

THE CEREMONY

more than just the bit before the bar opens!

with Kelly Hawes
modern celebrant



*For fun-loving couples where a
standard ceremony just won't do!*

Weddings are a celebration of love!

So why do so many ceremonies feel sombre and formal?
Let's make your ceremony stand out from the crowd. It'll be full of joy and laughter, a truly memorable and totally enjoyable experience for you and your guests

WELCOME!

I'm delighted you're considering ditching the ordinary for something more you!

Hi, I'm Kelly, this is me trying to look natural in the photo!



I'm here to make sure your wedding ceremony is memorable for all the right reasons. I focus on the real stuff; the stories your friends will recognise and the awkward first date that somehow led to a second.

On your wedding day I'll handle the flow, and keep your guests in line, you just concentrate on turning up on time!

You'll be glad you didn't just skip the ceremony to go straight to the party.



Since training in 2017, I've gotten pretty good at this - not being big headed or anything, but the awards I've won will back me up on that! The most recent being Celebrant of the Year 2025 in the Herts & Beds Wedding Awards.

If you're a fan of Married at First Sight you will have spotted me officiating ceremonies in each of the last five series since 2021.

I've worked with many different couples at many different types of venues and what's always the focus of my ceremonies is YOU, so it'll fit

- Your Vision: I don't expect you to have all the answers yet.
- Your Traditions: We'll figure out which ones to keep and which ones to bin.
- Your Style: Making sure the whole thing sounds like you, not me.

This all ensures that the ceremony sounds just like you!

MY STYLE

Just what does fun and modern mean?



I love a wedding! Really I do, but I've spent years watching wedding after wedding that are pretty monotonous and literally the same from one to the other. Have you ever found yourself switching off during a wedding ceremony?

When I discovered Celebrancy in 2017 I was astounded that there is another way!

By having a ceremony written for you, it can be anything. After a couple of years trying to appeal to anyone who wanted something different, I soon discovered that my favourite people are those who have travelled and have a sense of fun, who live life to the full and enjoy nothing more than doing all those things together.

And so my style was born! I celebrate everything about you both;

- The Good Bits: Your best traits and why you're a great team.
- The 'Real' Bits: The annoying habits and inside jokes that make you, you.
- The Fun Bits: A ceremony that feels like a celebration, not a lecture.

Let me tell your tales with passion, emotion but also a little tongue in cheek! I'll deliver a ceremony full of joy, laughter and celebration that your guests will feel included within, rather than mere spectators looking at their watches and wondering when the bar will open. Keep the feelings, ditch the wedding bits you hate and include some banter (only in the right places of course!)



And yes, as you can see from this photo alcohol is allowed in the ceremony!

DOES IT LOOK WEIRD THOUGH?

The short answer is No!

The long answer; well, if you want me dressed as an inflatable T-Rex, then yes it might look weird!

But if you mean, will it look and feel like a wedding, well then that's a resounding YES, of course it will!

I think many people think that a Celebrant wedding is all a bit weird with strange rituals and missing the traditional elements that makes it feel like a wedding. But that's not the case (unless you want it to be of course!)



Generally I have found that most couples want a traditional type of structure to the wedding ceremony; a formal entrance, guests reading or singing, exchanging meaningful vows and rings.

These iconic moments can absolutely be included, or left out, according to your preference. I'll explain each and every step so that you can decide who will have an entrance, how and from where - these days there's no need to do things the same as they've always been done, I mean you must have seen the best man handing out beers during an entrance and flower grannies scattering petals? If not, where have you been hiding?



You can have whatever you want, there are no rules with a Celebrant led wedding as we are not operating under the umbrella of the law, which brings me to the legal bit - see the next page.

IT'S NOT LEGAL, SO IS IT FAKE?

Nothing fake here - just ceremonial!

Can we just ditch the word fake please, I just hate that terminology!

Look at it this way, does signing a piece of paper make a marriage? No - you two make a marriage; by working hard, working together and showing each other unconditional love and respect.



No one says a birthday party is fake because the birth certificate isn't there, or that a christening is fake because it's not a legal process. All we are doing is taking the admin part out of the ceremony.

The piece of paper makes it legal - nothing more, nothing less.

I really want to change the perception of ceremonial weddings rather than legal weddings. As I've already said, your wedding day should be a celebration of your partnership not just a legal transaction.

Of course, you need the legal bit in order to be registered as a married couple in the eyes of the law, but why should the focus of your wedding ceremony be all about a legal transaction? If you agree that it shouldn't, you are definitely in the right place.

You can legally marry in a couple of ways;

- a ceremony at the Registry Office with guests
- or a statutory marriage with just two witnesses at a Registry Office
(but not a ceremony - it's usually just across a desk. This is the cheapest, no frills option and you'll find it's often called a 2+2 marriage)

You'll find prices for these on the local authority website but if you start finding this information tricky to understand, let me know and I can translate any legal jargon for you.

SOUNDS GOOD, RIGHT? BUT WHAT'S THE PRICE?

You'll be glad to know that I'm not going to give you another "price on request" headache.

My fee for a fully bespoke wedding ceremony is clearly listed below and price is only dependent on what day of the week and which year. It doesn't matter to me what you're spending on the rest of the day and if we are to stand in a field or in a stately home! That said, if your ceremony is not within Herts, Beds or Bucks I'll let you know if I need to add any extra travel expenses with my quote.



The Mid-Weeker

Monday to Friday

2026

£735.00

2027/2028

£750.00



The Weekender

Sat / Sun / Bank Hols

2026

£775.00

2027/2028

£825.00

Just remember though, that fixed price isn't just for me to turn up and read your script. My fee includes all the hours of work before we even get to the wedding day; it includes me getting to know the real you, (even doing a bit of research to understand some of your hobbies), the hours of writing and emails back and forth to ensure I've got the facts straight. It includes as much help and advice you need, whether that's ceremony related or not (though I draw the line at recipes - I can't cook - so let's stick to helping you write your vows! It also includes all the printing of vows, reading cards, certificates and souvenir script.

Bonus: I also come with my own PA speaker if required all at no additional charge.

Available at extra cost: In person rehearsal / props for symbolic rituals if you so wish!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Here's how the magic happens!

Our First Date

Let's have a quick video call so you can get a feel of who I am and whether I'm the right fit for your wedding ceremony needs. You can schedule a call on my contact page of the website, or there's a Whatsapp button if you want to message directly.

The "We do" pick you as our Celebrant!

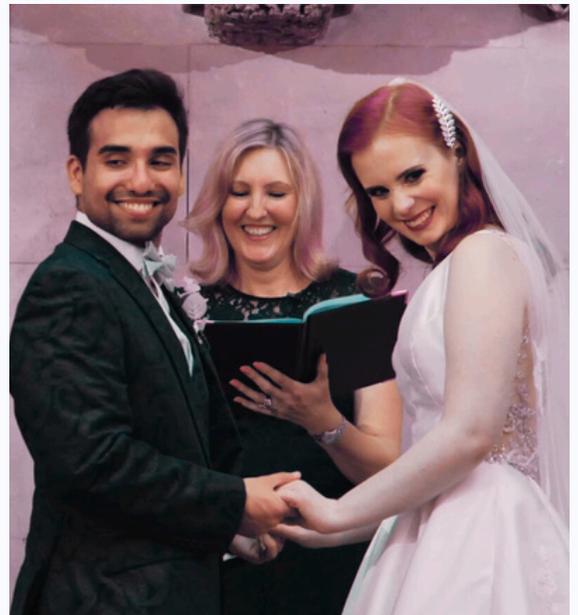
Once we've had a nice chat, if you decide to book, I will forward the Terms and Conditions and your Booking Form - this, along with 20% of your fees, will secure your date and officially book you in!

Our Second Date

About 6 months before your big day, we'll get together in person with a cuppa tea or a beer. This is my favourite part as I get to the knitty gritty of who you are and your vibe. From this I can start creating your wedding ceremony.

The Draft

You will get full drafts along the way for your approval and input, until it's finished and perfect.



There's no limit to our communication and I'm here for you every step of the way; I can help you write your vows as well as recommend other local suppliers - not to mention lots of advice if you ever ask for my help or opinion!

Does this sound like the wedding ceremony you want to actually show up for?

Don't delay, contact me now - I only attend one ceremony per day and weddings are limited to a maximum of 25 per year

WWW.KELLYHCELEBRANT.CO.UK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In case you still want more!

Can I include a weird ritual / my family or my dog in the ceremony?

A bit fat yes! If it's important to you, it's important that it's included in your wedding ceremony. Disclaimer: I'm not responsible if your dog scarpers with the ring as he chases a squirrel!

Do you wear a uniform?

There's no weird hat or robes here. I wear something that a guest would wear and something that matches your vibe or compliments your colour scheme.

What if it rains?

Hey, I'm British and have had more than my fair share of wet days at the beach! We'll discuss a plan B for outdoor ceremonies, but if that happens to be that we stand under a big umbrella, that's fine with me.

What if I'm late?

Whilst I'm not going to encourage you to miss your own wedding, I'm very flexible and yours is the only wedding I'll be attending that day, so relax, I'll be ready when you are.

Is this going to be one of those 'stuffy' ceremonies?

No thanks, expect laughter, maybe a few happy tears and zero "thee-ing" or "thou-ing."

Do we have to be super serious?

Nope. If you want to high-five at the altar or include a reading from "The Princess Bride", you do you.

What if one of us cries/laughs/forgets how to speak?

That's the best part! It's a wedding, not a courtroom deposition. I've got tissues, laughter, and the patience of a saint to get us through it.

Can we write our own vows?

Absolutely. Whether they're poetic or a list of reasons why you love their terrible taste in music, I can help you polish your vows so they hit the right spot.

Do you travel for weddings?

Whilst my set price covers Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire or Buckinghamshire I have been known to cross borders for the right ceremony (though a few extra ££ for petrol might apply!)

How long does the ceremony actually last?

This depends on what you want, but usually around 30 minutes - long enough to feel meaningful, short enough that your guests aren't checking their watches for the bar to open.

One Last Thing:

*"If you want a stuffy, traditional ceremony where nobody cracks a smile...
I'm probably not your celebrant!"*

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OTHER RANDOM STUFF

All the bits that didn't fit anywhere else!



Personally:

- Married over 30 years, with 2 adults that I still call my babies
- I'm a dog lover
- I drink tea
- I can't cook
- I love music; particularly Queen, Guns n Roses, Robbie Williams and Pink (quite a mix eh!)
- I'm a bit of a crime drama freek so if I'm not at a wedding, I'll be solving mysteries from my sofa

Professionally:

- I'm qualified - Level 3 Diploma in Celebrancy and established business in 2017
- A member of the Association of Independent Celebrants
- Insured
- Over 8 years experience and respected in the industry
- I've been on Married at First Sight UK, for the last 5 series
- 50+ 5 star reviews on Google

Awards:

Herts & Beds Wedding Awards:

- Celebrant of the Year 2025
- The Wedding Industry Awards:
 - National Highly Commended Celebrant 2023
 - Regional Winner 2023
 - Regional Winner 2022
- Four Counties Wedding Awards:
 - Celebrant Winner 2020
 - Special Touches Winner 2019

