

**John Smith and Jane Jones  
Saturday 1 July 2015 at 11:00  
Priory Hall, Priory Park, Dudley**

Would you all please stand (*entrance music*)

(*fade and end music*) Please be seated (*except bride and groom unless no 'give away'*)

Good morning / afternoon ladies and gentlemen. My name is ..... and I am delighted to be here to conduct your marriage ceremony. My colleague ..... is here to ensure the legality of your marriage, to record the details in the marriage register and to issue your marriage certificate.

**We are here today to witness the joining in matrimony of John and Jane to share with them in their happiness and their hopes for the future. This place in which we are now met has been duly sanctioned according to law for the celebration of marriages. I am required to ask that if any person present knows of any legal reason why John Smith and Jane Jones may not be joined in matrimony they should declare it now.**

**One of the many historic customs involved in the wedding ceremony is the giving away of the bride. Today, this act is seen as a symbol of support for her marriage and a promise of continued trust and affection from her family, who presents Jane to be married to John?**

(bride and groom – please stand *if no 'give away'*)

Before you are joined in matrimony I have to remind you both of the solemn and binding character of the vows you are about to make. Marriage in this country means the union of two people, voluntarily entered into for life, to the exclusion of all others. It is a solemn union to provide the love and friendship, help and comfort each ought to have for the other. It should not be entered into lightly, nor should it be lightly set aside.

There are two declarations that you are about to make; in the first you will be stating that there is no reason in law why you should not be married to each other and in the second you will agree to take each other as husband and wife, according to the law of this country.

## **Children to repeat words after The Registrar:**

*(to the Groom)*

*Please repeat after me:*

**I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I John Smith may not be joined in matrimony to Jane Jones.**

**(bride to repeat)**

**I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I Jane Jones may not be joined in matrimony to John Smith.**

**John and Jane**, you have invited here today your families and friends to receive their encouragement and support at this very special time. With their support will you please make your promises to each other? Please turn to face each other.

**(Registrar asks groom) John, do you take Jane to be your wife? Do you promise to love and care for her and share all things with her?**

**Groom responds "I do"**

**(Registrar asks bride) Jane, do you take John to be your husband? Do you promise to love and care for him and share all things with him?**

**Bride responds "I do"**

Now the solemn and important moment has come where **John and Jane** take each other as husband and wife in the presence of their witnesses here assembled. As a sign of support for their marriage would you all please stand.

**(groom to repeat)**

**I call upon these persons here present to witness that I John Smith do take thee Jane Jones to be my lawful wedded wife.**

**(bride to repeat)**

**I call upon these persons here present to witness that I Jane Jones do take thee John Smith to be my lawful wedded husband.**

*(to the guests) Please be seated (bride and groom remain standing unless there is a reading)*

There is a tradition in this country for the marriage contract to be sealed by the giving and receiving of rings. A ring is an unbroken circle that symbolises unending and everlasting love. It is the outward sign of the lifelong promises you

are making today to each other. Can we please have the rings? *(invite ring bearer to steps forward with rings)*

**(groom to repeat)**

**I give you this ring as a token of our marriage. I promise to care for you and to give you my love and friendship throughout the rest of our lives together.**

**(To the bride)** please place your groom's ring on his finger and, holding it there, repeat after me.

**(Bride to repeat)**

*I give you this ring as a token of our marriage. I promise to care for you and to give you my love and friendship throughout the rest of our lives together.*

John and Jane you have both made the declarations and vows required by law, in the presence of these witnesses – your family and friends, ... (registrar)... and I join them in wishing you a long and happy life together. I am delighted to announce that you are now husband and wife.

Applause

### **Signing of register followed by photographs (if desired)**

Ladies and gentlemen, please stand for the bride and groom. I am delighted to be able to present the newly weds to you all, **Mr and Mrs Smith**. (check bride is taking groom's name first!)