

Personalising your ceremony..

Handfasting

Handfasting is an ancient tradition with a beautifully simple meaning - binding your hands as you bind your lives. It's where the phrase "tying the knot" comes from, and it's one of the most symbolic and heartfelt moments you can include in your ceremony.



How it works

During a handfasting, your hands are tied together using ribbons, cords, or fabric. You can choose colours and textures that mean something to you - perhaps matching your wedding theme, representing family heritage, or symbolising qualities like love, loyalty, or strength.

As the cords are tied, I can share words that reflect your promises to each other, or invite friends and family to place a ribbon.



After your ceremony, I will take away your ribbons and present them for you in a beautiful frame!

Sand ceremony

During a sand ceremony, two or more containers of different coloured sand are used to represent individuals or families who are uniting together.

How it works

The participants pour their individual containers of sand into a larger container, such as a glass vase or frame, to create a unique pattern or design.

The sand ceremony can be a beautiful way to symbolise the blending of families or cultures or the unity of two individuals in marriage. It is also a fabulous way to involve family members or young children into your ceremony!

After the ceremony, the sand-filled container can serve as a keepsake or a reminder of your special day.



Wine Box Ceremony

A wine box is a fantastic addition to your wedding ceremony - particularly if you are a couple who enjoy a glass or two!!

This symbolic element involves a couple sealing a bottle of wine and love letters in a box during their wedding ceremony.

The idea is for the couple to open the box and read the letters together on a future anniversary or milestone, such as their 5th, 10th, or 25th wedding anniversary.

The wine box and letters serve as a symbol of the couple's commitment to each other and their shared love, as well as a way to reflect on the memories and milestones they have shared since their wedding day.

And if wines not your thing you could use your favourite spirit instead! 🍷🍾



Cocktail Mixing

🍹 You may be planning to serve cocktails as part of your wedding celebrations - but what about including one in your ceremony?

🍸 Including a cocktail ceremony is a fun way to inject your personality into your ceremony and add a quirky element that your guests will love and be sure to talk about long after your special day!

🍷 You can create your own cocktail during your ceremony using ingredients that are symbolic and meaningful to you.



Ring warming

♥ A ring-warming ceremony, is a symbolic ritual that involves passing the couple's wedding rings among their guests for blessings, well-wishes, or prayers.

♥ During a ring-warming ceremony, the couple's wedding rings are tied together with a ribbon or popped into a bag. The rings are then passed from guest to guest, with each guest holding the rings briefly and offering their blessings, positive thoughts, or prayers for the couple's future together.

♥ It is the perfect way to include all your family and friends.



Surprise Ring Bearers or Witnesses

This is a great way to include guests and introduce an element of surprise!

Before the ceremony I will tape your wedding rings or a token or a pen underneath one chair in the congregation.

When it comes to the exchanging of rings I will ask the guests to look under their chairs and the person with the ring/pen etc will be the special guest who gets to be the ring bearer or witness your certificate!



Ceremony selfie/paparazzi minute

Ceremony selfie:

This is where I will ask your guests to take a selfie (usually during the certificate signing or closing words) they can then send you this along with a message of love or some marriage advice!



Paparazzi minute:

If you are wanting an 'unplugged ceremony' - you might consider giving your guests a paparazzi minute towards the end of your ceremony - where they have a minute to take some fab pictures of you.

Communal we do's!

Asking your guests to pledge their own promises to love and support you.

'We do' signs can be provided so that guests know when to say their bit - another great way to include children or other family members who can be responsible for holding up the sign.

we  do

Mr and Mrs

If you are after something really fun and light hearted - you could include a game of Mr and Mrs in your ceremony - guests can even vote too with coloured ribbons or mini paddles!



Love Locks

If you're looking for a symbolic moment in your ceremony that's both romantic and visually memorable, a love lock ritual might be just the thing. Inspired by the tradition of couples attaching padlocks to bridges around the world, this gesture is a beautiful way to represent the strength and permanence of your commitment.



How it works

You can choose a lock that feels meaningful - engraved with your names or wedding date, or even hand-decorated by you - and during the ceremony, I'll guide you through locking it together and throwing away the keys (or keeping them somewhere special if you're sentimental types!). Some couples like to invite their children, parents, or even friends to add their own smaller locks, symbolising the wider circle of love and support that surrounds you.

Whether we attach the lock to a specially chosen keepsake, a decorative stand, or something meaningful at your venue, this little moment is a gorgeous way to "lock in" your promises to each other—and it often makes for a lovely photo too!

Your Greatest Hits: The Love Story Album

Creating a Personalised Soundtrack



Perfect if Music is a huge part of you and your relationship!

Music has a magical way of taking us back to a moment, a feeling, or a milestone - and your ceremony can be a beautiful reflection of the soundtrack that's played alongside your love story.



How it works

I'll ask you to come up with a list of songs that mean the most to you - maybe the one that was playing when you first met, the anthem of your first holiday together, the track that always gets you both on the dance floor, or that quiet tune that helped you through tougher times. Each song can represent a chapter in your journey, and I can introduce them with a little story about why they matter as part of your wedding ceremony.

I will then create an album-style order of service - designed like a classic record sleeve or playlist cover, featuring the titles of your chosen songs, the 'tracks' of your ceremony, and maybe even a few personal liner notes. It's a brilliant keepsake for your guests and a lovely way to involve them in your story from start to finish.

Take a shot we tied the knot!

Consider incorporating a celebratory shot to toast your love! The "Take a Shot, We've Tied the Knot" tradition is a fun way to celebrate your wedding or vow renewal.

How It Works:

After exchanging vows and sealing your marriage with a kiss, you and your partner can take a shot together! You can also extend the celebration by providing small shots on seats and inviting your wedding party or even all your guests to join in, adding a lighthearted, fun moment to the ceremony.



Toast

Remember, with a celebrant ceremony, you are allowed to serve drinks before and during your ceremony, so you can also include a toast at the end if you wish!



Involving the People Who Know You Best

One of my favourite ways to add a truly personal touch to your ceremony is by chatting with your nearest and dearest - your parents, siblings, or close friends. These are the people who've known you the longest, watched your relationship grow, and often have a lovely perspective to share.



How It Works:

If you're happy for me to do so, I'll reach out to one or two of them for a quick chat. I'll ask them what they love most about you as individuals and as a couple, and if they have any memories or pieces of advice for your future together. These little gems often bring a beautiful mix of humour, emotion, and warmth to your ceremony—whether it's a cheeky story about how you first met or a touching reflection on your journey so far.

Including their voices (even if just in a few short lines) can make the ceremony feel even more meaningful, especially for them. It's a way to honour the role they've played in your lives, and to celebrate the wider circle of love and support around you both!

Unity Candle

A unity candle ceremony involves the lighting of two individual candles, often by the bride and groom, which are then used to light a larger, central candle known as the unity candle.

The lighting of the individual candles represents the joining of two separate lives into one, while the lighting of the unity candle symbolises the union of the couple and their families. The ceremony can also include other family members, such as parents or children, lighting candles as well to signify the joining of families.

The unity candle ceremony is often accompanied by music or readings that are meaningful to the couple. The unity candle can then be kept as a memento of the wedding ceremony.



Jumping the Broom

Jumping the Broom is an old wedding custom rich in heritage that has its origins rooted in African American History.

Jumping the Broom symbolically represents sweeping away your single lives and jumping into your married future. The wooden handle represents the strength of your commitment, the straw represents family, and the ribbons hold you together. The act itself represents love, togetherness, loyalty and respect – important ingredients in the recipe for a successful marriage!

According to folklore, in order to be married, a couple had to jump over a broom that had been placed in a doorway – without touching the broomstick. This gesture is much akin to carrying the bride over the threshold. A positive result meant that they were married.

Jumping the Broom is a fun and meaningful way to end your ceremony. It is also the perfect way to get others involved by having them hold the broomstick for you.



Poems/music./readings

In addition to all the above ideas, you can of course include poems, readings, quotes from your favourite films or books, we can have a sing-along or live music - and there are none of the restrictions that using a registrar may mean you have to stick with.

I'm also open to any other creative or unique rituals - If it's legal I'm happy to give it a go!

Happy wedding planning!



Deb