**Time-honoured**

*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 and a very warm welcome to you all. My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am the Deputy Superintendent Registrar, of the City of Westminster. With me is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who is making the legal record of today’s ceremony.

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

*Suitable place to incorporate a summary of your relationship’s progression (up to 3 minutes in length) from when you first met to today, and the significant occurrences 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.“*

Marriage is a lifelong promise, based on love. It is a mutual enrichment, a give and take between two personalities which enhances both but diminishes neither.

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.

Friends and family, I know it means a great deal to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that you can be here to share in their happiness on their wedding day. You are here to witness what is a very special and personal moment as they make their marriage vows. Given the importance of the step that they are taking, I ask that, if you know of any legal reason why this couple should not marry, you declare it now.

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

*The following wording in* **bold font** *cannot be altered.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I am now going to ask each of you to confirm that you know of no lawful reason why you may not marry each other.

Groom/Bride, please repeat after me:

# I do solemnly declare – that I know not – of any lawful impediment – why I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – may not be joined in matrimony – to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I now have a very important question to ask each of you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband/wife, and do you promise to stay true to him/her for the rest of your lives together?

*Answer:* I do

*Repeat for Bride/Groom*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the moment has now come for you to make your legal marriage vows. As these words are spoken you will become husband and wife/husband and husband/wife and wife.

Groom/Bride, please repeat after me:

**I call upon – these persons here present – to witness that I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – do take thee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – to be my lawful wedded wife/husband.**

*Option to include personal vows (suggested length 3 minutes or less). 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_your wedding rings are rich in symbolism - unbroken circles forged from precious metal that signify the strength and durability of love.

Groom/Bride please repeat after me:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, this ring represents – our shared past, present and future. – Know that I will love you – today, tomorrow and always.

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

Friends and family, by being here today you have added an extra special element to ­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s wedding day and I ask that you continue to support them in this next phase of their life as a married couple.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your marriage vows have affirmed the deep love and friendship that binds you together. May you treasure this trust and responsibility, and may you live full and rich lives together.

It now gives me the greatest pleasure to declare you husband and wife/wife and wife/husband and husband. Congratulations, you may kiss!

*Signing of the marriage schedule (approx. 5 mins). Option to play music as you and your witnesses sign.*

Registrar’s final words of well wishes.

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