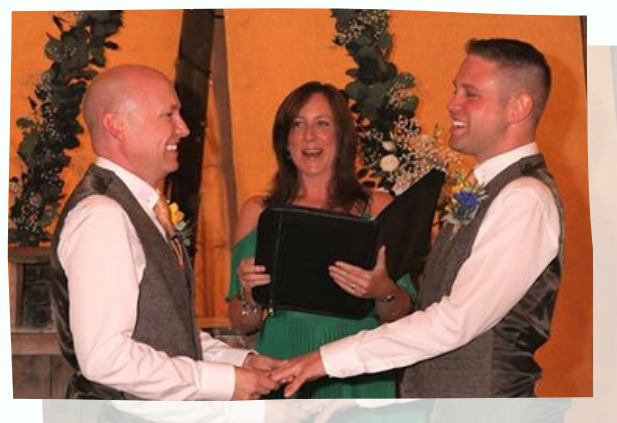




HUMANIST CELEBRANT

MARIA THORNE

Unique, bespoke non-religious
wedding ceremonies



Indoor and outdoor ceremonies,
vow renewals and handfastings in
Devon, Cornwall and Somerset

Fully trained and accredited by

Humanist
Ceremonies



TESTIMONIALS

"Loved the ceremony – Maria was so warm and sincere and made the occasion extra special".

"From the moment we met Maria she really put us at ease and explained thoroughly how a humanist ceremony worked."

"Thank you for doing such a fantastic job being our celebrant, We thought you were great! We had some fantastic feedback from friends and family as well".

"First and foremost we wanted to say a huge thank you for our beautiful ceremony last week. It was perfect in every way and so moving that I think we have inspired a few couples to renew their vows just so they can have a humanist ceremony!"

"Maria took the time to get to know us and make our ceremony incredibly detailed around our story and our journey".



A 'loving cup' or quailch ritual can be incorporated into your ceremony, giving you the perfect opportunity to share your first drink as a married couple

IS A HUMANIST WEDDING FOR YOU?



Many of us who aren't religious are looking for a wedding that is more flexible and personal than a civil or register office ceremony.

A humanist, non-religious wedding ceremony gives you the opportunity to marry where you want, when you want, and how you want. You can marry outdoors or at a location that isn't licensed for civil weddings. I've conducted weddings on farms, in tipis, in marquees and in the open air. You could even consider the beach, moors or woodland.

Humanist weddings are perfect for couples who would like:

- A meaningful ceremony that isn't religious
- To marry outdoors or at a location that isn't licensed for civil weddings
- The flexibility to create a personal ceremony that is unique to them
- To get to know the person who will be conducting their wedding
- To celebrate their marriage with family and friends but without legally registering – for example, when the formalities have already been conducted abroad.



SPECIAL TOUCHES



Vow cards to go with your style of wedding.

I can advise on ideas for special symbolic gestures or rituals that can be included as part of your ceremony, whether it's performed indoors or outside. They can be a great way to involve guests or children.



A handfasting can be carried out with one or more beautiful ribbons or cords.

Beautiful vow cards, with colours and designs tailored to your style of wedding. You will also receive a presentation copy of your ceremony and, if you wish, a certificate to commemorate the day.




A sandblending is a fun way to represent the coming together of different families and is a great way to involve younger family members.

It's easy to incorporate the ancient ritual of a handfasting, or 'tying the knot'. I can even supply the ribbons!

WHAT'S INCLUDED?



- A planning meeting, during which I'll get to know you and we'll discuss the ceremony in depth. This is usually face-to-face, but we can also Skype or Facetime if that's easier.
- Sample vows or promises, readings, symbolic gestures and ideas for music.
- Drafting and editing a personal, tailor made script. You'll always have the opportunity to check the ceremony 'script' and make changes before it's finalised.
- Preparation of vow and reading cards so you don't need to remember them!
- Attendance at a rehearsal at your chosen venue (subject to availability) and/or advice on 'choreography'.
- Delivery of the ceremony on the day itself.
- A presentation copy of the script.



Wedding prices start at £495 and vow renewals at £295
I ask for a £100, non-refundable, deposit to secure the booking and to cover the initial research and script writing. Additional, reasonable costs may be charged for travel outside a 30 mile radius, or for special requirements or materials you have requested.

I look forward to meeting you!

WHAT HAPPENS AT A HUMANIST WEDDING?



A humanist, non-religious wedding ceremony or vow-renewal offers the ultimate in flexibility. You can hold it wherever you wish, indoors or outdoors, at a traditional 'venue' or on the beach. You can be as traditional, modern, stylish, creative, simple or light-hearted as you like. It really is your wedding, your way.

Here is an example of how a ceremony might be organised, but you do not have to include any of these, or you may also want to include other elements.

Arrival of the couple (individually or together)

Introduction and welcome

Words about love and commitment from a non-religious perspective

Reading or poem

The couple's story – how you met, your shared values, hopes for the future

What marriage means to you

Reading, poem or song

Your promises/vows/aspirations

Meaningful symbolic act (e.g. handfasting)

Exchange of rings

Pronouncement as married

Words of well-wishing

Closing and departure



Even if you don't want your ceremony to be serious, I'll always ensure it's sincere. I'll make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible so that you can relax and enjoy yourselves.

Each ceremony is unique and created especially for you and your circumstances. This means there is no set script and no fixed structure. Instead, I will guide you through various options and together we can create an occasion that's fitting for your style and situation.

ABOUT ME



I'm based in beautiful Devon, where I live with my husband, two small children, a dog called Ziggy, a rabbit and a handful of chickens.

I can't think of a more tremendous privilege than helping people celebrate the biggest milestones in their lives. Because I love people – and I'll take the time to get to know you – I write wedding and naming ceremonies that are completely authentic. I'll work with you to create a bespoke ceremony, which you can make as traditional, informal, fun or creative as you like.

No two ceremonies are the same. There are no 'set words' or 'order of service' and I can always help by making suggestions about things like venues, readings, music and symbolic acts.

My ceremonies are often inspired by the natural world, but can be on any theme you wish. Being a musician (I direct a choir and play in a rock band), I'm always up for using music in ceremonies and can even lead a sing-a-long if you like!

Ceremonies are ideal for bringing together all your family and friends. No matter what your family circumstances, everyone is welcome at a Humanist Ceremony.

IDEAS & INSPIRATION



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Maria Thorne

e: maria.thorne@humanistceremonies.org.uk

m: 07341 953442

f: facebook.com/mthorneceremonies

i: instagram.com/mariathecelebrant

w: humanist.org.uk/mariathorne

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