

Handfasting

What is Handfasting?

Getting married is known as Tying the Knot. This is not just a random expression - handfasting is beautiful tradition dating back thousands of years. Before rings and certificates, it was how people were bound together in marriage especially in Scotland and Ireland, plus the Vikings did it too!

Your hands are bound together by a cord, ribbon, or piece of fabric like tartan. All the colours have meanings to bring blessings/good wishes to your marriage (see colour guide).

I share a traditional blessing. You pull the end to tie your knot. It's super simple! See the demonstration later in this Guide.

You get a beautiful, meaningful keepsake from your ceremony to treasure. After your ceremony, I attach a little wooden heart tag with your names and date, then put the braid in a keepsake box.



Making your Braid

If you would like me to make a braid/cords for you, the cost is \$44-\$77 depending on the style. The cotton colours are 1-40 and the metallic colours are gold, silver and rose gold.

Choose your colours and braid style from the options. If you have asked other people to choose colours for you, let me know who chose which colour. If you want their choices to be secret from you until the day, they can text me the colour number on 0415 064784.

Please choose your braid by one week before your wedding so I can make it. You will get it in a keepsake box with wooden heart tag after your ceremony.

Colours

The number of colours needed will depend on the style of braid (see next page).



I also have three metallic colours – gold, silver & rose gold



Braid Style

Braids can be made with many cords. Single Cords can have any number. Here are some of the Braided Cord options. Arrows & Plaits can be made with up to 8 Colours.

Arrow Braids \$44, Plait Braids \$55, Wave Arrow Braid \$66 Wave Plait Braid \$77



Plait Braid with 7 Colours



Loose Cords

Choose up to 6 Colours. Any more than that and it gets messy!



< **Wave Arrows**
can be made so many different ways with 9 cords in any colours!

Wave Plaits >
can be made so many different ways with 12 cords in any colours!



If you would like to see lots of braids I have made for inspiration, go to:

<https://www.instagram.com/thecraftycelebrant>

Watch me do a Handfasting

Watch me tie the knot with one of my beautiful couples!

<https://youtu.be/J-yN8hwKjoU>

Cord Colour Meanings

Red – love, strength, courage, passion

Orange – encouragement, adaptability, stimulation, kindness

Yellow – attraction, charm, confidence, balance, harmony

Green – fertility, prosperity, nurturing, beauty, health

Blue – tranquility, understanding, patience, health

Purple – healing, strength, power, progress

Black – strength, empowerment, wisdom, success

White – purity, truth, peace, serenity, devotion

Grey – balance, inspiration, vision, protection

Pink – unity, honour, truth, romance, happiness

Brown – healing, talent, nurturing, home, the earth



How we do a handfasting!

You join right arms at the wrist.

Either a person you choose or I drape each cord / braid over your hands.



For single cords, I even up the cords so that all the little knots are together.

I tuck the end of the cords/braid under thumb of person on my left.

I wrap round twice keeping cords as flat as possible.

I tuck the end of the cords/braid under thumb of person on my right.

I then even up strands/braid loops hanging under your hands.

I ask you to grip the end of the cord(s) tucked under your thumb and pull your hand out of the cord loops at steady pace.

Keep pulling til the knot ties!

You can then continue to hold the cord(s) when I pronounce you and invite you to kiss, or I can come and take the cord and hold it while I wrap up the ceremony.

Here are some Options for including a Handfasting at your Ceremony

Handfasting Ceremony with Braid

Getting married is known as Tying the Knot. This is not just a random expression - handfasting is beautiful tradition dating back thousands of years. Before rings and certificates, it was how people were bound together in marriage.

This cord is a symbol of the connection between your lives together. It is a braid made of <number> strands which represent each of you, your love and what you hope for your marriage.

(If you would like, I will describe the colours and meanings)

Please join your right hands.

As your hands are bound together by this cord, so too, will your lives be bound together in marriage.

These are the hands that will love you.

These are the hands that will hold and comfort you through the years.

These are the hands that will give you support and encouragement.

These are the hands you will each work with, create with, and use to build a life together.

The knots of this binding are not only formed by this cord but by your vows,
the promises you make in your hearts and uphold each day through your actions.

Remember, you hold in your own hands the making or breaking of this union.

Just as your hands are now bound together, so too, are your lives.

Please pull the cord gently to tie the knot.



Handfasting Ceremony with Single Cords & Meanings

(The cords are chosen and brought up by people as single cords to give blessings. Can be any number. Metallic colours cannot be used for single cords, they must be braided)

As I am sure you all know, to get married is known as Tying the Knot.

Now this is not some made up saying – it refers to the beautiful tradition of Handfasting which dates back thousands of years. Before rings and certificates, it was how people were bound together in marriage.

Your family have supported throughout your life and will continue to be there for you in your married life. They love you beyond measure and have some blessings they wish to bestow upon your marriage.

I am going to invite your parents to join us one at a time to share their blessings. The cord colours are very special and unique, just like the love they have for you both.

Sam and Liam, please join hands.

Inci, please come and drape your cord over their hands.

This pink cord gives Inci's blessing for romance, unity, happiness, truth and honour.

Theresa, please come and drape your cord over their hands.

This teal cord gives Theresa's blessing for joy, tranquillity, harmony and clarity.

Brian, please come and drape your cord over their hands.

This yellow cord gives Brian's blessing for charm, confidence, balance and joy.

Tony, please come and drape your cord over their hands.

This red cord gives Tony's blessing for success, honour, loyalty and love.

Thank you all.

Sam and Liam, these cords hold the blessings your family have made for your marriage. To give life to these blessings, you must embrace them in your hearts and uphold them each day through your actions.

Remember, you hold in your own hands the making or breaking of this union.

Just as your hands are now bound together, so too, are your lives.

Please grip your ends of the cords and pull gently to tie this everlasting knot.



For Harry Potter Fans – The Unbreakable Vow

This one is for Wizarding World fans! You can choose any colours for your braid but if you want to use one that is like the Unbreakable Vow in the stories, it should be orange. This braid is \$44.

Blessing

Now we will bind your hands, lives and hearts together.

Cassie and Brett, this cord is a symbol of the connection between your lives together. Please join your right hands.

As your hands are bound together by this cord, so too, will your lives be bound together in marriage.

With this cord, you solemnly swear from this day forward
For better or worse, through Imperius Curse
For Potter rich or Weasley poor,
In sickness and in health
To love and to cherish
To be your reflection in the mirror of Erised
Til Aveda Kedavra do you part.

Please repeat after me together:

This is my unbreakable vow. Always.

Cassie and Brett, remember, you hold in your own hands the making or breaking of this union. Just as your hands are now bound together, so too, are your lives.

This everlasting knot will forever symbolise your unbreakable vow.

Please pull the cord to tie the knot.

