gardens, with gorgeous views of the surrounding parklands.
Kelmarsh Hall offers a choice of stunning rooms for your ceremony, wedding reception and evening party, along with exclusive use for your special day.

01604 686543
weddings@kelmarsh.com
www.kelmarsh.com

Kelmarsh Hall

Barton Hall

Barton Seagrave, Kettering NN15 6RS



Award Winning Barton Hall – The Perfect Venue

Grade I listed Orangery licensed for Civil Ceremonies
Exclusive Use available
Charles Function Suite seating 180 guests
29 beautiful bedrooms
All set in Stunning Grounds

01536 515505
b.jackson@bartonhall.com
www.bartonhall.com

bartonHall
HOTEL

Rushton Hall Hotel & Spa

Rushton NN14 1RR



The most spectacular setting in the Midlands, Rushton Hall is a magnificent 15th Century Grade I Listed Hotel and Spa, with luxurious en-suite accommodation including four poster bedrooms.

Beautiful historic gardens with lake for photographs.

The stunning Orangery is perfect for weddings from 80 to 280 guests. 4 Red Star hotel and 3 Rosette restaurant.
Licensed for civil ceremonies. Exclusive use available.

Plan your fairy tale day with our wedding team.

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

RUSHTON HALL
HOTEL & SPA

Welcome to Northamptonshire

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 very 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 over 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.

All the Registration staff are dedicated to making your day in Northamptonshire unforgettable.

Alana Starr

Superintendent Registrar

The information in this brochure is thought to be correct at the time of production but it should be recognised that the law and legal requirement may change during the life of this publication.

Following the introduction of the Marriages (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, we have summarised reference to marriage and/or civil partnerships to marriages alone. There are significant differences between marriage and civil partnership in law. We do still offer civil partnerships for same sex couples, and information about civil partnerships is available on our website.

Please visit our website for up to date information.

www.yourdaynorthants.com

for a

memorable

ceremony...

choose an

unforgettable

county...



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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.



ettable

So, you want to get married...

How to do it

START HERE

www.yourdaynorthants.com

Our website has loads of advice to help plan your civil marriage ceremony.

SELECT A VENUE

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.

BOOK A REGISTRAR

To book a Registrar to attend and conduct your ceremony on the same day that you provisionally booked the venue, go to the website above and complete and submit the online Enquiry Form. We aim to respond within 3 working days.

CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRAR

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.

REVIEW YOUR CONTRACT DETAILS

Review your contract details: Check the contract is correct. If all the details are correct please click on the link within the contract to confirm acceptance. If we do not receive acceptance within 14 days, the booking will be released.

GIVE YOUR NOTICES OF MARRIAGE

This is a statutory requirement and must be completed at least a month, but not longer than 12 months, before the date of your ceremony. The Registrar will need to provide various documentation to prove your identity and confirm that you're legally entitled to get married. There's a statutory fee for this service.

COMPLETE YOUR PLANS ONLINE

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 a minimum of 8 weeks before the ceremony to let them check there are no religious references in readings or music. Any outstanding ceremony fees must be paid at least 8 weeks prior to the date of the ceremony.

ENJOY YOUR DAY!

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.



Marriage

YOUR CHOICES

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 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 Northamptonshire
- Personalised ceremony content
- Ceremony planning facility
- Choices of readings and additional promises
- 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
- Your event will last up to 60 minutes. This includes your pre-marriage interview and ceremony.

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.

BOOKING

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.

www.yourdaynorthants.com



DID YOU KNOW?

After you have
booked your venue and
Registrar, you can book
your Notices of marriage
online via

www.yourdaynorthants.com

legal



www.emiliabrandisi.co.uk

Remember ...

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.

matters

There are certain actions that are required in law before you can marry (unless you are marrying in the Church of England or Church of 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.

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 12.

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 Registration Offices across the county. You both have to live in the local authority registration service district where you are giving your notice 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 29 days before the ceremony can take place (for example, if notice is given on 1st March the ceremony may take place on or after 30th March).



24

24 MONTHS BEFOREHAND

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

**Make a
ceremony
enquiry**

12

12 MONTHS BEFOREHAND

Book your appointment **online** to each give your Notice of Marriage.

**Book an
appointment**

9

9-12 MONTHS BEFOREHAND

Book photographer and videographer, reception venue, caterers, music, decoration of room and tables
Book your honeymoon
Decide on best man or woman, bridesmaids, page boys, ushers
Start making guest list
Plan and book what you will wear, for example the dress, the suit, what the attendants will wear
Check on wedding ceremony insurance (recommended).

6

6-9 MONTHS BEFOREHAND

Begin thinking about your gift list
Choose reception menu and order cake
Arrange hen and stag night
Make your transport arrangements, including ceremony cars, to and from the venue.

4

4-6 MONTHS BEFOREHAND

Order your ceremony stationery
Choose your florist and place order
Book your big day hair appointment
Buy ring or rings.

**plan your
ceremony**

**Book an
appointment**

3

3-4 MONTHS BEFOREHAND

Finalise the honeymoon arrangements
Apply to the 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 your online planning form to include any music, readings etc.
Pay any remaining ceremony fee balance - we will contact you a few weeks before your ceremony to take your balance payment. To pay your balance now, contact Northamptonshire Registration Service

If you have not already done so, urgently book your Notices of Marriage appointment online to see the Registrar.

1

1 MONTH BEFOREHAND

Chase up guests who have not replied
Order honeymoon currency
Notify bank and doctor, etc.
for change of name and address
Give final guest list to caterers.

1 WEEK TO GO...

Time the journey to make sure there are no unexpected delays
Give your dress and suit, attendants' dresses etc. a final check for fit
Ensure all hired clothes are collected in time
Pack for your honeymoon.

Countdown



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 the following...

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 fathers' 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 pages 14-15. For information on approved venue seating, please contact the venue.



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.

MARRIAGE REGISTRATION

- Introduction and welcome
- Declaration of freedom to marry
- Contracting words
- Exchanging rings
- Signing the register.

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.

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.

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 are close to attractive public parks that provide excellent backdrops for your photographs.

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

Interpreters

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

F.A.Q.

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 pages 18-19
- 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 resided 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 28 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 29 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.

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 8 weeks 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. For ceremony room seating, please see pages 14-15
- 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.



Northamptonshire's

Registration Office Ceremony Rooms

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.

Corby

The Corby Cube, Parkland Gateway, George Street, Corby NN17 1QG

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.



Kettering

The Mayor's Parlour, Kettering Borough Council, Bowling Green Road, Kettering NN15 7QX

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.



Northampton

The Guildhall, St Giles Street, Northampton NN1 1DE

The Ceremony Room within 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

Fletton House, Glapthorn Road, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4JA

Following an extensive refurbishment Fletton House is now open to the public. The light, airy ceremony room is flooded with natural light and has seating for up to 50 people.

There is ample space for parking at the rear of the building and photographic opportunities in the surrounding areas.



Towcester

The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD

The Forum is the new community building, located at the heart of the regenerated historic Moat Lane. It is home to the Library and Registration Office for Towcester.

It looks out onto the Bury Mount and the tranquil Watermeadows which provide a fantastic setting for ceremony photographs.

The ceremony room has seating for up to 30 guests.



Wellingborough

The Council Chamber, Borough Council of Wellingborough Offices, Swanspool House, Wellingborough NN8 1BP

The ceremony room in Wellingborough 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.



The information about Northamptonshire County Council's Registration Service venues, and approved venues was correct at the time of publication. 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.

Your day... Your



What's included?

- Office registration with the couple and 2 witnesses of your choice, after which you will be legally married, before a celebration ceremony at a location of your choice*
- Or a legal ceremony immediately before or after your celebratory ceremony if the venue you have chosen has a licensed room on site.
- Health and Safety Inspection*
- Notice of marriage
- Planning form for you to personalize your ceremony. (Readings, music etc.)

way...

A wedding with a difference?

Our Wedding day celebration package gives you additional freedoms over that of a traditional civil ceremony to design your day to be more in tune with modern thinking and your lifestyle choices. The main benefit of this ceremony package is that your celebration ceremony can take place anywhere you choose,* for example under a marquee in a favourite garden, under the stars, or in your local car park! You have the chance to marry in a place that has a special meaning to you.

The wedding day celebration package includes the celebration with family, friends and guests and the legal formalities. If you want something unique and different that will be remembered by everyone, this could be just what you are looking for.

Terms and Conditions

- Your legal marriage must take place in our office at least 2 weeks before your celebration ceremony. Your celebration ceremony cannot take place without the legal process being completed in advance
- The chosen celebration ceremony location must have had a successful health and safety inspection by the Registration Service prior to your legal office registration. The cost for this is included in the package price
- Customers must have an alternative location with a roof in case of inclement weather conditions. We will agree this during the health and safety inspection
- Our Ceremony Officer has the final say on inclement weather conditions and using your alternative location
- Unrestricted parking (clear access and exit) to be provided for the Ceremony Officers attending the ceremony to enable them to attend other ceremonies without restrictions
- Public liability insurance for your chosen ceremony venue needs to be secured by you prior to your legal office registration. (Proof of liability cover to be reviewed during the health and safety inspection)
- All other terms and conditions of the Registration Service also apply.

How it works

You still need to complete the legal formalities, however we can help you to navigate through the legal processes, and leave you free to concentrate on your celebratory ceremony.

In this case the legal marriage takes place in the registrar's office with just yourselves and 2 witnesses, and you then have the celebration later on with your family, friends and guests, just where you want it and how you want it. Alternatively you can opt to have your legal ceremony directly after your celebration ceremony provided the venue you choose has a licensed room on site.

The benefit

Together we design your ceremony. You choose the content and design, we look after the legal stuff and together we deliver your ceremony how you want it.

Please see our fees list online for the package price.

*Subject to health and safety inspection if the venue isn't currently licensed for marriages and civil partnerships. The UK weather is also unpredictable so there must be suitable alternative venue (with a roof) in case of inclement weather. The Registration Service has the final say on where the ceremony proceeds, at no additional charge.



Whether you are looking for an intimate setting or the elegance of a country hotel, with over 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.



www.yourdaynorthants.com

Approved Venues

in Northamptonshire

1	Abington Park Museum	01604 837638	41	Northampton Marriott Hotel	01604 768700
2	Althorp House	01604 772103	42	Northampton Rugby Football Club (Franklins Gardens)	01604 751543
3	Aynhoe Park	01869 810636	43	Northamptonshire ACRE The Barns at Hunsbury Hill	01604 765888
4	Barton Hall Hotel	01536 515505	44	Overstone Park	01604 647666
5	Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel	01536 401348	45	Plum Park Hotel	01327 811515
6	Boughton House	01536 515731	46	Queens Head Inn	01780 784006
7	Brampton Grange	01604 844717	47	Quinton House School	01604 752050
8	Brampton Heath Golf Centre	01604 843939	48	Raunds Town Hall	01933 622087
9	Bridge Hotel	01832 732128	49	Rockingham Castle	01536 770240
10	Cherwell Edge Golf Club	01295 711591	50	Royal & Derngate	01604 655727
11	Collingtree Park Golf Course	01604 700000	51	Rushden Hall	01933 316216
12	Corby Masonic Complex	01536 201535	52	Rushton Hall	01536 713001
13	Crockwell Farm	01327 361358	53	Sedgebrook Hall	01604 821666
14	Deene Park	01780 450278	54	Skylark Fields Farm	01327 300471
15	Delapré Abbey	01604 866712	55	Slapton Manor	01327 860344
16	De Vere Staverton Estate	0844 980 2317	56	Sulgrave Manor	01295 760205
17	Dodford Manor	01327 349761	57	The Banqueting & Conference Suites at the Kettering Ritz	01536 763510
18	Dodmoor House	01327 341736	58	The Church Restaurant	01604 603800
19	Fawsley Hall Hotel	01327 892000	59	The County Ground	01604 514455
20	French Partridge	01604 870033	60	The Granary at Fawsley	01327 361730
21	Furtho Manor Farm	01908 542139	61	The Great Barn	01869 810823
22	Grendon Lakes	01933 665303	62	The Guildhall Northampton	01604 837378
23	Hampton By Hilton-Corby	01536 211001	63	The Hind Hotel	01933 222827
24	Hellidon Lakes Golf & Spa Hotel	01327 262550	64	The Park Inn Northampton	01604 739988
25	Highgate House	01604 505505	65	The Saracen's Head Hotel	01327 350414
26	Hilton Hotel Northampton	01604 700666	66	The Saracens Head	01604 770640
27	Holdenby House	01604 770074	67	The Stanwick Hotel	01933 622233
28	Holiday Inn Corby	01536 401020	68	The Talbot Hotel	01832 273621
29	Holiday Inn Northampton	01604 622777	69	The Walnut Tree Inn	01604 859551
30	Holiday Inn Rugby-Northampton	0871 942 9059	70	Warren Hill	01536 535991
31	Hothorpe Hall	01858 881500	71	Wellingborough Golf Club	01933 677234
32	Kelmarsh Hall	01604 686543	72	Westone Manor Hotel	01604 739955
33	Kettering Conference Centre	01536 414414	73	Whittlebury Park (Orangery & Atrium)	01327 850040
34	Kettering Park Hotel	01536 416666	74	Wicksteed Park	01536 512475
35	Kingfisher Hotel, Golf & Country Club	01908 562332	75	Winchester House School	01280 703478
36	Kirby Hall	01536 230230	76	Wood Farm	07907 293865
37	Lampport Hall	01604 686272			
38	Mercure Daventry Court Hotel & Spa	01327 307000			
39	Northampton Football Club	01604 683734			
40	Northampton Golf Club - Harlestone Park	01604 845155			

Approved Venues

in Northamptonshire



The Woodlands at Hothorpe Hall

Theddingworth, Nr Market Harborough LE17 6QX



A unique woodland wedding venue positioned within a clearing in the trees in manor house grounds. 22 bedrooms and a treehouse newlywed suite surround the venue, offering an exclusive woodland village.

A licensed venue and an outdoor ceremony area in the woods provides couples with a choice of ceremony location.

01858 881500

woodlandweddings@hothorpe.co.uk

www.hothorpe.co.uk/woodlandwedding



Hothorpe Hall

Theddingworth, Nr Market Harborough LE17 6QX



A stunning Georgian country house with plentiful space for getting married, dining and celebrating, plus 55 bedrooms for staying the night.

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01858 881500

weddings@hothorpe.co.uk

www.hothorpe.co.uk/hothorpewedding



Fawsley Hall

Fawsley NN11 3BA



Make it a small and intimate affair or a larger celebration within the exclusive contemporary setting of Knightley Court or the grand setting of the Main House.

From the reception to the wedding breakfast, our fabulous and beautifully designed historic rooms offer complete flexibility for up to 150 wedding guests or with the perfectly set Cedar Lawn, a marquee can be arranged for much larger numbers. We are also licensed for wedding ceremonies and civil partnerships, we can host outdoor wedding ceremonies and we are a short walk from the parish church, a stroll which comes with stunning views of the estate and lake. Please contact our wedding specialist.

01327 892000

weddings.fawsley@handpicked.co.uk

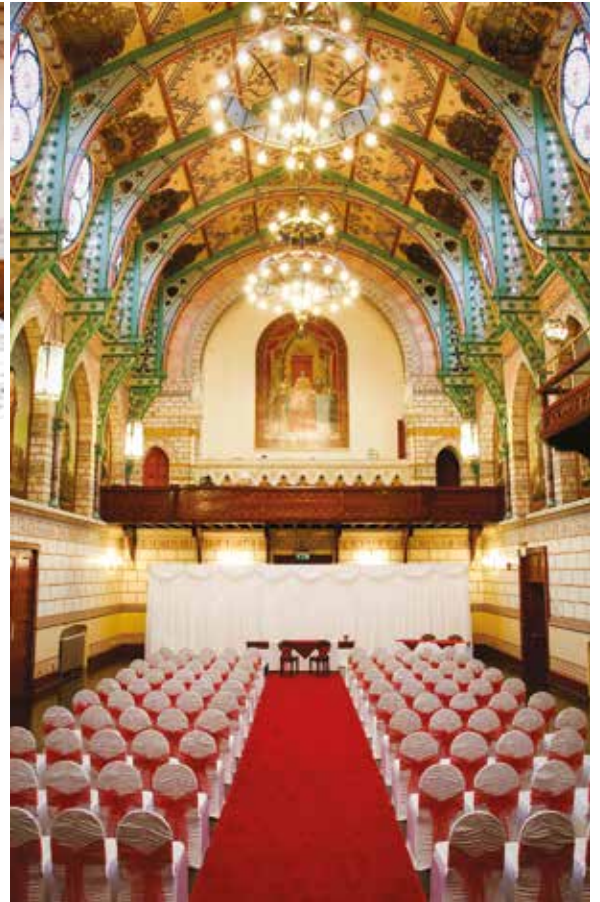
www.handpickedhotels.co.uk/fawsleyhall

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HOTEL & SPA
FAWSLEY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



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 backdrop 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



Hellidon Lakes Hotel

Hellidon, Daventry NN11 6GG



Hellidon Lakes hotel is the perfect setting for a wedding, nestled in 220 acres of peaceful grounds with fantastic areas of natural beauty, making it an ideal wedding venue for you and your guests.

Licensed for civil ceremonies, up to 176 for your wedding breakfast and up to 250 for your evening reception.

Our dedicated Wedding Co-ordinator will be with you every step of the way.

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francesca.dove@hellidonlakeshotel.co.uk

www.hellidonlakeshotel.co.uk

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www.whittleburyhall.co.uk/weddings



Wicksteed Park

Barton Road, Kettering NN15 6NJ



Our versatile Edwardian venue is flexible enough to match exactly what you are looking for. With a range of venue spaces, a new culinary team, an exciting new lakeside venue and of course some exciting rides, you can't go wrong!

The Pavilion overlooks beautifully landscaped gardens, setting an elegant background for your occasion.

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01536 512475

events@wicksteedpark.org

www.wicksteedpark.org/venue



Abington Park Museum

Park Avenue South, Northampton NN1 5LW



Picturesque both inside and out, Abington Park Museum is a beautiful Grade I listed building set in the leafy surrounds of Abington Park.

We offer bespoke booking options tailored to your needs. Hold your ceremony with us, use us as a space for your reception, or book everything together.

01604 838111

museums@northampton.gov.uk

www.northampton.gov.uk/abingtonwedding

The Barns at Hunsbury Hill

Harksome Hill, Northampton NN4 9QX



A beautiful 18th Century barn conversion, retaining its original charm with exposed wooden beams, full of unique character with exclusive use.

We can accommodate 85 guests for a Civil Ceremony and Wedding Breakfast, 150 guests for an evening reception including a licensed bar located in a heated, covered patio area.

01604 702444

info@hunsburyhillcentre.co.uk

www.hunsburyhillcentre.co.uk



Brampton Grange

Sandy Lane, Chapel Brampton, Northampton NN6 8AD



An exclusive venue set within 25 acres of beautiful and tranquil countryside. Host to an elegant and romantic English Country house, with stunning converted barns which make a perfect setting for your dream wedding.

Ideal for weddings from 40 - 300 guests.

Beautiful grounds to accommodate outdoor blessings & ceremonies.

Venue hire from £2500 or inclusive packages for 70 guests from £7150.

01604 844717

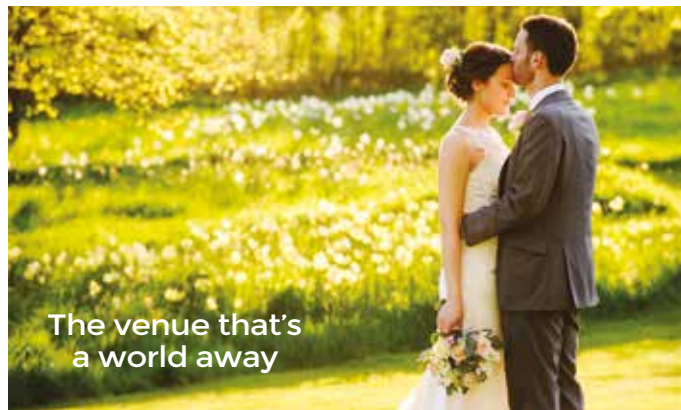
info@bramptongrange.net

www.bramptongrange.co.uk



Crockwell Farm

Eydon, Daventry NN11 3QA



Set against a backdrop of rolling South Northamptonshire countryside, undiscovered lanes and sleepy stone built cottages, lies Crockwell, let your perfect day begin...

Exclusively yours for two days.

Privately owned and fully licensed for wedding ceremonies.

Beautiful oak vaulted barn, pretty gardens, nine bedrooms, stone farmhouse.

Flexibility to cater for 20 to 200 guests.

Experienced team who offer a very personal approach.

01327 361358

info@crockwellfarm.co.uk

www.crockwellfarm.co.uk

Crockwell

WEDDINGS & CELEBRATIONS

Corby Masonic Complex

27 Rockingham Road, Corby NN17 1AD



The Corby Masonic Complex is dedicated to ensuring your special day is truly magical, in an intimate and elegant wedding venue.

We are passionate about delivering your dream wedding and are fully licensed for civil ceremonies too. We can cater for every need and budget at this newly refurbished function venue in Corby.

Contact Jason our dedicated Wedding Co-ordinator now on 01536 201535

01536 201535 or 07793 402052

jason@corbymasoniccomplex.co.uk

www.corbyweddingsandfunctions.co.uk



The County Ground

Abingdon Avenue, Northampton NN1 4PR



The tranquillity combined with the historical and picturesque setting of the County Ground makes us the perfect location for your wedding.

~ We are now Licensed for civil ceremonies for 10 to 550 guests ~

From wedding packages to bespoke deals we can make your dream day come to life.

01604 609286

events@nccc.co.uk

www.northantscricket.com



The Granary at Fawsley

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
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www.granary-weddings.com



Grendon Lakes

Main Road, Grendon NN7 1JW



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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

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info@grendonlakes.co.uk

www.grendonlakes.co.uk

grendonlakes

Harrowden Hall

Ct Harrowden, Wellingborough NN9 5AD



A perfect venue for that special occasion.

Catering from a small intimate wedding in one of our private rooms, up to 200 guests in a marquee on our magnificent lawns.

Harrowden Hall is idyllic.

Our dedicated friendly team will ensure that your day is everything you desire.

01933 677234

weddings@harrowdenhall.com

www.harrowdenhall.com



Highgate House

Grooms Lane, Creaton, Northampton NN6 8NN



Highgate House is an elegant 17th Century country house, full of English charm and character in rural Northamptonshire.

Set within beautiful grounds, and with a range of ceremony and reception rooms, you can celebrate your whole day here from the all-important 'I do' right through to your final dance of the night.

01604 505505

highgate@sundialgroup.com

www.sundialgroup.com/your-day



Holiday Inn Corby-Kettering

Geddington Road, Corby NN18 8ET



Set in the heart of leafy Northamptonshire, the Holiday Inn Corby-Kettering marries flexible facilities with a choice of excellent value wedding breakfast packages. Our meticulous Wedding Co-ordinators are dedicated to organising a personalised and memorable celebration. From an intimate wedding breakfast for 20 guests to a grand affair for up to 350 guests, we cater for all events. Three function rooms are licensed for civil ceremonies and the beautiful courtyard and outside terrace make the perfect photo backdrop for your wedding.

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



Lampport Hall

Lampport NN6 9HD



A superb setting in the heart of Northamptonshire, exclusively yours for the day. Lampport Hall provides an atmospheric location for civil ceremonies and wedding breakfasts.

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
house@lamporthall.co.uk
www.lamporthall.co.uk



Overstone Park

Billing Lane, Overstone, Northampton NN6 0AS



Overstone Park is set in stunning surroundings with spectacular views. The Terrace Restaurant is the perfect venue for your wedding celebration.

Licensed for civil ceremonies

Wedding breakfast for up to 120

Various wedding packages and menus are available
200 guests attending an evening party with entertainment
On site accommodation.

01604 647666
fohm@overstonepark.com
www.overstonepark.com



Plum Park

Watling Street, Nr Paulerspury, Towcester NN12 6LG



Plum Park is an exclusive-use boutique wedding venue set in manicured gardens and park land.

We are an approved venue for civil wedding ceremonies and offer the option of marrying in the garden.

We can comfortably seat in excess of 150 guests for a silver service wedding banquet but are equally happy catering for intimate celebrations.

Elegant overnight accommodation is available for you and your guests in the restored manor house and courtyard.

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



Raunds Town Hall

Thorpe Street, Raunds NN9 6LT



The Town Hall is the newest wedding venue in the heart of Raunds.

The elegantly refurbished room is available for civil ceremonies for up to 50 guests.

The Saxon Hall, located within the Town Hall grounds, is suitable for celebrations for 30-250 guests and makes a perfect reception venue.

01933 622087

weddings@raunds-tc.gov.uk

www.raunds-tc.gov.uk



Warren Hill

Rothwell Road, Kettering NN16 8XE



Warren Hill, located in Kettering in the heart of Northamptonshire, is an ideal venue to hold your wedding, with beautiful gardens, natural photo opportunities and free on-site parking.

Warren Hill offers couples a choice of a beautiful ceremony room, with a modern, open, spacious feel which comfortably seats around 135 guests.

Alternatively, we can offer outside weddings in our new garden pavilion which can seat up to 20 guests with standing room for many more.

01536 535991

warrenhill@kettering.gov.uk

www.warrenhillweddings.co.uk



Slapton Manor

Slapton, Towcester NN12 8PF



Set in acres of tranquil Northamptonshire countryside!

18th Century Beamed Threshing Barn

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Ceremonies up to 130 guests

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info@slaptonmanor.co.uk

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WARWICKS

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“There is no love sincerer
than the love of food”

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

We could not agree more

Choose Love. Choose Lemon Zest

01280 705228

info@lemon-zest.co.uk

www.lemon-zest.co.uk



Lemon Zest
Contemporary Cuisine

Image: Nick Labrum Photography www.nicklabrumphotography.co.uk

Wedding Shows

Milton Keynes Wedding Show
Sunday 28th October 2018, 11am – 4pm
The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Milton Keynes
Stadium Way West, Milton Keynes, MK1 1ST.

Milton Keynes Wedding Show
Friday 25th - Sunday 27th January 2019
centre:mk (Milton Keynes Shopping Centre)
MK9 3AQ. The big one – Over 100 suppliers at this show!

Milton Keynes Wedding Show
Sunday 3rd March 2019, 11am – 4pm
The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Milton Keynes
Stadium Way West, Milton Keynes, MK1 1ST.

Milton Keynes Wedding Show
Sunday 7th July 2019, 11am – 4pm
The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Milton Keynes
Stadium Way West, Milton Keynes, MK1 1ST.

Free admission to all shows, goodie bag on arrival, with free parking at DoubleTree Hilton Hotel and Aylesbury Wedding Shows, limited free parking and ample paid parking at centre:mk show



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for further information
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CentralExhibitions



Central_Exhibitions



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

Say "I do" again

photos: www.emiliabrindisi.co.uk

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.



Where can your ceremony take place?

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).

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 skydiving, 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 skydiving 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 teams 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.





Naming Ceremonies

Where can your ceremony take place?

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).

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

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 a 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.

Citizenship ceremonies

Become a

Citizen

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.



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 then 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.

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.

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.

AN OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

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.

Booking

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.

www.yourdaynorthants.com

Readings

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.

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.

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.

I'll be there *▼

Louise Cuddon

I'll be there my darling, through thick and through thin
When your mind's in a mess and your head's in a spin
When your plane's been delayed, and you've missed the
last train.

When life is just threatening to drive you insane
When your thrilling whodunit has lost its last page
When somebody tells you, you're looking your age
When your coffee's too cool, and your wine is too warm
When the forecast said "Fine", but you're out in a storm
When your quick break hotel, turns into a slum
And your holiday photos show only your thumb
When you park for five minutes in a resident's bay
And return to discover you've been towed away
When the jeans that you bought in hope or in haste
Just stick on your hips and don't reach round your waist
When the food you most like brings you out in red rashes
When as soon as you boot up the bloody thing crashes
So my darling, my sweetheart, my dear...
When you break a rule, when you act the fool
When you've got the flu, when you're in a stew
When you're last in the queue, don't feel blue
'cause I'm telling you, I'll be there
I'll be there for you.

Union *▼

Robert Fulghum

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes, to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making commitments in an informal way. All of those conversations that were held in a car, or over a meal, or during long walks – all those conversations that began with, "When we're married", and continued with "I will" and "you will" and "we will" – all those late night talks that included "someday" and "somehow" and "maybe" – and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, "You know all those things that we've promised, and hoped, and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word."

Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, even teacher, for you have learned much from one another these past few years. Shortly you shall say a few words that will take you across a threshold of life, and things between you will never quite be the same.

For after today you shall say to the world –
This is my husband. This is my wife.

The Art of a Good Marriage * Wilfred Peterson

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.
A good marriage must be created.
In 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 at no time taking the other for granted,
The courtship should not end with the honeymoon,
It should continue through all the years.
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is standing together facing the world.
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice,
But in the spirit of joy.
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is not looking for perfection in each other.
It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.
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 establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal.
Dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.
It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

Yes, I'll Marry You *

Pam Ayres

Yes, I'll marry you my dear, and here's the reason why:
So I can push you out of bed, when the baby starts to cry.
And if we hear a knocking, and it's creepy and it's late,
I hand you the torch you see, and you investigate.
Yes I'll marry you, my dear, You may not apprehend it,
But when the tumble-drier goes It's you that has to mend it.
You have to face the neighbour Should our labrador attack him,
And if a drunkard fondles me It's you that has to whack him.
Yes, I'll marry you my dear, you're virile and you're lean,
The boat is like a pigsty – you can help to keep it clean.
That sexy little dinner, which you served by candlelight
As I really can't be bothered, you can cook it every night!
It's you who has to work the drill and put up the curtain track,
And when I've got PMT it's you who gets the flack.
I do see great advantages, but none of them for you,
And so before you see the light,
I do, I do, I do!

* suitable for Marriage ceremonies

▼ suitable for Civil Partnership ceremonies

The above are just a sample of popular readings.

For more suggestions, please check online at:
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/libraries

(not available for marriage registrations)



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