

Outline of Wedding Ceremony

Welcome

- ∞ An introduction of myself and the role I will play in leading your ceremony
- ∞ A general outline of what the ceremony will involve
- ∞ Housekeeping rules and inviting guests to participate in your ceremony

Bride or Couple's Entrance

How would you like to enter - together or separately?
The bride with her father? It is up to you!

Introduction

- ∞ Introducing you, the couple, and what your wishes are for your ceremony
- ∞ A statement of intention – why we are all here
- ∞ Welcoming family and friends and highlighting the importance of their presence
- ∞ Reference to your venue reflecting any special significance this holds to you

1st Reading

This sets the tone for your ceremony – ones that reflect on love or marriage are particularly appropriate.

Your story as a couple

This provides some background to your wedding and can include:

- ∞ How you first met and what you first thought of each other
- ∞ Your journey, how you have progressed from when you first met to how you are now
- ∞ Significant milestones, such as buying your first house, having children
- ∞ An important part of your relationship i.e. common interests and hobbies
- ∞ When and how you got engaged
- ∞ Your hopes for married life

2nd Reading

If you would like to include a reading or poem that is humorous or more light-hearted it goes particularly well after your story.

Thoughts on Marriage

This includes the more serious aspect of getting married and you making a commitment to each other

3rd Reading

This is an appropriate time to have a reading that highlights the different aspects of marriage and what it involves.

Promises/Vows

You can make your commitments to each other in a variety of different ways. Vows can be repeated a line at a time or you can agree to a commitment read out by myself. Alternatively, you can read your vows from a held card.

You can write your own vows based on what you think of each other and your shared aspirations for the future. They can be humorous, but it is important that they also include a serious element. You can keep your vows secret from each other, but it is important that you share them with me.

Exchange of Rings

Often at this point in the ceremony an explanation is given of the significance of the wedding ring. Commitments made whilst exchanging rings are usually repeated a line at a time, after myself.

Pronouncement of Husband and Wife/Partners for life

4th Reading - Blessing

As the ceremony draws to a close a blessing or well wishing are particularly poignant.

Closing Remarks

Other ideas for personalising your ceremony

- ☞ Lighting unity candles - two candles representing your families are lit at the beginning of the ceremony and then after you have made your commitments to each other you light one main candle together.
- ☞ Wish tree – when invitations are sent out, guests are asked to bring a wish for you for the future, which they hang on a tree during or after the ceremony.
- ☞ Handfasting – ribbons are wound round your hands whilst you are making your commitments to each other.
- ☞ Tying the knot – two cords are tied together to form a fisherman’s knot, to represent the joining of your two lives
- ☞ Owl flies and lands on your arm with rings or handfasting ribbons
- ☞ Marriage Certificate or Special Picture – signed by you as part of the ceremony and then afterwards, by all your guests.
- ☞ Warming of the rings – your wedding rings are passed around your guests and they are invited to make a wish for your future
- ☞ Sand blending ceremony – different coloured sand is blended together, representing the joining together of your two families.

Please note that there is no set format you have to follow, this is just to give you some ideas of what you can include in your ceremony!