

❖ RENEWAL OF VOWS ❖

KERRY SAYS:

Family and friends, on behalf of Jill and Jack, welcome and thank you for being here to celebrate and share in the joy that is their marriage.

Jill and Jack have invited you, their relatives and friends, to share with them this celebration. None of you were present 50 years ago when Jack and Jill exchanged their wedding vows. But over the past 50 years you have been important parts of their lives because, by your thoughts, your feelings and your acts of love and friendship shown towards them, you have strengthened their vows – your presence today is an affirmation that you will continue to take interest in their marriage.

Mary Smith is a special friend. She has known Jack for 60 years - indeed since he moved to the city for the first time as a 17 year old lad. She is now going to share some special words for both Jill and Jack here today.

Margaret reads her message.

Pat Jones is also a special friend. She has known Jill for 61 years – they were school friends. Pat also has a special message for you both.

Pat reads her message.

Jill and Jack, the renewal of your wedding vows is indeed a celebration of your achievements, of a successful marriage, of staying in love, and after 50 years of marriage, still remaining committed to one another.

You have already been legally married –and yet you have both taken this opportunity to reaffirm your love and commitment to each other, to celebrate what you have achieved together as husband and wife, and to look forward to the rest of your lives together.

We, as the friends and family of Jill and Jack, celebrate and support them, for the experience of their love has touched and continues to touch us all.... it is indeed fitting that we are all here to help celebrate this special day.

Jill and Jack would now like to share their thoughts with you.

JACK SAYS:

Darling, today is a very special day for both of us - 50 years ago we made a commitment to each other when we exchanged our wedding vows. We didn't realise at the time just how lucky we were going to be. Darling we always said we were made for each other in such a wonderful way.

Although at times, life has not been easy and we have had many ups and downs, we always have been there for each other, worked through the problems together, and have found ways to share our love and our future together.

You have always been the love of my life and God's special gift to me.

We have been blessed with a beautiful family – a family of 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

I pray for your love and continued support for the rest of our lives together. I will always love you.

JILL SAYS:

50 years ago when the future stretched out before us, I vowed to love you forever. We didn't know what lay before us and life brought many challenges. But we met these together and I am happy to say that, after all these years, I am still deeply in love with you.

I met you when I was just 17. I needed a partner who could dance – to escort me to the Ball. We danced together as if we had been partners forever - little did I realize that it was to be the start of a lifelong romance for me. And now, here we are, half a century later renewing the vows we made 50 years ago on the 5th June 1960.

You suggested that we should go out for an evening prior to the Ball to 'get to know each other'. I thought you'd take me somewhere romantic but you took me to a boxing show!!! Little did we realize at that point just how much boxing was to be a part of our future.

We had a wonderful time at the Ball – your smile sent me all a flutter and I guess I fell in love with you at that moment. Six weeks after our first date you proposed and we just knew that we were meant to be together always. Some of our happiest memories are of our 4 children, 8 grandchildren and greatgrandson. May we have many more years together.

We constantly tell each other how much we love the other. One of those impromptu ways is when you or I use our finger tips to write the initials, "ILY" on the other's arms and it may be something we do simply as we hold hands and take a walk together. Or the secret "ILY" messages you write in cards that you give me.

I will always love you my darling.

RENEWAL OF THE WEDDING VOWS

Jack and Jill I now ask you once again after 50 years of marriage, to exchange your wedding vows in front of your family and friends who love you dearly.

JACK:

50 years ago I, Jack, took you, Jill, to be my lawful wedded wife, to have and to hold, from that day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health. Today I reaffirm that vow to you with all my love.

JILL:

50 years ago I, Jill, took you, Jack, to be my lawful wedded husband, to have and to hold, from that day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health. Today I reaffirm that vow to you with all my love.

EXCHANGE OF WEDDING RINGS

A wedding ring symbolises the endlessness and the purity of love. It reminds us that we should treasure and protect that which we hold most valuable in life. Today Jill and Jack celebrate a long and happy journey together and mark the beginning of the rest of their lives together as husband and wife.

I now ask Jack to present the rings.

JACK:

With this ring I pledge my continued love for you. May we share many more happy years together.

JILL:

With this ring I pledge my continued love for you. May we share many more happy years together.

Through the years you have learned a lot about each other and you have grown together. You have learned about forgiveness.

It takes two understanding people to accept one another's faults

And still find it in their hearts to forgive each other and forget old arguments

You have learned about friendship

Friends stick together

They're always truthful to each other and they always comfort one another in times of turmoil

Most of all you have learned about love

It is something that takes time.

And after all your time together

Your love has never been stronger.

As you walk hand in hand, may you continue to lovingly minister to each other, but also continue to build an inspiring legacy to pass on to all those who choose to follow you along the path of married life.

A meeting between two beings who are made for each other is indeed a beautiful miracle.

You are both truly an inspiration to us all.

I now pronounce you now and forever more, husband and wife together.

You may now kiss your bride.

We have some signing to do now so I ask you to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and music until we return.

I also ask Jane and Susan to join us at the signing table.

Signing

Presentation

Jill and Jack would like to ask you all to remain behind for a group photograph. They will then look forward to catching up with you at the restaurant at 6.00pm.

As my last official duty of the day I would like to introduce to you all, Jill and Jack, still very much in love and still very much husband and wife.

PROPOSED FORMAT FOR THE AFTERNOON:

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| 1515 hrs: | Guests arrive.
Harpist is set up and plays soft, background music. |
| 1500 hrs: | Ceremony begins. |
| 1615 hrs: | Ceremony concludes. |
| 1615 hrs: | Kerry announces that photos will now be taken in the garden and makes a special request for guests to remain behind for a group photo with Jack and Jill. |

Jack to be waiting out the front with Kerry.

Granddaughters to walk in front of bride, scattering rose petals along the way.

Grandson, Jason, to accompany them with the rings (on a pillow).

David to escort Jill down the pathway to where Jack is waiting.

SPECIAL WORDS

Jack and Jill have asked two special guests (who have known them for many years) to say a few words about each of them.

The following is a nice poem I found that you may or may not like to use - please don't feel obliged.

Anniversary Of Our Love

Lets recall that moment
When our love had just begun
That special place in time
Where all our hopes were joined as one

Let us now reflect upon
The precious past we feel
The tender anniversary
Our hearts embrace as real

Let's remember all that happened
In our lives that day
To send a deeper message
Of devotion that would stay

Let's affirm all that we know
Of love and true affection
Started flowing when our dreams
Assumed the same direction

And now as I look back
At how our early passions grew
I celebrate and cherish
My discovery of you

Bruce B Wilmer

Kerry to determine where best this segment could fit into the formal side of the ceremony.

Margaret Norton (for Jack) who has known him for 60 years - since he moved to the city for the first time as a 17 year old lad.

Pauline Burton (for Jill) who has known her for 61 years – they were school friends in Year 8 at Muirden Business College