



Welcome

Thank you for considering holding your Renewal of Vows ceremony in Gloucestershire.

Whether you are looking for a small intimate occasion or a larger celebration, you have a selection of options to help plan a ceremony to suit you as a couple and create your perfect day.

We hope this brochure will give you all the information you require but if you need any further advice, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our ceremonies team who will be happy to help.



What we can offer

It is your day, so we want you to have an occasion to remember.

There is no legal status to a Renewal of Vows Ceremony, therefore, with the exception of any religious content, you are free to enhance your ceremony any way you choose, and we are happy to help you create a unique and memorable experience for yourselves, your family and friends.

You can choose to hold your celebration in one of our registration offices, one of our beautiful approved venues across the county or you may prefer the comfort and familiarity of your own

home. There are many options available to you. For details of Gloucestershire venues please see our [Find a Venue](#) page.

What next?

Booking your ceremony

You can make a booking with us by calling 01452 425060 option 3 and a member of the Ceremonies Team will be happy to help.

Once you have made your booking your ceremony will be confirmed via email. Within 24 hours of receiving your email a non-refundable administration booking fee will be required.

Paying for your ceremony

The ceremony fee must be paid at least 2 calendar months before the date of your ceremony, through the link provided in your confirmation email. In the case of bookings made within 2 months of the proposed date, full payment is required within 24hours of booking. Part payments are not accepted and may lead to a booking being cancelled.

Please see the [Celebrate with us](#) website for [ceremony fees and charges](#). Our fees are reviewed annually but may be subject to change at other times. If your ceremony is taking place after 1st April new fees will apply. Please check our website or email ceremony@gloucestershire.gov.uk to find out the cost of your ceremony.

Making choices for your ceremony script

We will provide you with options and a structure for your ceremony script. If you wish, you can personalise your ceremony by including readings, music, and writing your own promises to each other and ring vows.

You will be sent your ceremony choices via email. Please complete and submit 2 months before your ceremony date.

On the day

The Celebrant will take some time before the start of the ceremony to introduce themselves to you.

They are there to guide you through all you have to say and do so there is no need to memorise any of the words, just enjoy yourselves.

FAQ

We would really like to hold our ceremony in our local village hall, would that be ok? Gloucestershire Registration Service encourages families to hold their celebration where they feel most comfortable, we would simply be required to conduct a risk assessment in your chosen location, an additional fee will apply.

My partner and I have recently entered a civil partnership abroad and we would really like to celebrate with our family and friends now that we are home. Is a Renewal of Vows right for us? A Renewal of Vows ceremony is perfect for celebrating your love for one another with your family and friends. You could rededicate the rings if you gave them to one another on the day that you entered a civil partnership and even share with your guests an account of your special day in your own words.

How can I arrange a surprise for my partner? We have been partners for ten years this year. Our ceremonies team will be happy to help you plan your surprise, answering all your questions. We will of course take every care when contacting you so that the surprise stays a surprise!

Are we able to mention family members/friends who cannot be with us to join our celebration? You can make special acknowledgments to people who cannot be with you for whatever reason. Please add this information to the 'Special Requirements' on your ceremony arrangements form.

How much like an actual civil partnership ceremony can we make our Renewal of Vows ceremony?

It can follow very closely to a traditional civil partnership ceremony; you can choose to be given away, exchange rings and have readings. However, there is no legal status to a Renewal of Vows ceremony and this point will be made clear by the Celebrant as part of the introduction and welcome.

Could we write our own vows?

Yes, the choices below are suggestions of what you may like to say to one another. Therefore, except for any religious content, you are free to enhance your ceremony any way you choose.

Choices

Welcome

1. We are here today to celebrate the civil partnership of (Name) and (Name) which took place at (The Old Victorian School, Stroud) on (10th January 2000). Although today's ceremony has no statutory status, it is, nevertheless, a dignified and solemn expression of love and commitment. We are here today to witness (Name) and (Name) renew their commitment to one another, in the company of their witnesses, family and friends. You have all touched the lives of (Name) and (Name) in some special way, and I know it means a great deal to them that you can be with them today to celebrate their happiness on this very special day.
2. We are here today to celebrate (10) years of the civil partnership for (Name) and (Name) which took place at (The George Room in Cheltenham) on (3rd April 1979). Although today's ceremony has no statutory status, it is, nevertheless, a dignified and solemn expression of love and commitment. Thank you all for coming to help (Name) and (Name) celebrate their special day. I know it means a great deal to them that you can be with them today as they renew their promises to each other in the company of their family and friends. Each one of you has touched their lives in some special way. By your presence, you celebrate with them the love and special joy they have shared together.
3. We are here today to celebrate the civil partnership of (Name) and (Name) which took place on (20th December 2008) on/at (the beach in Barbados). Although today's ceremony has no statutory status, it is, nevertheless, a dignified and solemn expression of love and commitment. A civil partnership is a declaration to be partners in life. It is a decision to share their lives and their experiences. Family and friends are with them today to witness the renewal of their promises to each other, and I know it means a great deal to them that you can all share in the celebration of this very special occasion.

Giving Away (Optional)

Who supports (Name) and (Name)?

That/those person(s) step(s) forward and say(s) “I/We do”.

Address

1. (Name) and (Name), your civil partnership celebrates the happiness you have brought to each other and the lifelong commitment you have both made. Being life partners is the best in living, sharing good times, understanding, forgiving. It is contentment, joy, laughter, believing in each other, and supporting hopes and dreams.
2. (Name) and (Name), you have found in each other, happiness, fulfilment, and love, and today you are renewing the promises that you made to each other (10) years ago. A civil partnership is a decision made by two people to share their lives and their experiences. Over the years you have built a relationship of co-operation, friendship, and mutual respect. It is the best in living, it is sharing good times, understanding, and forgiving. It is contentment, joy, laughter, believing in each other and supporting hopes and dreams.

Declarations

And now we come to the part of the ceremony where you will renew your declarations to each other, so please would you face each other and repeat these words after me.

- 1.** I (Name) would like to renew the declarations I made to you (Name) on our ceremony day.
- 2.** (Name) today I renew the declarations I made to you on our ceremony day. I will continue to love you and care for you throughout our future life together.

Promises

(Name) and (Name) have chosen to make some very special promises to one another today, please repeat after me.

- 1.** I promise to love and care for you, and I will try in every way to be worthy of your love. I will always be honest with you, kind, patient and forgiving, but most of all, I promise to be a true and loyal friend to you.
- 2.** I promise I will be understanding and trust in you completely. Together we will face all of life's experiences and share one another's dreams and goals. I promise I will be your equal partner in a loving and honest relationship for the rest of our lives.
- 3.** I promise to love you, to be your best friend, to respect and support you, to be patient with you, to accept you unconditionally, and to share life with you throughout the years.

Reading 1 (Optional)

Rings Vows (Optional)

(Name) and (Name) are now going to [re dedicate their rings to each other] or [present each other with new rings] to mark this very special occasion. A ring has no beginning and no end, an unbroken circle that symbolises unending and everlasting love, it is the outward sign of the lifelong promises that you have made to each other. Please repeat after me.

- 1** I give you this ring as a symbol of the promises we have made. I pledge you my love and respect through the good times and the bad times, today and always.
- 2** (Name) I offer you this ring as a sign of our unity. I commit here and now to share all that I am and all that I may become.
- 3** Please accept this ring as a symbol of our partnership, for today, tomorrow and forever. Wear it as a sign of all we have promised and done this day.

Reading 2 (Optional)

Conclusion

1 (Name) and (Name), you have already made the declarations required by law, and today you have renewed those promises to each other in the presence of your family and friends. May the love which has brought you together continue to grow and enrich your future lives.

2 This day does not mark the start of a relationship but recognises the bond that has been forged between (Name) and (Name) over (10) years. May the love that has brought you here together continue to grow and enrich your lives. Meet with courage any problems, which challenge you. May your relationship always be one of love and trust. Let the happiness you share today be with you forever and everything you have said and done here today become a living truth in your lives.

3 (Name) and (Name) this day marks a new beginning in your relationship. As you affirm your commitment to one another always remember that you should cherish each other as special and unique individuals, and to respect the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of one another. Be able to forgive, do not hold grudges and live each day that you may share it together. From this day you shall be each other's home, comfort and refuge, your partnership strengthened by your love and respect.

Signing of the Commemorative Certificate

(Name) and (Name) will now sign the certificate commemorating their renewal of vows. Please would the witnesses (Witness 1) and (Witness2) come forward.

Exit

I have pleasure in presenting you with your certificate. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your guests a wonderful day. Will you all please stand and greeton their special day.

Commemorative Certificate



A commemorative certificate is a memento of your day, with both of your names, the date and venue to commemorate the occasion but has no legal value.

The fee for this certificate is included in the price of the ceremony and will be presented to you to mark the conclusion of your ceremony.

Please add the details to your Ceremony Arrangements form exactly as you wish them to appear on the certificate.

Contact

If you require any information please call our ceremonies team on 01452 425060 (option 3) or email us at ceremony@gloucestershire.gov.uk Further information can also be found on the [Renewal of Vows](#) pages of our website.

The Register Office
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Cheltenham
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The content in this brochure was correct at the time of print. Please refer to our website for possible changes to terms and conditions - www.goucestershire.gov.uk/registration

