**Renewal of Vows**

*Option to play music as your guests wait for your ceremony to begin (approx. 15 minutes). Music can be live (for example you could make arrangements for a small choir or soloist to sing, a string quartet to play or a harpist to perform) or recorded (in which case you may like to create a play list of contemporary love songs, classical traditional wedding music or the scores to your favourite films).*

Registrar announces start of ceremony.

*Would you like to enter the ceremony room together or have a more traditional entrance with one of you waiting for the other? Would you like anyone to accompany you, for example parent/s, sibling/s, bridesmaids, groomsmen? Would you like a particular piece of music to be played or would you prefer to enter the room more informally to a round of applause?*

Good morning/afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. *Please let us know if you would prefer a gender-neutral greeting.* My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am the Deputy Superintendent Registrar, of the City of Westminster.

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I would like to welcome you here to share their special day with them. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have chosen to renew their wedding vows to… *Please elaborate on your reason/s for renewing your vows. For example, you may be celebrating a special anniversary or wish to reaffirm your commitment to one another in the presence of guests who weren’t able to be present at your wedding.*

*Option to include a Ring-warming Ceremony*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have chosen to rededicate their wedding rings/exchange eternity rings today as a sign of their love and marriage. Before doing so, they would like to invite you to partake in a very old matrimonial tradition – the warming of the rings. If you are unfamiliar with this custom, when the rings pass into your care please hold them for a moment, making a silent wish for the future this couple will share, whilst reflecting upon all that they have already experienced together as a couple. When returned to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it is believed that these rings will contain in their precious metals something that is all the more precious – your love and well wishes.

*Suitable place to incorporate a summary of your relationship’s progression to marriage (suggested length 3 minutes or less). from when you first met to when you were married, and the significant occurrences throughout your marriage, such as the birth of children/blending of families. For example: “As many of you know, A and B’s love story has been twenty years in the making! They met at university and though for A it was love at first sight, for B it wouldn’t be until they reconnected at their 10 year reunion that he realised he had found his Mr Right.“*

*Suitable place for a reading (suggested length 3 minutes or less). This could be a favourite childhood poem, extract from a book, quote or song lyrics about love/marriage, or poem written especially for the day about the two of you.*

Marriage is a lifelong promise, based on love. When we love, we see things other people do not. We see beneath the surface to the qualities, which make our beloved special and unique. To be loved is to be known, as we are known to no other.

Marriage is both a threshold and a continuing process in that experience. It is a mutual enrichment, a give and take between two personalities which diminishes neither, but enhances both.

In marriage, a new perspective is created. Burdens are lighter because you divide them. Joys are more intense because you share them. Aspirations are heightened because you are working towards them together.

Strong marriages are built on many foundations - respect, friendship, empathy, compromise; but at its core marriage requires trust, to know in your hearts that you truly want the best for each other.

Today is a day when we mark the strength of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_relationship and the depth of their love for one another. Their life together has brought them happiness and fulfilment and they now wish to reaffirm their lifelong commitment to one another.

*Suitable place for a second reading (suggested length 3 minutes).*

In many cultures the image of two hands entwined symbolises deep love between two people. I ask you now to turn to one another and join hands in recognition of this. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ these are the hands of your best friend, that are holding yours as you vow to share your lives and to honor one another as individuals in that togetherness. In times of struggle may your hands always reach out to join in support; and in times of joy may they join in celebration, just as they do now.

 It is fitting that I now ask:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, on this day do you willingly recommit your love to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and do you promise to trust in that love throughout the uncertainties of life, now and always?

 *Answer:* I do *Repeat for Bride/ Groom*

*Option to include personal vows (suggested length 3 minutes or less for each of you for each of you). These can be romantic and earnest or humorous but heartfelt. Please either:*

* *Have these written on a piece of card for you to read from if you would like to surprise one another on the day. For example, “I am so grateful you came into my life because…”*
* *Include them within this script if you would like your registrar to ask you to confirm your vows. For example, “Will you both continue to prioritise spending time as a family and save even faster for that trip to Disneyworld you have promised \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?”*

*“We will!”*

* *Email them separately to the register office if you would like to surprise each other by writing one another’s vows. For example, “Do you A promise to take B a cup of tea in bed every morning?” - written by B.*

*“Do you B promise to let A watch football undisturbed without hoovering in the background?” - written by A*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the moment has now come for you to reaffirm your marriage vows.

Groom/Bride, please repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I believe in this marriage - more strongly than ever. Today, I recommit my love for you – and promise to care for you and respect you - to trust you and be honest with you - to stand by you and support you - for as long as I shall live.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we have now come to the giving/rededication of rings. These rings represent the promises you have willingly exchanged. They reflect the commitment those words inspire and all your hopes and dreams for the future.

Groom/Bride, please repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I give you this ring/I rededicate this ring to you – as a sign of our love and marriage – and as a symbol of all that we share. Ipromise tocherish you - and remain true to you – for the rest of our lives.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ today’s ceremony has reaffirmed the deep trust, respect, understanding and friendship that binds you together. May the love and commitment you have for one another grow ever stronger throughout the years to come.

On behalf of the City of Westminster and everyone present may I offer our sincere congratulations on your special day!

*Registrar’s final words of well wishes and presentation of a commemorative renewal of vows certificate.*

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

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