



**humanist
society
scotland**

Sharing The Future





TODAY

*Today I marry my friend,
The one I have laughed and cried with,
The one I have learned from and shared with,
The one I have chosen to support and encourage,
And give myself to, through all the days
Given us to share.*

Today I marry the one I love.

– Bertrand Russell

Marriage is about building on a foundation of love and shared laughter and tears to look forward to a future of continuing support and encouragement. It is about realising your dreams together. Your commitment is one that is made universally by couples who want to share their joy and celebrate their union in the company of family and friends.

You choose

To opt for a Humanist ceremony is to choose an entirely secular, non-religious one – that is, one without hymns, prayers or other religious content. Thereafter, the key word remains choice – your choice. You can choose to be as traditional or modern, as elaborate or simple, as you wish. You can choose the venue that best suits you – indoors or outdoors, anywhere from a castle to your own back garden. Music, of course, is usually an important element of the ceremony, and again, with our help you can choose something suitable for you.



Every Humanist ceremony is different because you help to choose the content and structure. The Humanist Celebrant's role is to suggest, advise and coordinate. We are happy for friends and family to contribute with readings, a musical performance, or just a short speech.

Our Celebrants work closely with you to compose and conduct a ceremony tailored to your unique personal preferences. In particular, we encourage and help couples to compose their own vows of commitment, so that what they say is uniquely meaningful to them.

Symbolic gestures such as the exchange of rings and the lighting of candles can be included, but, again, the choice is yours

Legality

Humanist Marriages performed by one of our marriage Celebrants – authorised by the Registrar General for Scotland – are fully legal marriages. There is no need for a separate Civil Marriage, conducted by a Registrar. There is also no need for your venue to have a wedding licence. Our celebrants carry the licence personally. We can also offer renewal-of-vows ceremonies.

Some comments we have received

“The whole day was perfect.”



“We found the readings you suggested beautifully moving and expressive, and felt the opportunity for the family to take part made the whole occasion so personal.”

“Everyone who has written to us since has said how beautiful it was.”

“We had such a great wedding day and I think for both of us the ceremony was the highlight!”

“You are a wonderful Celebrant and such a warm person, it really made a huge difference to the most important part of the day. Many many thanks.”



“Preparing and writing our own ceremony and vows really made us think about what was important in our marriage. On the day

the ceremony exceeded all our expectations. It was a celebration of our commitment to each other and we were able share all that was meaningful for us with our family and friends. It was truly a special day!”

“The wedding celebration was exactly as we wanted it to be. Judging by the lack of dry eyes, all our family and friends were very moved too.”

Practical Points

- Celebrants will explain the fees and any extra expenses that might be incurred when you first contact them.
- Humanist Celebrants can also conduct funerals, memorials, naming and welcoming ceremonies for babies and children, same-sex commitments and other ceremonies.

What is Humanism?

Humanism is a diverse movement with ancient roots that reflects the views of millions of people around the world. Stated simply, Humanists believe that we can lead good and worthwhile lives guided by reason and compassion rather than religion or superstition, and that there are more things that unite humanity than divide it. Or, as we say in Scotland, “We’re a’ Jock Tamson’s bairns” – we’re all the same under the skin.

To find out more

To find out more contact your local coordinator

North of Scotland

07010 714775* | north@humanism-scotland.org.uk

West of Scotland

07010 714776* | west@humanism-scotland.org.uk

East of Scotland

07010 714778* | east@humanism-scotland.org.uk

National Coordinator

07010 714779* | ceremonies@humanism-scotland.org.uk


** Calls to 07010 numbers cost 35p per minute at all times*

For general information, please contact us at:



272 Bath Street | Glasgow G2 4JR
0870 874 9002 | info@humanism-scotland.org.uk
www.humanism-scotland.org.uk

The HSS is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator as
Scottish Charity No. SC026570

 Printed on recycled paper