



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

CEREMONY READINGS



Why include a reading?

A Wedding is such a special occasion, having all of your family and friends gathered together and in a venue to match the occasion, a real treat for everyone.

However I do find that many of the ceremonies we attend are so short because couples are often unsure or afraid to include additional elements to the ceremony.

Having Readings is a really easy and effective way to make the ceremony longer, more personal and include other people during the ceremony.

You can have one, two or three readings. I hope that the examples I have attached will inspire you to include readings, or even write or customise your own. Make the most of the occasion and the venue.

Who can do the reading?

Any guest, friend or family member can perform the reading, or even the Bride or Groom. A group of guests could also perform a reading between them.

The Registrar will reassure the reader on the day and advise of when and where to perform the reading.

What sort of reading can I have?

The content of readings can be anything, romantic or funny, extracts from songs and personalised to your requirements.

The only legal requirement is that they are not of a religious content eg. extracts from a bible or celebrating religious beliefs. Readings that include words such as angels and heaven are fine but if you are in any doubt, ask the Registrar at your pre wedding meeting.

More readings are available in the Register Office

If you have any further queries about readings or any other part of a ceremony, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anthony Hall

Superintendent Registrar

Tel: 01325 406 400

Fax: 01325 406 401

E: registeroffice@darlington.gov.uk

The following readings are examples of regularly used readings used during ceremonies.

You may change the content of a reading to meet your own requirements or circumstances. However, the inclusion of the content of readings in any ceremony is subject to the approval of the Superintendent Registrar.

On your Wedding Day

Today is a day you will always remember
The greatest in anyone's life.
You will start of the day just two people in love
And end if as husband and wife.

It's a brand new beginning, the start of a journey
With moments to cherish and treasure
And although there will be times when you both disagree
These will surely be outweighed with pleasure.

You will have heard many words of advice in the past
When the secrets of marriage were spoken
But you know that the answers lie hidden inside
Where the bond of true love lies unbroken.

So live happy forever as lovers and friends
It's the dawn of a new life for you
As you stand there together with love in your eyes
From the moment you say "I do".

And with luck, all your hopes, and your dreams can be real
May success find its way to your hearts
Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys
But today is the day it all starts.

A Poem for a Wedding Day

If each of you could bring a gift today,
To give the other, on this wedding day,
The gift need not be wealth or joy,
Or a long wise life.
The gift is simply this,
The love of a husband, the love of a wife.

Then every day your love will grow,
All of us who truly love each other know,
Gifts freely given from a loving heart
Grow into loving bonds that never part.

Hold hands today, and your friendship find
Enough love to fill your heart
Your soul, your mind;

So will your lives make light of work and duty
As in each others eyes
You see that sharing beauty.

Remember all your lives
The promises you give today
Then live the golden promise
Love will never go away

Yes I'll Marry you *by 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 I we hear a knocking
And its 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 the dog attack him
And if a drunkard bothers me
It's you that has to whack him.

Yes I'll marry you
You're healthy and you're lean
My house is like a pig sty
So you can help to keep it clean.
That lovely little dinner
Which you served by candlelight
As I prefer to cook Pizzas
You can cook it every night.

Its you who has to work the drill
And put up the curtain track
And when I'm feeling angry,
Its you that gets the flack.
I do see many advantages
But none of them for you
So before you see the light,
"I do, I do, I do, !"

The Key to Love

The key to love is understanding
The ability to comprehend not only the spoken word
But those unspoken gestures
The little things that say so much by themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness
To accept each others faults and pardon mistakes
Without forgetting, but with remembering
What you learn from then.

The key to love is sharing
Facing good fortunes as well as the bad, together
Both conquering problems, forever searching for ways
To intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving
Without thought of return
But with the hope of just a simple smile
And by giving in but never giving up.

The key to love is respect
Realising that you are two separate people,
With different ideas, that you don't belong to each other
That you belong with each other, and share a mutual
bond.

The key to love is inside us all
It takes time and patience to unlock all its ingredients
That will take you to its threshold;
It is the continual learning process that demands a lot of
work but the rewards are more than worth the effort.
And that is the key to love.

True Love

True Love is a flame
That burns eternally
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear
True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules nor binds
And true love holds with gentle hands
The heart that it entwines.

The Wedding Gift

A love that is so special
Needs gift that's truly worth
The best that life can give you
For your marriage here on earth.

So take the gold of laughter
Take the silver for your tears
And diamonds for contentment
That will grow throughout the years

You will both need understanding
Wisdom, patience, care
Strength and when you are apart
And such great love to share

May you have many presents
But we would like to say
The greatest gift is in your hears
On this, your wedding day.

A Good Wedding Cake

4lb of Love
½ lb of sweet temper
1lb of butter of youth
1lb of blindness of faults
1lb of pounded wit
1lb of good humour
2lbs of sweet argument
1 pint of rippling laughter
1 wine glass of common sense
A dash of modesty.

Put the love, good looks and a sweet temper
into a well furnishes house.

Beat the butter of youth into a cream and mix
well together with a blindness of faults.

Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the
sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter
and common sense.

Work the whole thing together until everything is
well mixed and bake gentle forever.

Love is...

Love is being happy for the other person
When they are happy
Being sad for the other person when they are sad
Being together in good times
And being together in bad
Love is the source of strength.

Love is the excitement of planning things together
The excitement of doing things together
Love is the source of the future.

Love is giving and taking in a daily situation
Being patient with each others needs
Love is the source of sharing.

Love is knowing that the other person
Will always be with you regardless of what happens
Missing the other person when they are away
But remaining near in heart at all times
Love is the source of Security.

Marriage is Love

Marriage is love,
Walking hand in hand together,
It is laughing with each other about silly things
And learning to discuss things with care and tenderness.

In marriage is trusting each other when you're apart,
Its getting over disappointments and hurts
Knowing that these are present in all relationships.

It is the realisation that there is no one else in this world
That you would rather be with, than the one you
are married to.

It's thinking of new things to do together
It's growing old together

Marriage is being in love for the rest of your live.

He never leaves the seat up *by Pam Ayres*

He never leaves the seat up
Or wet towels on the floor
The toothpaste has the lid on
And he always shuts the door

She's very clean and tidy
Thought she may sometimes delude
Leave your things out at peril
In a second they'll have moved.

She's a very active person
As are all of her next kin
Where as he likes lazy days
She'll drag him shopping again.

He romances her and dines her
Home cooked dinners and the like
He even knows her favourite food
And spoils her day and night.

She's thoughtful when he looks at her
A smile upon his face
Will he look that good in 50 years
When his dentures aren't in place.

He says her loves her figure
And mental prowess too
When gravity takes over
Will she charm him with her IQ

She says he loves his kindness
And his patience is a must
And of course she thinks he's handsome
Which in her eyes are a must

They're both not wholly perfect
But who are we to judge
He can be pig headed
Where as she won't even budge

All that said and done
They love the time they spend together
And I hope as I am sure you do
That this fine day will last forever

He'll be more than just her husband
He'll also be her friend
And she'll be more than just his wife
She'll be his soul mate 'till the end.

Love by 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 in spite of ourselves.

What is Marriage ?

It is sharing and caring

Giving and forgiving

Loving and being loved

Walking hand in hand

Talking heart to heart

Seeing through each others eyes

Laughing together

Weeping together

And always trusting and believing in each other.

For love that is shared is a beautiful thing

It enriches the soul and makes the heart sing.

The meaning of Love

The true meaning of love isn't found in a book, or a
explained in a word or phrase.

It can't be defined in a casual thought or expressed in
the simplest of ways.

Love isn't confusing, it does not condemn and though
some say its blind.

Love is trusting, forgiving and honest because it lives in
the heart and the mind.

Love is not bought or sold, its not borrowed, not has a
price you would willingly pay.

Love is a gift that can only be kept as long as its given
away.

Love is by Andea Hill

Love is

More beautiful than roses

Much deeper than the seas

Stronger than a hurricane

But timid like a breeze.

Real as in a picture

But yet it can't be seen

More beautiful than anything

As vivid as a dream.

Precious as rare jewels

A bond between two hearts

A symphony of feelings

When time is spent apart.

Sharing common interests

Working through all fears

Looking at yourself

As if two were in the mirror.

Finding common ground

On issues not agreed

Giving into arguments

Tending to all your needs.

Being there for always

Is all I want for you

Holding you forever

Because our love is true.

Where there is Love

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

Blessed are those who walk in love.

Ravens

The meaning of marriage is perfectly clear.
It is loving forever, the one you hold dear.

Bring love as your gift, when your marriage is blessed
And all through the years, you will know happiness.

The meaning of marriage is giving and sharing
Each knowing the other, is unselfishly caring.

It is the faith in the future, you are building together
It is laughter and tears, as you face stormy weather.

The meaning of marriage, is a pledge still unbroken
A touch and a smile and tender words unspoken.

But mostly it's giving these things in full measure
That down through the years
Will marriage a pleasure.

What is Love?

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more
than verses on Valentines and Romances in the movies.

We begin to know that love is here and now, real and
true, the most important thing in our lives.

For love is the creator of our favourite memories and the
foundation of our fondest dreams.

Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can
never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the
most unlikely of places.

And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and
magical joy, the greatest treasure of all.

Is only known by those who love.

What Love Means to us...

What is love we've heard many say
Something we all strive for to find one day
It's a word incorporating many a thought and feeling
Here's some of our ideas, for it's meaning.

Love is something always present,
Even when times may not be pleasant.
It's a bond between two people
To respect one another and treat as equal.
It is shared during times of laughter
During times of sadness, and after.

Although amazing, it can be complex,
It can be confusing and sometimes perplex.
It requires patience and understanding,
It strengthens with time, is everlasting.

We hope to nurture our love through life
Starting today, as husband and wife.

Maybe...

Maybe we are supposed to meet the wrong people
before we meet the right one so when they finally arrive
we are truly grateful for the gift we have been given.

Maybe its true that we don't know what we have lost
until we lose it but it is also true that we don't know what
we are missing until it arrives.

Maybe the happiest of people don't have the best of
everything, but make the best of everything that comes
their way.

Maybe the best kind of love is the kind where you sit
on the sofa together, not saying a word, and walk away
feeling like it was the best conversation you ever had.

Maybe once in a lifetime you find someone who not only
touches your heart but also your soul, someone who
loves you for who you are and not what you could be.

Maybe the art of true love is not about finding the
perfect person, but about seeing an imperfect person
perfectly.

The Register Office
The Town Hall
Darlington
DL1 5QT

Tel: 01325 406 400

Email: registeroffice@darlington.gov.uk



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