



# 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 suite 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, this is payable online, through your personal [customer account](#). Details of which will be emailed to you separately.

## Paying for your ceremony

The ceremony fee must be paid at least 2 calendar months before the date of your ceremony, through your [customer account](#). In the case of bookings made within 2 months of the proposed date, full payment is required at the time 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](mailto: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, naming special people and writing your own promises to each other and ring vows.

You can access your ceremony choices through your [customer account](#). 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 been married 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 can rededicate the rings you gave to one another on your wedding day 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 married for 40 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 wedding can we make our Renewal of Vows ceremony?**

It can follow very closely to a traditional civil wedding ceremony; you can choose to be given away, exchange rings and have bridesmaids. 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 marriage of (Name) and (Name) who were married at (The Old Victorian School, Stroud) on (10<sup>th</sup> 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 marriage vows, and 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 (30) years of marriage for (Name) and (Name) who were married at (St Stephens Church in Cheltenham) on (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 vows of marriage 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 marriage 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. Marriage is the solemn union between two people. It is a decision to share their lives and their experiences. Family and friends are with them today to witness the renewal of their marriage vows, 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)

One of the many historic customs involved in the wedding ceremony is the giving away. Today this act is seen as a symbol of support for the marriage, and a promise of continued trust and affection from family and friends.

And so, may I ask – who brings (Name) to renew her/their vows with (Name) today?

## Address

1. (Name) and (Name), your marriage celebrates the happiness you have brought to each other and the lifelong commitment you have both made. Marriage 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 vows that you made to each other (30) years ago. Marriage 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. Marriage 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.

3. (Name) and (Name), the purpose of marriage is that you may always love, care for, and support one another, through all the joys and sorrows of life. Marriage means making a commitment to co-operation, friendship, and mutual respect. Today you are renewing that commitment to one another.

### The Vows

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

1. I (Name) would like to renew the marriage vow I made to you (Name) on our wedding day.
2. (Name) today I renew the vows I made to you on our wedding 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 through all the joys and challenges of our future life together. I will support your hopes and dreams and do my best to be worthy of your love. These promises I make to you today, and for the rest of my life.
2. I promise to care for you with love and friendship. To be at your side to cherish the happy times, and to comfort and support you as we face life's difficulties together. I make these promises to you today, and for the rest of my life.
3. I pledge that from this day, I will love you, comfort and encourage you, honour, and respect you, and to be a faithful, honest, and devoted husband/wife to you as long as we both shall live.

### Reading 1 (Optional)

### Rings Vows (Optional)

**(Name) and (Name) are now going to [re dedicate their wedding rings to each other] or [present each other with new wedding 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 vows and commitment we have made to each other. Wear it with love and as a sign of all that you mean to me.
- 2 (Name) this ring is a symbol of my love for you. Wear it always, and remember all the happiness we share together.
- 3 I give you this ring as a sign of my love and affection. Wear it with happiness, and as a lasting reminder of the promises we have made today.

## Reading 2 (Optional)

### Conclusion

**1** (Name) and (Name), you have already made the declarations and vows required by law, and today you have renewed those vows 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 (30) years of marriage. Your marriage has been made in the hearts of two people who love one another. May the love that has brought you together continue to grow and may the happiness you share today continue throughout your lives together.

**3** (Name) and (Name) this day marks a new beginning in your relationship. May the love that has supported you continue to grow and enrich your lives. Your marriage has been made in the hearts of two people who love one another. May the happiness you share today continue to grow throughout your lives together.

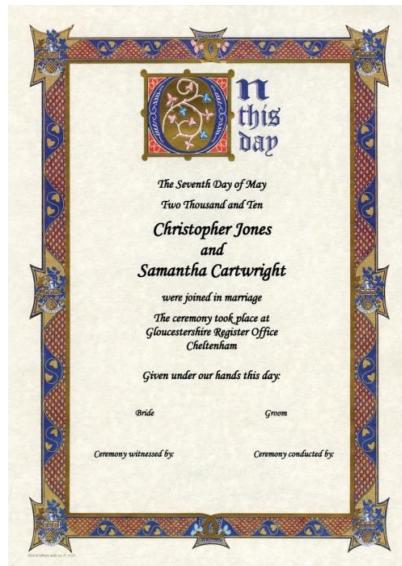
### Signing of the Commemorative Certificate

(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 greet .....on 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](mailto:ceremony@gloucestershire.gov.uk) Further information can also be found on the [Renewal of Vows](#) pages of our website.

The Register Office  
St George's Road  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL50 3EW

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.gloucestershire.gov.uk/registration](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/registration)

