

## Outline of Ceremony

### **Introduction**

- ☞ An introduction of myself as celebrant and the role I will play in leading the ceremony
- ☞ A general outline of what the ceremony will involve, i.e. how long it will last and how it will start and finish
- ☞ A statement of intention – why we are all here
- ☞ Introducing your child and what your wishes are for their ceremony
- ☞ Welcoming family and friends and highlighting the importance of their presence and their role in the ceremony

### **Your Child's Story**

- ☞ When and where were they born
- ☞ What they are like
- ☞ What they like and dislike doing
- ☞ Why you have chosen their name/s?
- ☞ What their names mean?

### **Readings**

Throughout the ceremony you can include readings and music of your choice.

### **Thoughts on Family Life**

As parents you might like to acknowledge your own journey through life possibly acknowledging your own upbringing or endorsing your values. Alternatively, you may like to celebrate your marriage or the relationship that you share.

- ☞ What your child means to your family?
- ☞ What they have brought in to your lives?
- ☞ What you enjoy doing together as a family?

### **Parental Aspirations/Commitments**

You can write your own commitments based on your values and your shared aspirations for the future. Alternatively, you can choose from set examples.

## **Appointment of Guide parents/ Supporting Adults /Guardians**

This can include why you have chosen these people for this important role. This can be an appropriate time for Guide Parents to present a gift to your child.

Guide Parents can make joint commitments to your child. These can be written by you the parents or by themselves or you can choose from set examples.

## **Family and Friends**

This is an opportunity to recognise Grandparents or other significant family members or friends and the special role that they play in your child's life.

## **High point of Ceremony – Welcoming/Naming**

### **Well wishing**

As the ceremony draws to a close a well wishing is a special way of sending your child into the future with a sense of support and good wishes from all who are present. Before this, it is sometimes appropriate to include a period of quiet reflection to enable guests to have their own thoughts or prayers.

### **Closing Remarks**

What is happening next - a toast, drinks etc? Sometimes it is appropriate for a guest to lead three cheers.

## **Other ideas that can be incorporated into the Ceremony**

- ☞ Lighting a candle to represent your child's life
- ☞ A Wish tree – when invitations are sent out, guests are asked to bring a wish for your child for the future, which they hang on a tree during the ceremony
- ☞ A Naming Certificate/Picture – signed by all guests
- ☞ A Naming Book which is presented to your child
- ☞ Planting a tree or sowing some seeds
- ☞ Presentation of gifts, especially ones of great family significance for example football scarves
- ☞ Making a fingerprint tree picture

***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!***