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How to make your wedding day unforgettable

Read my guide to find inspiration and ideas on
how to create a personalised ceremony

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Hello!

I'm Dawn and I'm passionate about creating ceremonies that feel one-of-a-kind. Romantic, personal, funny, surprising ... or a joyful mix of all of the above. Whatever your style, my job is to help you shape a moment in time that feels unmistakably you.

Thank you so much for downloading this guide. Whether you're newly engaged or knee-deep in planning already, this is your space to explore how to make your ceremony just as personal and joy-filled as the rest of your day. Follow my guide and you will have a ceremony that is completely unique to you!

You don't have to do "ordinary", and together we can create something truly memorable. This guide will give you clarity, confidence and inspiration

Ready? Let's begin.

What's your style?

You don't need to know exactly what you want yet but having a sense of your style helps everything else fall into place. Here are some ideas.

1. Romantic & Meaningful: Emotional, intimate and heartfelt.

Perfect for couples who love storytelling and tender moments.

2. Modern & Minimalist: Clean, simple and elegant.

Focus on the words, your vows, and the connections.

3. Fun & Playful :Relaxed vibes, laughter, personality.

Ideal for couples who want a joyful, light-hearted ceremony.

4. Family-Focused: Warm, inclusive and memorable.

Includes children, family members, or blended families.

5. Symbolic & Ritual-Based

Think handfasting, ring warming, unity candle or something totally different.

Tip: Don't choose yet. Just notice which style made you smile.





Your ceremony checklist

When checking through this list, remember that we can also talk through lots of ideas to make all or any of these completely unique! Or we can create new traditions and rituals based on your personality, interests and relationship.

There are no rules, the sky is the limit! You get to choose what fits and skip anything that doesn't.

Your entrance (and exit!)

Your entrance is a real 'wow' moment for everyone involved in your ceremony so it's worth thinking it through carefully! Will you walk down the aisle with a parent, together as a couple, with your children, a sibling or even your best friend? Want an unconventional flower girl? A choreographed arrival? Let's talk about ideas.

Your exit can be classic, confetti-filled, or a full surprise moment. Anything goes.

Music choices

Music shapes atmosphere. Go traditional, go cinematic, go nostalgic, go bold or ask a talented friend to play something live.

Think about:

- Entrance
- Certificate signing (if you include it)
- Exit
- Or anywhere else within the ceremony because with a celebrant, music has no rules.

Your love story

This is where the creative element of your ceremony really comes into its own.

I'll send you both a couples questionnaire that captures all the details about your relationship, the fun moments, your journey, your quirks. From there, I use my creative skills to craft a story that keeps your guests engaged, smiling, and often reaching for tissues. You always have final say on what's included.

Personal vows

Whether traditional, collaborative, humorous or deeply romantic, I'll help you shape vows that feel right for you.

Writing your vows doesn't have to feel terrifying. Here's a simple structure that I use with my couples:

1. Take a moment to reflect what you love about them
2. Think about a story or detail that captures your relationship
3. How do you want your promises to sound? (serious, heartfelt, or funny or all three!)
4. What are your hopes and dreams for your future life together?

Example: "I promise to support every dream you chase, even the slightly wild ones."

Remember: the aim is to make it personal, not perfect!

Readings or poems

These make lovely interludes, but they're optional. You can choose something meaningful and ask a friend or loved one to read. Or, if you're feeling especially inspired you could even tap into your inner poet and write your own. I'll share my library of ideas too.

Symbolic elements

Your choice here is limitless! These can add a real 'wow' moment to your ceremony bringing your guests together in ways you, and they, might never have experienced before. Fun, personalised, immersive, sometimes incredibly poignant and always hugely memorable.

The following pages give you some examples. Of course, we can always come up with a new ritual that means something special to you both. If you have the ideas, I'll help you bring them to life!

Handfasting: tying the knot

This ancient Celtic ritual involves gently binding your hands together with ribbons or cords to symbolise your connection.

Each loop or knot can represent a promise: loyalty, laughter, courage, or whatever you want to bring into your marriage.



Ring warming: a circle of love

Before you exchange rings, they're passed among your guests so each person can hold them briefly and offer a silent blessing or wish.

By the time they reach your hands, your rings are filled with the love and support of everyone in the room, a lovely reminder that you're never alone in this journey.



Love Letter Box: a future keepsake

Write letters to each other in the lead-up to your wedding, sharing your hopes, memories, or private thoughts. Then, during the ceremony, seal them in a box to be opened on a milestone anniversary... or a future day when you need a little reminder of your "why".



Tree planting: growing together

If you're planning an outdoor or countryside wedding, a tree planting ceremony is a gorgeous way to symbolise the love you're growing and the roots you're putting down together.

You can involve children, friends or family too and the tree becomes a living, growing reminder of your promises long after the confetti's cleared.



Jumping the broom: a fresh start

This ritual has its roots in African-American history, it symbolises sweeping away the past and jumping into a new life together.

It's full of energy and often comes at the very end of the ceremony. It also provides a great photo opportunity!



Tea ceremony: honouring your families

Adapted from Chinese tradition, a tea ceremony allows you to honour your families by serving them tea during the ceremony.

It's a respectful way to include your parents and brings a moment of calm and connection to the day.

Love locks: your love locked in

In this romantic ritual, you each lock a padlock as you say your vows, sealing your promises for life. You could keep the keys, throw them away, or give them to someone special.

A lovely symbolic moment with a modern twist and something tangible to take home.



Sand ceremony: blending your lives

A sand ceremony involves pouring different coloured sands into a shared vessel creating layers that can never be separated, just like your lives.

This is especially lovely for involving children or blending families.

Cocktail ceremony: cheers to your love

Each take a sip from the same glass (or your signature cocktail) to represent your shared life ahead, savouring both the sweet and the strong moments.

You can even create a recipe together and gift little bottles to your guests as a keepsake.



Oathing stones: vows set in stone

Inspired by Scottish tradition, this ritual invites you to place your hands on a stone as you make your vows, anchoring your promises in something timeless.

You could personalise the stone with your names or invite guests to hold smaller stones and place them in a vessel afterwards as a collective blessing.

Unity candle: two flames become one

Two individual candles are lit, often by parents, before you use their flames to light a single unity candle together.

This beautifully symbolises your lives coming together, along with the love and support of both families.



Video messages: from those who couldn't be there

Whether it's messages from loved ones, clips of your pets at home, or a tribute to someone missed, consider weaving video into the ceremony.

A lovely way to bring everyone into your moment, even if they can't be there in person.

GET IN TOUCH TODAY!

These rituals are just ideas. If something resonates, we'll shape it in a way that feels natural and meaningful. If nothing here feels quite right, don't worry, I'll help you dream up something totally new that fits your story.

Need help choosing or combining rituals?

That's what I'm here for. Whether you're planning a countryside wedding with dogs and wildflowers or a relaxed family gathering with heartfelt touches, I'll make sure your ceremony will feel like you through and through.



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