



Liverpool Celebrant: Lorraine Hull

Creating & Conducting Beautiful Bespoke Ceremonies...

One way of making your wedding ceremony personal, to you, is to include readings that reflect you, your relationship and your personalities. Of course, with a Celebrant led ceremony, you also have the option of including religious elements, if that is something that you want to do.

This is just a small selection of the reading and poems that were included in *Liverpool Celebrant* wedding ceremonies in 2018. If I am your celebrant I will provide you with a much more comprehensive compilation. All of the following should also be suitable for a registrar's wedding ceremony but you would have to ask their permission beforehand.

Extract from *His dark materials*, by Philip Pullman

"There was not much traffic in the High Street, and when they turned down the steps opposite Magdalen College towards the gate of the Botanic Garden they were completely alone.

There was an ornate gateway, with stone seats inside it, and while Mary and Serafina sat there, Will and Lyra climbed over the iron fence into the Garden itself.

Their daemons slipped through the bars, and flowed ahead of them into the garden.

"It's this way," said Lyra, tugging at Will's hand.

She led him past a pool with a fountain under a wide-spreading tree, and then struck off to the left between beds of plants towards a huge many-trunked pine.

There was a massive stone wall with a doorway in it, and in the further part of the garden the trees were younger and the planting less formal.

Lyra led him almost to the end of the garden, over a little bridge, to a wooden seat under a spreading low-branched tree.

"Yes!" she said. "I hoped so much, and here it is, just the same... Will, I used to come here in my Oxford and sit on this exact same bench whenever I wanted to be alone, just me and Pan. What I thought was that if you – maybe just once a year – if we could come here at the same time, just for an hour or so, then we could pretend we were close again – because we would be close, if you sat here and I sat just here in my world –"

"Yes," he said, "as long as I live, I'll come back. Wherever I am in the world I'll come back here –"

"On Midsummer's Day," she said. "At midday. As long as I live. As long as I live"

I will love you forever, From Amber Spyglass, by Philip Pullman

I will love you forever; whatever happens.

Till I die and after I die, and when I find my way out of the land of the dead,

I'll drift about forever, all my atoms, till I find you again...

I'll be looking for you, every moment, every single moment.

And when we do find each other again, we'll cling together so tight that nothing and no one'll ever tear us apart.

Every atom of me and every atom of you...

We'll live in birds and flowers and dragonflies and pine trees and in clouds and in those little specks of light you see floating in sunbeams...

And when they use our atoms to make new lives, they won't just be able to take one, they'll have to take two, one of you and one of me, we'll be joined so tight...

Excerpt from The Bridge Across Forever, by Richard Bach

A soul mate 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 soul mate 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 soul mate is the one who makes life come to life.

Friendship, by Judy Bielicki

It is often said that it is love that makes the world go round.

However, without doubt, it is friendship, which keeps our spinning existence on an even keel.

True friendship provides so many of the essentials for a happy life

It is the foundation on which to build an enduring relationship,

it is the mortar which bonds us together in harmony, and it is the calm, warm protection we sometimes need when the world outside seems cold and chaotic.

True friendship holds a mirror to our foibles and failings, without destroying our sense of worthiness.

True friendship nurtures our hopes, supports us in our disappointments, and encourages us to grow to our best potential.

_____ and _____ came together as friends.

Today, they pledge to each other not only their love, but also the strength, warmth and, most importantly, the fun of true friendship.

Excerpt from 'The art of a good marriage', by Wilfred Arlan Peterson

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 having a mutual sense of values, and common objectives.

It is standing together and facing the world.

It is forming a circle that gathers in the whole family.

It is speaking words of appreciation, and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

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 not only marrying the right person -- it is being the right partner.

Blessing for a marriage, by James Dillet Freeman

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitement marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance, and understanding.

May you always need one another - not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you to know your fullness.

A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.

May you want one another, but not out of lack.

May you entice one another, but not compel one another.

May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another.

May you succeed in all important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces.

May you look for things to praise, often say, "I love you!" and take no notice of small faults. If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you hope to have good sense enough to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness of one another's presence - no more physical than spiritual, warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.

May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it loving one another.

Maybe, author unknown

Maybe... we are supposed to meet the wrong people before meeting the right one, so that when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift.

Maybe... it is true that we don't know what we have got until we lose it, but it is also true that we don't know what we have been missing until it arrives.

Maybe... the happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything, they just make the most of everything that comes their way.

Maybe... the best kind of love is the kind where you can sit on a sofa together never say a word, and then walk away feeling that it was the best conversation you've ever had.

Maybe... you should go for someone who makes you smile, because it only takes a smile to make a dark day seem bright.

Maybe... you should hope for enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, and enough hope to make you happy.

Maybe... love is not about finding the perfect person, it's about learning to see an imperfect person perfectly. When you do what you can, love will do what you can't.

A Vow, by Wendy Cope

*I cannot promise never to be angry;
I cannot promise always to be kind.
You know what you are taking on, my darling –
It's only at the start that love is blind.
And yet I'm still the one you want to be with
And you're the one for me – of that I'm sure.
You are my closest friend, my favourite person,
The lover and the home I've waited for.
I cannot promise that I will deserve you
From this day on. I hope to pass that test.
I love you and I want to make you happy.
I promise I will do my very best.*

Vow: The Simplest, Hardest and the Truest Thing, by Liz Lochhead

One: *We live in love, so finally are come today
(beyond the gladrags and the sweet bouquet
beyond cake or ring or all this fuss)
to this, the simplest and the truest thing for us.*

Other: *If you can say, my love – and hand on heart –
I will love you until death do us part –*

One: *– Hand on heart,
I will love you till death do us part.*

Other: *Then look me in my eyes – and now!
and here! – this kiss we kiss shall be our vow.*

Vow, by Roger McGough

*I vow to honour the commitment made this day
Which, unlike the flowers and the cake,
Will not wither or decay. A promise, not to obey
But to respond joyfully, to forgive and to console,
For once incomplete, we now are whole.
I vow to bear in mind that if, at times
Things seem to go from bad to worse,
They also go from bad to better.
The lost purse is handed in, the letter
Contains wonderful news. Trains run on time,
Hurricanes run out of breath, floods subside,
And toast lands jam-side up.
And with this ring, my final vow:
To recall, whatever the future may bring,
The love I feel for you now.*

Speak to me the song of science, by Tyler Knott Gregson

Speak to me the song of science, sing softly the lyrics of this universe, the infinite stars and lives lived spinning around them.

Tell the ratios, the theories, the probability stacked against us finding home in one another.

I will smile, nod over coffee cups and the steam lifting from them, and listen to that melody.

Sing to me this song, but know this, and hold it to your chest when darker nights come and stars forget the shine they were born for:

To me, the Universe is you, and despite the infinite algorithms that separated us,

I found you, and you, me and no definition of gravity will ever make more sense

Gravitation, by Albert Einstein

Gravitation cannot be held responsible for people falling in love.

How on earth can you explain in terms of chemistry and physics so important a biological phenomenon as first love?

Put your hand on a stove for a minute and it seems like an hour.

Sit with that special person for an hour and it seems like a minute.

That's relativity.

Here are a few more:

All I want, author Unknown

All I want is to love you

For the rest of my life....

To wake up every morning

With you by my side,

Knowing that no matter what happens

I'll be able to come home

To your loving arms.

All I want is to share everything with you....

To talk to you about our ideas, our dreams,

The little everyday things that make us laugh,

And the not-so-little things

That we can't help worrying about.

All I want is to give you my love....

As a place you can always come to for acceptance

Or the simple comfort that silence brings

When things left unspoken can still be understood.

All I want is to grow old with you...

To watch our life unfold,

Our dreams, one by one, come true.

All I want is to love you forever.

I promise you, by Myriah

*I can't promise you
That dark clouds
Will never hover
Over our lives Or that the future
Will bring us many rainbows .
I can't promise you that
Tomorrow will be perfect
Or that our lives will be easy.
I can promise you my everlasting
Devotion, my loyalty, my respect,
And my unconditional love for a lifetime .
I can promise you that
I'll always be here for you,
To listen and to hold your hand,
And I'll do my best to make you happy,
And make you feel loved.
I can promise you that
I can see you through a crisis
And pray with you,
Dream with you,
Build with you,
And always cheer you on
And encourage you.
I can promise you that
I'll willingly be your protector,
Your advisor, your counselor,
Your friend, your family,
Your everything.
I promise you.*

I'll still be loving you, by C David Hay

*When your hair has turned to winter
And your teeth are in a plate,
When your get up and go
Has gone to stop and wait - I'll still be loving you.
When your attributes have shifted
Beyond the bounds of grace,
I'll count your many blessings,
not the wrinkles in your face - I'll still be loving you.
When the crackle in your voice matches
that within your knee
and the times are getting frequent
that you don't remember me - I'll still be loving you.
Growing old is not a sin,
it's something we all do.
I hope you'll always understand - I'll still be loving you.*

What I have learned about love I learned from my dog, author unknown

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Run, romp, and play daily.

Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

Thrive on affection and let people touch you - enjoy back rubs and pats on your neck.

When you leave your yard, make it an adventure.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

No matter how often you're scolded, don't pout - run right back and make friends.

Bond with your pack.

On cold nights, curl up in front of a crackling fire.

When you're excited, speak up.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

If you stare at someone long enough, eventually you'll get what you want.

Don't go out without ID.

Leave room in your schedule for a good nap.

Always give people a friendly greeting.

If it's not wet and sloppy, it's not a real kiss.

Moving on, author unknown

Moving On.

Two hearts, one mind.

We leave behind

The single lives we led before.

The rings we share

True witness bear,

The vows we made

Shall never fade

And hand in hand

We open wide the door.

And through that door

Our future shines

Whatever may befall

We share it as we share our rings

Our partnership and all it brings.

Together.