East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

Ceremony

Poems & Readings

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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 it’s 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’re 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

Blessing of the Hands

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

And lastly, these are the hands that, even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Marriage fulfils the Dreams

Everyone searches for one special person
They can share their live with
The other half who makes them whole,
Like two notes blending together to make a beautiful song,
Or the colours that complement
Each other to form a rainbow.
It is everyone's wish to have a lifetime of sunny days,
A rainbow after every storm;
A lifetime of loving and living and growing and giving,
Of sharing and caring; a lifetime of days together,
Learning from the bad times and cherishing the good times.
Marriage is everything your heart desires
And the strength, courage and determination to work for it.
In marriage you take care of each other's heart
And hold on to what you share.
You hold it gently so it doesn't smother
And firmly so it doesn't slip away.
Hold it so it can grow
And you can grow together
And live and laugh and love together always

You are my Penguin

We can all learn a lot from penguins
For penguins love for life
No matter what each day brings
They'll stand as man and wife

Through sun or snow, through wind and rain
They'll be by each other's side
And raise a little family
With love and trust and pride

When times get tough they will not stray
They will be there until the end
Because they know that loves strong bond
Means they will always have a friend

You are my penguin forever more
I will love you till I die
Whatever life will throw at us
Together we will get by

A Good Wedding Cake

4lb of Love
1lb butter of youth
½lb of good looks
1lb sweet temper
1lb of blindness of faults
1lb of self forgetfulness
1lb of pounded wit
1lb of good humour
2 tablespoons of sweet argument
1 pint of rippling laughter
1 wine glass of common sense
1oz modesty

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

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

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

Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever.

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"

These I can Promise

I cannot promise you a lifetime of sunshine

I cannot promise riches, wealth or gold

I cannot promise you an easy pathway

That leads away from change or growing old

But I can promise all my heart's devotion

A smile to chase away your tears of sorrow

A love that's ever true and ever growing

A hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow

Union

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 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.

Wedding Reading

There is nothing without a cause

The coming together of this man and woman is not an accident:

It is the result of numerous previous lives.

The bond cannot be made less or broken

In the time ahead, this joyous occasion will arrive

As surely as the morning even though

Difficult times will arrive as inevitably as the darkening sky

When things go joyously, take the time to meditate

When things cause you sadness, take the time to meditate

To only say the words “love and compassion” comes easily

But to know that love and compassion are dependent on

Perseverance and patience is not easy

If you remember this, your marriage will have strength and be everlasting

My Love

When I met you, I had no idea
How much my life
Was about to be changed
But then, how could I have known?

A love like ours happens
Once in a lifetime
You were a miracle to me
The one who was everything
I had ever dreamed of,
The one I thought existed
Only in my imagination

And when you came into my life,
I realised that what
I had always thought was happiness
Couldn’t compare to the joy
Loving you brought me

Love is Giving

Love is giving, not taking
Mending not breaking,

Trusting, believing,
Never deceiving,

Patiently bearing
And faithfully sharing

Each joy, every sorrow,
Today and tomorrow,

Love is kind, understanding,
But never demanding.

Love is constant, prevailing,
Its strength never failing,

A promise once spoken
For all time unbroken,

A lifetime together,
Love’s time is forever.

The Art of a Good Marriage

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, 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.

Dove Poem

Two doves meeting in the sky
Two loves hand in hand eye to eye
Two parts of a loving whole
Two hearts and a single soul

Two stars shining big and bright
Two fires bringing warmth and light
Two songs played in perfect tune
Two flowers growing into bloom

Two doves gliding in the air
Two loves free without a care
Two parts of a loving whole
Two heats and a single soul

The Meaning

To love is to share life together
To build special plans just for two
To work side by side
And then smile with pride
As one by one, dreams all come true.

To love is to help and encourage
With smiles and sincere words of praise
To take time to share
To listen and care
In tender, affectionate ways.

To love is to have someone special
On whom you can always depend
To be there through the years
Sharing laughter and tears
As a partner, a lover, a friend

To love is to make special memories
Of moments you love to recall
Off all the good things
That sharing life brings
Love is the greatest of all

I've learned the full meaning
Of sharing and caring
And having my dreams all come true
I've learned the full meaning
Of being in love
By being and loving with you.

Marriage Is

Someone to believe in

And to put their trust in you

Someone who appreciates

The special things you do

Someone to be close to

In your heart and mind

Someone who's the love

You might have thought you'd never find

Someone who stands by you

And whose faith can make you strong

Someone you will cherish

Every day, your whole life long.

He Never Leaves The Seat Up

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
Though she may sometimes delude
Leave your things out at your peril
In a second they'll have moved!

He romances her and dines her
Home cooked dinner 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 her face
Will he look that good in 50 years
When his dentures aren't in place?!

He says he loves her figure
And her mental prowess too
But when gravity takes her over
Will she charm with her IQ?

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

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

All that said and done
They love the time they spend together
And I hope as I'm 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.

Marriage is Madness

Marriage is about giving and taking
And forgiving and forsaking
Kissing and loving and pushing and shoving
Caring and Sharing and screaming and swearing

About being together whatever the weather
About being driven to the end of your tether
About Sweetness and Kindness
And Wisdom and Blindness

It's about being strong when you're feeling quite weak
It's about saying nothing when you're dying to speak
It's about being wrong when you know you are right
It's about giving in before there's a fight
It's about you two living as cheaply as one
(You can give us a call if you know how that's done!)

Never heeding advice that was always well meant
Never counting the cost until it's all spent
And for you two today it's about to begin
And for all that the two of you had to put in
Some days filled with joy, and some days with sadness
Too late you'll discover that marriage is madness.

My Love is Like a Red Red Rose

My Luve is like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June:
My Luve is like the melodie,
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my Dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun,
And I will luve thee still, my Dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare-thee-weel, my only Luve!
And fare-thee-weel, a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho''twere ten thousand mile!

With You in my Heart

With you in my heart, my life is complete,
You're the air that I breathe and the food that I eat.
You are my soul mate, the beat in my heart,
It feels like a year each second we're apart.

With you in my heart I'm walking on air,
I can imagine your perfume and the touch of your hair,
Your beautiful eyes, so kind and green
The loveliest sight I have ever seen.

With you in my heart, I am brim full of pride,
It's as though I can achieve anything with you by my side.
You're my rock, you're my angel, my one true love,
You're my present from heaven, my gift from above.

The Best is yet to be

On your joyful wedding day,
You begin a brand new life.
Friends and family give their gifts
To joyful husband, blissful wife.

But the greatest gift you'll ever get
A gift from heaven above,
Is love forever, ending never,
Everlasting love.

You'll share life's joy and pleasure;
You'll have plenty of that, it's true
But love is the real treasure
For your new spouse and you.

And if life hands you challenges,
As it does to one and all,
Your love will hold you steady
And never let you fall.

Your wedding day is full of joy;
Tomorrow you cannot see.
But one thing's sure for the two of you:
The best is yet to be.

Here's to Right Now

You're surrounded by your loved ones
And all are wishing you well
As you create a brand new chapter
In the story that's yours to tell

We talk about the memories
You have yet to make together
And the moments you've already shared
To be carried with you forever

But take the time to live today
As your marriage begins
Look around and soak it up;
The moment we are in

For this is where the magic starts
When you both say your vows
You pledge to spend your lives as one
Because of the love you feel now

So yes, here's to a future that is bright and warm and clear
But more than that, here's to right now, and what it means to be here

If There’s

If there's one face I want to see,
so beautiful, so true,
One smile that makes a difference,
to everything I do.

If there's one touch I long to feel,
one voice I long to hear,
Whenever I am happy,
or just needing someone near.

If there's one joy, one love,
from which I never want to part,
It's you, my very special love,
my world, my life, my heart.

On Your Wedding Day

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

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

You'll 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 whisper '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

The Bridge Across Forever

A soulmate is someone who has locks that fit our keys,
and keys to fit our locks.

When we feel safe enough to open the locks,
our truest selves step out and
we can be completely and honestly who we are;

We can be loved for who we are and not for
who we're pretending to be.

Each unveils the best part of the other.
No matter what else goes wrong around us,
with that one person we're safe in our own paradise.

Our soulmate is someone who shares our deepest longings,
our sense of direction.

When we're two balloons, and together our direction is up,
chances are we've found the right person.

Our soulmate is the one who makes life come to life.

The One

When the one whose hand you're holding
Is the one who holds your heart,
When the one whose eyes you gaze into
Gives your hopes and dreams there start,
When the one you think of first and last
Is the one who holds you tight,
And the things you plan together
Make the whole world seem just right,
When the one whom you believe in
Puts their faith and trust in you,
You've found the one and only love
You'll share your whole life through

The Wedding Ring

The sweetest story that's ever been told
Lies in the slim little circle of gold
Joining two people as husband and wife
To share in the joys and the sorrows of life.

For richer or poorer – in sickness and health
Your marriage can yield up a wonderful wealth
Of mem'ries to treasure and hopes to renew
All part of the promises made by you two.

With faith in each other and love as your guide
As long as forever, you'll walk side by side
And the shining reminder of how much you care
Will lie in the little gold band that you wear.

True Love

True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny.

True love speaks in gentle 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 hearts that it entwines

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 other's faults and pardon mistakes
without forgetting, but with remembering
what you learn from them.

The key to love is sharing…
Facing your good fortune 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,
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 the ingredients.
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

Marriage Joins Two People In The Circle Of Its Love

Marriage is a commitment to life,
the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.
It offers opportunities for sharing and growth
that no other relationship can equal.
It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love,
marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships.
A wife and a husband are each other's best friend,
confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic.
And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent or child.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.
Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher,
commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more strongly,
and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life
is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life,
new experiences, and new ways of expressing
a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written words.
Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfil.

Shakespeare's Sonnet

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

Blessing of the Apaches

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other.

Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you.

May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years.

May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon this earth.

Taken from Captain Corelli’s Mandolin

Love is a temporary madness, it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides.

And when it subsides you have to make a decision.

You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part.

Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the declaration of eternal passion… That is just being "in love", which any fool can do.

Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident.

Those that truly love have roots that grow towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossoms have fallen from their branches, they find that they are one tree and not two.