

## Enhanced Marriage Ceremony

The Superintendent will greet everyone and make some introductory comments. They will ask if anyone has any legal objection to the marriage.

The couple are invited to stand and asked to confirm their identity. The Superintendent will talk briefly about marriage. If the couple wish, they may have a reading at this point.

The couple will then make the first set of vows, also known as the declaration of no impediment. They will each speak the following words, repeated a few words at a time after the Superintendent:

*"I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, AB, may not be joined in matrimony to CD."*

At this point the couple may have a reading if they wish.

The superintendent will invite the guests to stand and, if appropriate, explain that the couple have chosen to exchange rings as an ancient and traditional sign of their commitment to one another. The couple will then make the second set of vows, also known as the contracting vows. Each will speak the following words, a few words at a time after the Superintendent:

*"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, AB, do take thee, CD, to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband)."*

If exchanging rings, they will add:

*"I give you this ring as a symbol of our love and our marriage."*

Any personal vows the couple wish to make to one another will usually be made at this point. As these vows are personal and individual, they will only be spoken by the people making them, not the Superintendent.

There may be a final reading at this point, if wanted.

Once the vows have been completed the Superintendent will announce that the couple are lawfully joined in marriage and, if the couple wish, invite them to share a kiss.

The newly married couple and their witnesses will then be asked to check and sign the marriage register.

At the end of the ceremony there will be plenty of time for photographs of the couple, their witnesses, and guests.