

## **Civil Partnership Readings and Poems**

**Please see below samples of readings, poems etc. All of these are appropriate to include in your Ceremony and a lovely way to involve family member(s) and/or friend(s.)**

**If you decide upon alternative readings etc. please ensure these are submitted to the Registrar for approval, at least 4 weeks prior to your Ceremony.**

### **Personal Welcome**

Family and friends, each one of you has been invited here this afternoon to bear witness to (Party 1's Name) & (Party 2's Name) solemn vows.

Each one of you will have played a special part in (Party 1's Name) & (Party 2's Name) life or in their friendship together.

Each one of you will be full of hope that today will not only be the happiest day of their lives so far, but much more, that it will be the start of one great union with many happy days ahead.

Each one of you will recall special times gone by and will remember too, those who cannot be with us today, but whom we know would so loved to have been.

We hope that you enjoy yourselves today and we trust that following today's celebration you will continue to play a very special part in their lives together.

### **Personal Welcome (II)**

Family and friends, each one of you has been invited here this afternoon to bear witness to (Party 1's Name) & (Party 2's Name) solemn vows.

Each one of you will have played a special part in (Party 1's Name)'s life or (Party 2's Name)'s life or in their friendship together.

Each one of you will be full of hope that today will not only be the happiest day of their lives so far, but much more, that it will be the start of one great union with many happy days and years ahead.

Each one of you can enjoy the privilege of being here today and it is (Party 1's Name) & (Party 2's Name)'s hope that following today's magnificent celebration you will continue to play a very special part in their lives together.

### **Traditional Apache Prayer**

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

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

Now there is no more 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 the earth  
And may you share nothing but joy from this day forward.

### **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, love is time is forever.

### **A Friendship Blessing**

May you be blessed with good friends  
May you learn to be a good friend  
To yourself and each other

May you be able to journey to that  
Place in your soul where there is great  
Love, warmth, feeling and forgiveness.

May you treasure your friends  
May you be good to them and may you  
Be there for them.

May they bring you all the blessing,  
Challenges, truth and light that you  
Need for your journey.

May you never be isolated; but may  
You always be in the gentle nest of belonging.

### **Love's Philosophy**

December 2023

The mountains mingle with the river  
And the rivers with the ocean  
The winds of heaven mix forever  
With a sweet emotion  
Nothing in the world is single  
All things by a law divine  
In one spirit meet and mingle  
Why not with thine?

See the mountains kiss high heaven  
And the waves clasp one another  
No sister-flower would be forgiven  
If it distained its brother  
And the sunlight clasps the earth  
And the moonbeams kiss the sea  
What is all this worth  
If thou kiss not me?

### **Bands of Gold**

A precious band of gold was placed  
Some fifty years ago  
Upon two hearts of tender years  
who vowed their love would grow.  
The gold was not within the ring.  
Nor in their faces fair.  
It wasn't in their youth or charm.  
But in the love they shared.  
The gold was there for them to spend  
when silver coins were rare.  
It didn't buy them more to have  
but taught them how to share.  
They spent it on a loving look,  
on patience, kindness, trust,  
they spent it on the kinds of things  
that cannot wilt or rust.  
And the wonder of this band of gold,  
if you can comprehend,  
each time they used their gift of love,  
there was that much more to spend.  
It brought them trust, it brought them hope,  
a tender hand to hold  
it brought a blessed and lovely thing  
A union, carved in gold.

### **The Day**

May this be the start of a happy new life  
December 2023

That's full of special moments to share  
May this be the first of your dreams come true  
And of hope that will always be there.  
May this be the start of a lifetime of trust  
And of caring that's just now begun  
May today be a day that you'll always remember  
The day when your hearts become one.

### **"An Irish Blessing"**

May love and laughter light your days,  
And warm your heart and home.  
May good and faithful friends be yours,  
Wherever you may roam.  
May peace and plenty bless your world  
With joy that long endures.  
May all life's passing seasons  
Bring the best to you and yours.

### **What is a Soul mate?**

If you have found a smile  
that is the sweetest one you've known,  
if you have heard, within a voice,  
the echoes of your own,  
if you have felt a touch  
that stirs the longings of your heart,  
and still can feel that closeness  
in the moments you're apart,  
if you have filled with wonder  
at the way two lives can blend.  
To weave a perfect pattern  
that is seamless, end to end,  
if you believe some things in life  
are simply meant to be,  
then you have found your soul mate,  
your heart's own destiny.

### **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.

December 2023

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.

### **A Dance by Colin Wicker**

A good relationship is something like a dance – built on the same rules. Partners in a dance do not need to hold on tightly because they move in the same patterns, confident in each other. To touch heavily would be to arrest the pattern and freeze the moment – to check if not to stop the beauty of its unfolding. There is no place here for the possessive clutch, the clinging or the heavy hand. Only the barest touch in passing is sufficient to carry the deepest wealth of meaning. Now arm-in-arm, now face-to-face, now back-to-back – it doesn't matter which. As dancers, they know they are partners responding to the same rhythm, creating a pattern together and being invisibly nourished by it. The joy of such a dance is not only the joy of creation: it is also the joy of living in, and for, the moment. The joy of knowing that lightness of touch and life itself are inter-twined.

### **Oh, the Comfort**

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person; having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words but pour them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together. Knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and then – with the breath of kindness – blow the rest away.

December 2023

### **Partnership is More**

Partnership is more than standing here side by side,  
Exchanging looks full of love, full of pride.  
It's more than a ceremony which last just a while,  
It's a promise that's shared, it's an intimate smile.

It's a personal bond that you know will not end,  
The knowledge that someone your love will defend.  
It's a vow of commitment, special and true,  
It's a hope and dream of love endless for you.

### **Always Love Each Other by Larry S Changes**

If you can always be as close and as happy as today, yet be  
Secure enough to grow and change along the way.  
If you can be as one and walk through life hand in hand,  
Yet still support the goals and dreams that each of you have planned.

If you can dare to always go your separate ways together,  
Then all the wonder of today will stay with you forever.

Love is born with the pleasure of looking at each other, if fed  
with the necessity of seeing each other, it is concluded with the  
impossibility of separation.

### **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 tender 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 or binds,  
And true love holds with gentle hands  
The heart that it entwines.

### **I will be here**

If in the morning when you wake, the sun does not appear,  
I will be here.  
If in the dark we lose sight of love, hold my hand and have no fear,  
I will be here.

I will be here,  
December 2023

When you feel like being quiet, when you need to speak your mind,  
I will listen.  
Through the winning, losing and trying, we'll be together  
And I will be here.

If in the morning when you wake, if the future is unclear,  
I will be here.  
As sure as seasons were made for change, our lifetimes were made for years.  
I will be here.

I will be here  
And you can cry on my shoulder,  
When the mirror tells us we're older  
I will hold you, to watch you grow in beauty and tell you all  
The things you are to me.  
We'll be together and I will be here.

I will be true to the promises I've made to you, and to the one  
who gave you to me.

**I WILL BE HERE.**

### **Words from a Native American Ceremony**

May the sun bring you new energies by day,  
May the moon softly restore you by night.  
May the rain wash away your worries  
And the breeze blow new strength into your being  
And then, all the days of your life,  
May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty.

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 the warmth to the other.  
Now there is no more loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the  
other.  
Now you are two persons but there is only one life before you.  
Go now to your dwelling place, to enter into the days of your life together.  
May beauty surround you, both in the journey ahead and through all the  
years.  
May happiness be your companion to the place where the river meets the  
sun.  
And may your days together be good and long upon the earth.

### **Love Is .....**

Learning to give, not always take,  
Learning to forgive each little mistake,  
Learning to love whatever the cost  
Always remember alone you'd be lost.

December 2023

Trying so hard your partner to please  
Trying to save whilst paying the fees,  
Trying to smile when things turn out wrong,  
Always remember to curb your tongue.

Never think of only yourself,  
Never to say you wish you had wealth,  
Never to let your temper get hot,  
Always be thankful for what you have got.

If you remember all of these things,  
You will discover the joy that it brings,  
Then you'll have what so many folks miss,  
Always you'll have a life full of bliss.

### **True Love holds the Key**

The partnership commitment begins with a promise  
That two people lovingly say  
And everyday life holds the key to the secret  
For keeping this promise each day ....  
A good sense of humour, an unbroken trust  
Giving compliments, comfort and praise  
And taking some time for the fun things together  
In thoughtful, affectionate ways.  
A partnership is made up of everyday kindness  
And that is the beautiful key  
To make every moment of life together  
As wonderful as it can be.

### **In Love or Real Love?**

In love brings goosebumps and butterflies  
In love is obsessed with the colour of eyes  
In love swings like a pendulum, in love rises and falls.

December 2023



Not so for real love, this is for always.  
Real love holds you when you feel alone  
Real love is unconditional and enduring  
Your best friend always.

Real love sees the wrinkles and loves you more  
For they tell a story of a path walked together  
In loves washes in and out, like waves on the sand  
Real loves strengthens and binds you together  
Real love is a choice not a feeling  
Choose real love today and forever.

### **These are 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.