

The background features several large, overlapping abstract shapes in teal, orange, pink, and yellow. Stylized foliage is placed around the text: blue and pink leaves in the top left, green leaves on the left side, and a green sprig in the bottom left. A red and purple shape is visible in the bottom right corner.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WEDDING CELEBRANTS

BETH CURTIS-CLARKE

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THIS BOOKLET
WILL TELL YOU..

WHAT IS A
CELEBRANT AND
WHAT DO
CELEBRANT
WEDDINGS
INVOLVE?

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BUT FIRST..

Who am I?

I'm Beth and I'm a professionally trained civil celebrant, based in Somerset (Frome).

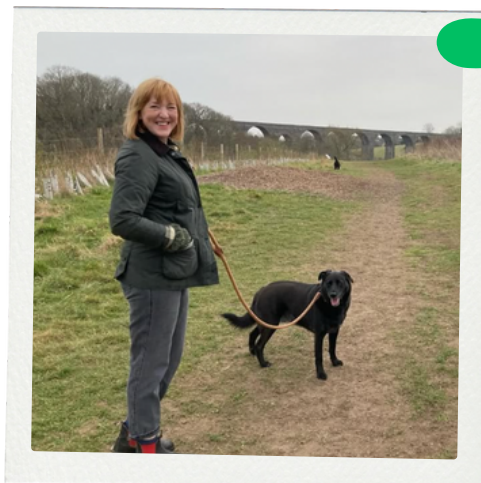
Trained with the International College of Professional Celebrants, I am dedicated to creating and delivering meaningful ceremonies.

When I'm not being a celebrant, I am a Business Consultant.

Outside of my two jobs, you can find me enjoying the Somerset countryside with my dog, George.

Why work with me?

If you choose a me to lead your ceremony, I will help you mark the occasion in a very meaningful way. In a celebrant led ceremony, you get to choose the words you say, who you want to involve, what music you would like. In short, you can choose how you want your ceremony to be. I'll turn your ideas into a personal and unique ceremony for you to cherish.



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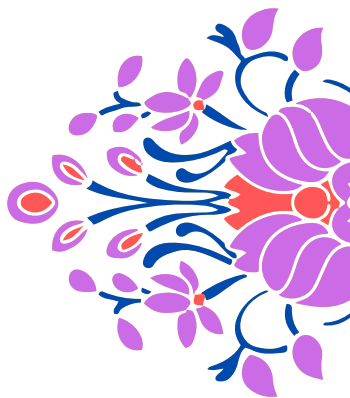


WHAT IS A WEDDING CELEBRANT?


A wedding celebrant is a trained professional who specialises in creating and officiating personalised wedding ceremonies.

Unlike traditional officiants, such as religious leaders or registrars, wedding celebrants work closely with couples to design a ceremony that reflects their unique love story, values, and preferences. This can include customising vows, incorporating special rituals, and choosing the location and tone of the ceremony. Celebrants often focus on making the experience intimate and meaningful, ensuring that every couple's vision for their wedding day comes to life, whether it's a grand celebration or a simple gathering.

What's also unique about wedding celebrants, is that they do not have to follow templates or 'tick boxes' meaning couples will have complete creative freedom to make their day how they want it to be - what's not to love!



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HUMANIST WEDDING CELEBRANT VS INDEPENDENT WEDDING CELEBRANT

When it comes to celebrants, you may have heard of two main types: humanist wedding celebrants and independent celebrants (also known as civil celebrants), each catering to different couples.

In simple terms, humanist celebrants conduct weddings within the Humanist belief system, focusing on values like compassion, reason, and equality. On the other hand, independent celebrants operate outside any specific belief system, offering flexibility to incorporate religious or spiritual elements into the ceremony if desired.



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WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CHOOSING A CELEBRANT OVER A REGISTRAR?

When considering what type of ceremony to have for your wedding, the benefits of choosing a celebrant over a civil ceremony with a registrar are significant!

When you marry at a licensed wedding venue or a registry office, a registrar will perform your legal civil ceremony. However, registrar weddings often come with rules, regulations, and red tape that can limit your options. For example, you may not be able to share personalised vows, bring in decorations, or use specific music that resonates with your love story. Additionally, registrars often have multiple weddings to attend in a single day, which means your time with them may be quite restricted.

In contrast, a celebrant wedding offers the exact opposite experience.

You have absolute creative freedom. Your ceremony is written with you and only you in mind. A celebrant takes the time to get to know you as a couple, guiding you to make authentic and meaningful choices. This collaborative approach means you can involve all your favourite people and craft a ceremony that truly honours your love.



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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CELEBRANT AND A REGISTRAR?

In the UK, the difference between a celebrant and a registrar is like choosing between a handcrafted piece of art and a mass-produced print — both can be beautiful, but one is uniquely yours!

A registrar is a government official who conducts legally binding marriage ceremonies within the framework of civil law. They typically perform weddings at registered venues or designated locations, following a standardised script to ensure all legal requirements are met and marriage certificates are issued. In contrast, a wedding celebrant in the UK is your creative partner in crafting a personalised and memorable ceremony.

We specialise in celebrating love in a way that reflects your unique story, values, and personality, allowing for greater flexibility and fun. Celebrants can conduct ceremonies in various locations — think picturesque gardens, serene beaches, or even your favourite local spot — without the restrictions of registered venues.



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HOW ELSE COULD A CELEBRANT MAKE YOUR WEDDING EVEN MORE SPECIAL?

Another significant advantage is the relationship you build with your celebrant. Unlike being assigned a registrar, you choose your celebrant based on comfort and connection. This person understands your vision and values, ensuring your day is unique and personal.

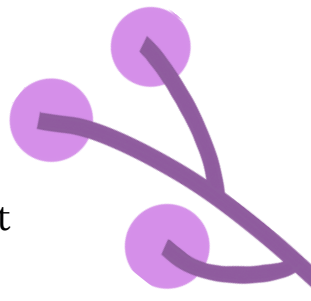
We are lucky; we get to know our couples and are very rarely time-poor. We aren't rushing off to be somewhere else. Each ceremony is personal to the couple; it's not an 'insert name here' template.


Celebrants also offer the flexibility to incorporate various elements into your ceremony.

I certainly like to dress up and am happy to theme a ceremony. Pets are allowed, and most requests for symbolic elements can be accommodated.



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ULTIMATELY, CHOOSING A
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TRUE REFLECTION OF WHO
YOU ARE AS A COUPLE,

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WHAT HAPPENS DURING A CELEBRANT-LED WEDDING?

A celebrant wedding ceremony is a truly personalised experience, designed to reflect the unique love story of the couple getting married. With a celebrant wedding script tailored specifically for you, your ceremony can capture every special moment that matters.

So, basically, it really is up to the couple! However, that being said, there are elements that most will include, although some may choose a symbolic act over the exchange of rings and vice versa. Typical components of the celebrant wedding script may encompass the following...



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WEDDING ORDER

Arrival of the couple

Introduction and welcome

Reading or poem

The couple's love story

Another reading, poem, or song

The couple's vows

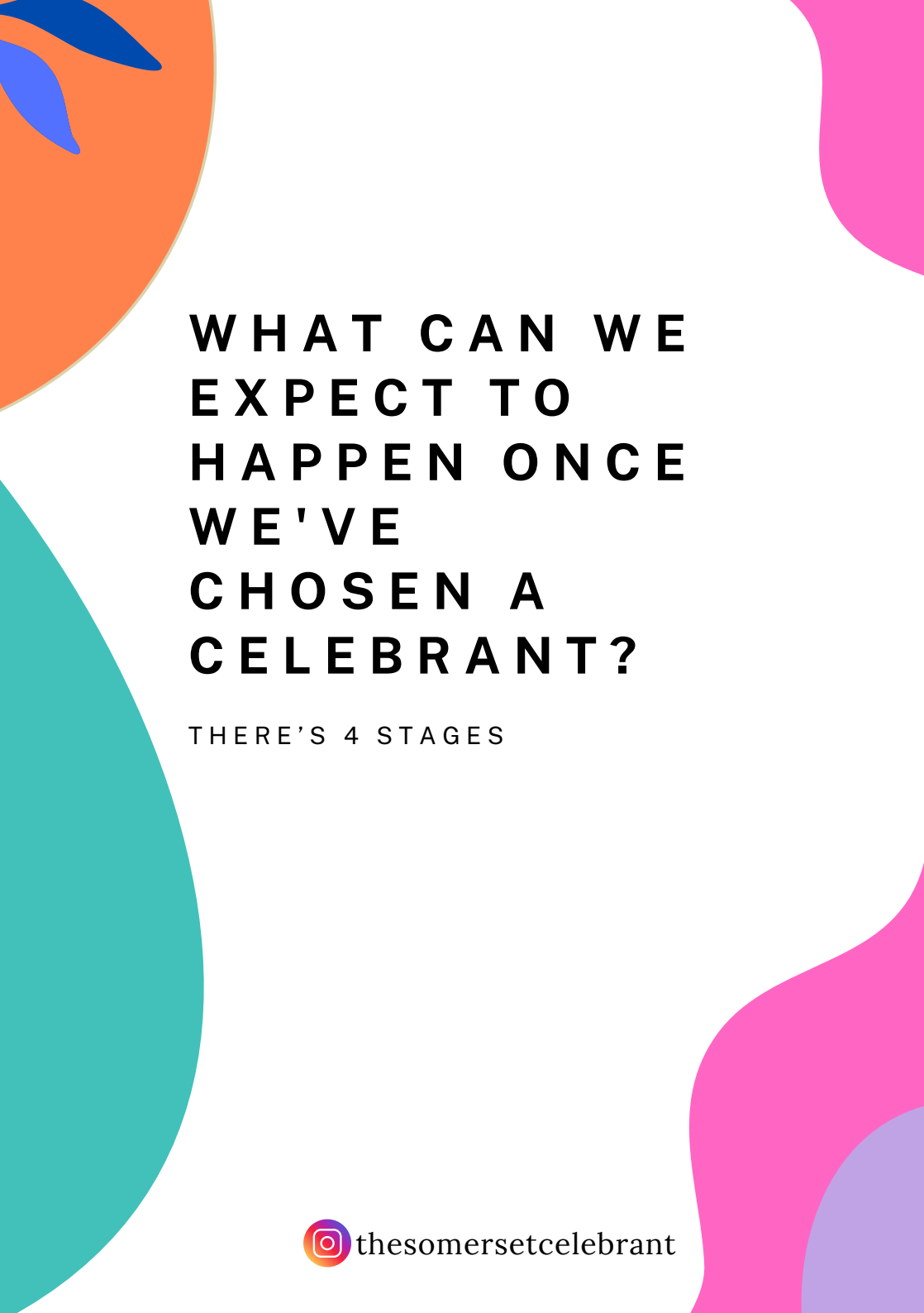
Symbolic act (optional, but couples may like to perform a ritual like hand-fasting, unity sand ceremony, or candle ceremony)

Exchange of rings

Pronouncement of marriage

Closing and departure





WHAT CAN WE EXPECT TO HAPPEN ONCE WE'VE CHOSEN A CELEBRANT?

THERE'S 4 STAGES



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DISCOVERING YOUR LOVE STORY

Each celebrant will write a script for their couples; this tells the couple's story - of how they met, fell in love, their shared values, and their hopes for the future - and it is the first task for the celebrant.

WRITING A FIRST DRAFT


Once I have completed a first draft I will always send it to my couples," explains Michelle. "I would hate to have for a tiny detail wrong and for it not to have been checked over.

PREPARING FOR THE CEREMONY

Once the script is signed off, I will print a copy for me, a keepsake copy for the couple, certificates, vows, readings etc and they'll all be packed away in a keepsake box along with a few little goodies for the couple for the morning after.

MEETING ON THE DAY

On the day, I will be at the venue at least an hour before the ceremony, along with portable amp and mic if needed, and mingle with the guests, calm nerves and generally prep for the ceremony. I never rush off and 99% of the time will only do one ceremony per day.



HOW LONG BEFORE A WEDDING SHOULD YOU BOOK A CELEBRANT?

Best to work out whether you want a celebrant early on in the planning process. If you've already decided you want a non-traditional wedding venue then you'll know you need a celebrant, but there's plenty of other reasons to choose one too.



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WHAT OTHER CEREMONIES CAN I CREATE AND CONDUCT FOR YOU?

Funerals:

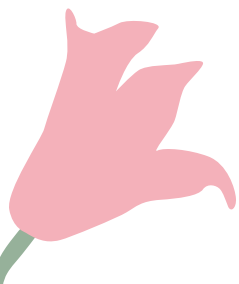
I will listen to you in order to provide a personal celebration and reflection of your loved one.

Namings:

Whether you're welcoming a child, or celebrating a transition, I'm here.

Eulogy and vowel writing:

I am here to create an authentic and meaningful representation of how you feel.



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THANK YOU FOR READING!

I hope this provided some clarity on what celebrants do,
and how I can help you specifically.

If you have any questions for me then I would always
welcome a conversation, either in person or on
a call (07809 198592).

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