

Introduction – What is a celebrant?

A heart-led celebrant is a person whose life is dedicated to lifting people away from their daily lives to create a sacred space in order to perform a special ceremony, shaped with clients according to their beliefs, hopes and dreams.

The celebrant acts as a storyteller for a couple's love story and aims to bring love, harmony and truth by gathering information and heart-led intelligence which will provide the perfect experience on that special day.

Each ceremony is unique and bespoke, according to the wishes of the client and can include rituals and embellishments that will ensure the event is memorable for everyone. *After all*, the giving of vows to the one you love is the most important part of the day and should be inspiring, full of beauty, honesty and hope.

Ceremony Package – Fee £550

The following is included in your heart-led celebrant ceremony package but can be added to – the options are built around your love story and therefore are limitless.

- ♥♥ Initial meeting with couple
- ♥♥ Agreeing content and rituals to be performed or creating new activity (see list of options below)
- ♥♥ Writing a draft ceremony from information provided (see questionnaire)
- ♥♥ Individual support with vow writing – or creation of vows by celebrant if preferred
- ♥♥ Standard content: an opening welcome, the couple's love story, reading, declaration of intent, vows, rings, one ritual; signing of certificate; close
- ♥♥ Agree final ceremony structure and content
- ♥♥ Pre-ceremony rehearsal
- ♥♥ Performing ceremony on the day – leading all activities

NB: A copy of the vows and a signed certificate will be provided as a scroll and form part of your special day

Packages are also available for design and print of wedding invites, order of service and venue materials from Creative Streak Design – www.creativestreakdesign.co.uk and wedding photography from Imogen Kate – www.imogenkate.co.uk. Please ask for details.

Legalities

A wedding ceremony led by a celebrant is NOT legally binding in the UK – this must be carried out by a Registrar who is employed by the local authority. However, this is a very

straight forward process and usually costs under £100 for the Notice and Ceremony. See links below:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/births-deaths-and-marriages/register-office-fees>

<http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/683/civil-marriages-and-partnerships>

Ritual Options

A ritual is identified by having a noticeable start and finish to the activity. The nature of a ritual is that what is done and cannot be undone.

Each couple, family and ceremony is different; therefore the ritual needs to align with your personalities and your story. The ritual is a metaphor, for example, a ring expresses an unending circle of love; water represents purification, fire represents warmth and light.

*Rituals marked with a * are £25 extra to the standard package which includes one of the rituals listed. However, a bespoke ritual can be created if there are other ceremonies/traditions of cultural significance that you would like incorporated.*

Blessing of the Parents

Traditionally, the father would walk down the aisle and give away his daughter. There are many variations of 'giving away' and if you have a preference for another important figure in your life to give their blessing for the marriage, this can be incorporated.

Bubble Blowing

Done by all the guests after 'You may kiss the bride'.

Candle Lighting

Thinking about the element of fire, this is such a fundamental energy to any ceremony if at all possible to include. It might be as simple as having the room lit up with tea lights in old glass jam jars, or having a central candle on the altar.

Circle*

Creating a circle for the couple to stand in, made from pine cones, seashells, rope, ivy leaves, rose petals, something from nature or special to you as a couple. It creates a sense of ceremony and sacred space as you enter into your vows.

Community Vow

A participatory ritual to involve guests and ask them to support the marriage by answering a one-off question, or short series of questions (vows) to which they respond 'we do'. The guests can be asked to hold hands while this ritual is taking place to show they are 'as one' with their response.

Four Candle Ceremony*

Asking each parent of the couple to come forward and light one of four candles representing the four elements – earth, air, fire, water.

Hand fasting*

The binding of hands of the couple with ribbon or cord in public is a simple and beautiful tradition to symbolise marriage vows. The term – hand fasting – is from late medieval times, deriving from Old Norse: hand-festa, which means to strike a bargain by joining hands. Hand fasting represents the commitment of an intimate partnership.

The ribbon or other material can either be made by the couple to include tokens, talismans and charms or made by the celebrant from material that is in keeping with the theme of the ceremony. However, again - this is bespoke to your story.

Memorial Candle

A candle is lit in memory of the deceased or those that cannot be in attendance on the day.

Quaich - The Loving Cup*

A Quaich ceremony is a Scottish traditional two handled cup. The Quaich is often referred to as the love cup as you each take a handle to take a drink, showing you trust one another to share the cup. You can fill the cup with a drink of your choice, usually whisky or you can combine two drinks symbolising the two of you becoming one.

Symbolic of the sharing between the couple, it's an ancient vessel used by two families or clans, to celebrate a bond, with each leader partaking of the offered drink.

The Quaich ceremony would be conducted once the signing has been completed. Personalised Quaichs can be purchased with the couple's names engraved.

Ring Warming*

Passing the wedding rings around the guests inviting them to imbue the rings with a prayer, wish or a blessing for the marriage. (Rings should be tied securely with ribbon matching the wedding colours possibly on a twig of rosemary as this herb represents remembrance) This can be done before the ceremony starts and coordinated by the Best Man and / or the Ushers, led by the celebrant.

Rose Giving

The wedding couple gives a rose to their partner's parents as a way of welcoming them into the family.

Rose Petals

A child can sprinkle rose petals at the couple's feet. It is an ancient love charm. Alternatively, it can be done at the end of the ceremony to make the path ahead sweet.

Salt Ritual*

The bride passes a handful of salt to her lover and ensures that she doesn't spill any. S/he then passes this salt back just as carefully.

Words reflect this ancient tradition and the need for it not to be overused and always treated with care and respect.

Silence

A stand-alone time for reflection or gratitude. It affirms that we are in the midst of something outside day-to-day life.

Symbols of Life*

Wording can be created around these symbols and their connection to life.

Wine – two families; wheat – fertility; pepper – warmth; salt – preservation; bitter herbs – healing; water – purity.

Taste of Life*

This ritual is based on four bite-sized pieces of food that are sweet, bitter, sour, and salty (or hot).

The couple are each offered a taste and then a narration is related to how different tastes put together can make a wonderful, varied and amazing life. It's a very visual ritual and the guests will love this as the couple react to the tastes.

Tree Planting – Growing Together*

The couple plant two trees in one pot for them to grow together with a handful of soil from the area where they spent their childhood. This way they are bringing their past into the future.

Unity Bowl*

Guests are invited to place a marble or polished stone into a glass bowl before the ceremony while the celebrant narrates the significance and meaning of this ritual. The bowl then stays in the couple's home and they stir it from time to time to create a new mosaic.

Welsh Love Spoons*

A beautiful ritual which dates from 1667 which originated as a token of love whereby a man would sit up all night carving a wooden spoon for his beloved. These spoons are the Celtic way of saying 'I love you'.

The ritual involves the couple offering each other a food choice to one another whilst the celebrant performs a blessing signifying that they will never know hunger and will always have room at their table for others.