

## **CEREMONY IDEAS FOR YOUR WEDDING**

As an Independent Celebrant I will help you create and then conduct your unique and individual Ceremony where ever and whenever you wish. All you need to do is choose the time, place, guests and style, and I will create vows, readings and words so that they are perfectly suited for you, your family and your friends.



Here are some ideas for symbolic and traditional rituals for you to choose from. I also include spiritual or faith-based beliefs in your ceremony.

Together we will create meaningful memories, which will bind you closer and give joy to all the special people on your special day.



## 1. Sand Ceremony

A growing favourite wedding trend, the [sand ceremony](#) is a wonderful ceremony alternative. Its meaning is simple and beautiful: two becoming one. The bride and groom mix two different colours of sand into one container, thus symbolising their lives and hearts entwined. Once combined, it would be extremely difficult to separate the sand out again, just as the bride and groom are joined together.



After the ceremony, you are left with a decorative item you can put on display in your home. You don't have to limit yourself to the straight and narrow though—your containers don't need to be a simple, long glass vase. Opt for [shaped glasses](#), or an [hourglass](#)!

There are so many different [colours of sand](#) to choose from. It could be your birth month colour, your favourite colour, a colour tied to a memory, a colour you think matches your personality, your wedding colour scheme.

For a beautiful effect, use colours that, when mixed, become a new colour. e.g. blue and red becoming purple. But it's totally your choice! Any [colour mix](#) would probably look gorgeous!

Infuse even more meaning into this ceremony by collecting your sand from a [favourite beach](#), or even include your children in the ceremony—you can have more than three sand containers, with the sand to symbolise anything from shared love or spirituality.

Sand ceremonies are a fantastic idea for outdoor weddings to get that natural feel, and it's a double win if you're planning a beach wedding.

Ideal for outdoor weddings this ceremony option symbolizes the joining of the couple in their new family. I often suggest this ritual when there are young children involved and the couple is looking for a way to include the children.

You don't even have to use sand for this ceremony—alternatives include [salt or spices or even glitter or feathers!](#)

## [2. Water Ceremony](#)

A lot like the sand ceremony, this ceremony blends two [coloured waters](#) into one. It's advised that you begin experimenting with colours before the wedding so that the mixing gives a colour you really like. Unlike with the sand ceremony, where you can get clear layers and blended layers, water *really* mixes together.

[Ink](#) would be wonderful in this ceremony—the mixing ink in clear water could look wonderful. Certain liquids can also give a layered effect.

Make sure you choose a container with a stopper so you can take it home with you.



### [3. Wine Ceremony](#)

The wine ceremony, again, shows the merging of two into one by [two wines](#) being blended into one (possibly red wine and white wine). Then the bride and groom each drinks from the shared container. This sharing of a cup is symbolic of togetherness and I say some beautiful words whether you [share a cup or drink from separate cups](#).



### [4. Love Letters Ceremony](#)

Both the bride and groom write a [love letter](#) to each other. These are locked in a [box with a bottle of wine and some wine glasses](#), ready for later in the marriage. Open it up on an anniversary and share a drink of wine and read the letters you wrote for each other. Here you have a reminder of why you love each other, there and ready for the future. (Maybe you could even combine this with the Wine Ceremony? Keep some of the wine from the ceremony bottled so that you might drink it again?)

## 5. Candle Ceremony

This is a very romantic wedding ceremony that has so many creative opportunities for you to make it unique and personal to you. In it you can include your family as well, and the lit candles in a dull room always look beautiful.



The bride and groom each has a [candle](#), and there is a third, main one between them. This main candle is lit, perhaps by the father of the bride, (or by all of the couple's parents?) and then the bride and groom light their own candles from this main one. Then the rest of the family can [light their candles](#) from it as well.

Alternatively the bride and groom could light each other's candles, and together they light the main one (that the rest of the family lights theirs from). The merging flames will show their unity and strengthened love and shared lives.



You could make this ceremony even more interesting by using lanterns or small flaming torches?

## 6. Tree Planting Ceremony

Planting a tree is a physical manifestation that symbolises the growth of your relationship. Together you can see the tree grow just as your love and married life does, and you must nurture it in order to keep it alive.

You gather two pots of soil, possibly from a special, significant place, and [plant a tree](#) in the combined soil. Water it together with two watering cans (perhaps, again, with water from a meaningful place), or even [one shared watering can](#). You may even consider including your guests or immediate family and friends—ask them to add their own scatters of soil or seeds.

Make the ceremony even more symbolic by choosing the tree due to its meaning—look in mythology or lore or even use a cutting from a tree that is special to you. You can even plant a tree each if you want to, and twist them together as they grow?

Don't stick so closely to just planting trees though—maybe you could make a [mini garden or herbs](#)



## 7. Breaking Bread Ceremony

The [Bread](#) Breaking Ceremony is a Bulgarian tradition of sharing and breaking of the bread. Traditionally the mothers will come forward to join in this portion of the ceremony. They will offer the bread to the bride and groom and hold a dish with [honey](#). The bride and groom each take a firm hold on the bread. On the count of three they pull on and tear the bread. Whoever gets the larger half of the bread is the winner and according to tradition will be the leader of the household. The bride and groom each dip a piece of the bread into honey and feed the other. This ceremony of dipping the bread in honey and feeding it to the bride and groom symbolizes the sweet things that life brings.

## 8. Handfasting and Tying the Knot Ceremony

Handfasting the bride and groom's hands and wrists with cord, rope or a knot.

It's often said that this is where we get the expression "tying the knot" from, and often at the end of the wedding ceremony as a final promise from one person to the other to bind their lives together.



is the joining of groom's hands using vines, ribbon tied into

that this is the expression "knot" from, and often at the end of the wedding ceremony as a final promise from one person to the other to bind their lives together.

The material should probably be significant to you, like a strip of cloth from the dress you wore for your first date with your husband-to-be. And there's nothing to stop you incorporating jewellery or chains of flowers either.

Use your imagination to get stunning uniqueness. Also think carefully about what **kind of knot** you wish to tie your hands into. Each can carry a different meaning, and so one may suit you and your partner better than the others. Some types of knots include Infinity Knots, Fisherman's Knots and Trinity Knots.



## 9. The Rose Ceremony

The rose has always been the flower most associated with love, and the Rose Ceremony incorporates this to symbolise the couple's love for one another, and the joining in love of two families. The couple share two roses, and choose any number of family members they wish to take part, with one rose given to each.

To perform the [Rose Ceremony](#), I set up three vases – one large central one, and two smaller ones on each side. The bride and groom hold one rose each of a chosen colour, usually red, and also give a single rose to the members of the family who would like to take part.

The family roses can be of the same colour as the couple's, or different – for example, the couple have red roses while the family have white or even a different coloured rose for each family member.



At an agreed point during the ceremony, the couple place their roses one in each of the smaller side vases. The family members then approach one by one and place their roses into the central vase. [This symbolises the families of the bride and groom joining together.](#)

The bride and groom then take their individual roses and exchange them as their “first gift” to each other. They then place the roses in the central vase, to symbolise [joining of their newly created marriage to their families.](#)

Some couples like to dry them afterwards for a memento of their day.

Roses have always symbolised love and beauty so incorporating them into the wedding ceremony seems completely natural. The charm behind the Rose Ceremony is in the visual representation of the love the bride and groom have for each other. On this most special day it is important to include this love, and the love of the families that are about to be united.

## 10. Exchanging of Rings



Your rings are a lasting symbol of the promises you make to each other and exchanging rings is a popular ceremony which can include members of your family and friends - or even pets - carrying the rings to you both.

## 11. Book Gifting Ritual

Words are the way we convey our most inner feelings so presenting a [special book](#) to each other with your own personal inscription inside captures your love for all time

## 12. Chocolate Ceremony

Chocolate is well known for giving moments of pleasure so why not include it in your special ceremony. [Chocolate](#) can also be combined with the Wine ceremony.

## 13. Cocktail Making and, even, Sandwich Making Rituals!

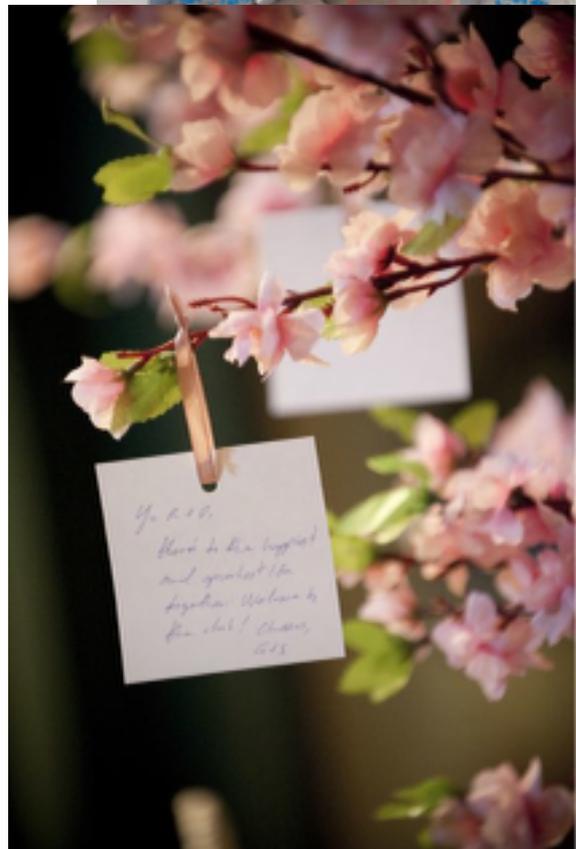
Invent your own [cocktail](#) and even a [sandwich](#), one you will make and share with each other - your unique recipe can be given out for all your guests to try at home. Two wonderful ceremonies to show off your skills in the kitchen.

**There are hundreds of alternative wedding union ideas due to the personalisations of ceremonies and traditions.**

These could include:

- Having guests bless special [stones](#) and write their wishes for the couple on them
- Blowing [bubbles](#) or releasing [doves](#). [Doves](#) choose one partner for life and make this commitment until death. It is said that if doves are seen on your wedding day, a happy home is assured. It is the belief that releasing doves is a ceremony option that signifies new beginnings.

- Locking two **locks** together (and throwing away the keys? Or trusting your own key to the hands of your significant other?)
- Perhaps you and your other half could each press one of your favourite **flowers** between two pages of your favourite book?
- **Fingerprint Tree** - Ask each guest to press their finger into the ink and make their own unique fingerprint on the tree. They then sign their "leaf". A lasting memory of your special day.



**Wishing Tree** - A beautiful silk Apple Blossom tree for your family and friends to tie wishes to throughout the day. The tags can be in any shape - hearts, birds, stars or decorated luggage labels. Let your imagination go wild! At the end of the day collect the labels and place in your memory box as a reminder of your wonderful day.

- **Guest Book** - Bring a Guest Book to your day and ask your guests to write messages to you on the right hand paper so that you can place a photograph of them on the left hand side of the paper in the future. Wonderful to bring out on your Anniversary to reminisce.



Especially suitable for Beach Ceremonies - guests write their messages and wishes to you both on [paper boats](#) and the Bride and Groom [kayak](#) out into the water and release them to the elements. When they have disappeared all the wishes will come true!



We live in an age when lots of us have more freedom of choice than ever for our weddings. There are now very few hard-and-fast rules, and you can choose everything from your venue to your flowers. You decide what you want to do. ... Your wedding, your call.

I look forward to hearing from you to discuss your unique and amazing celebration.

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CEREMONIES AS INDIVIDUAL AS YOU ARE

