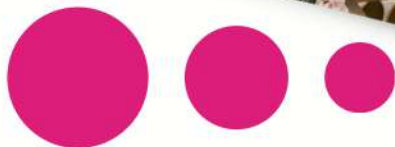


Janet Shell Ceremonies

award winning qualified independent celebrant



a celebrant you can trust



Janet Shell Ceremonies



weddings & vow renewals

Congratulations!

I'm Janet Shell and I am an independent wedding celebrant. It is my pleasure to offer you a bespoke service, from our first contact right through to the day of the ceremony itself.

If you're not sure what a celebrant does, then you are in the right place to find out, so please check out some of the information here and get in touch with your questions and queries and hopefully it will result in you booking with me to celebrate YOUR day.

Janet applies the highest professional standards to her work and in accordance with that is a member of the Association of Independent Celebrants; the Fellowship of professional celebrants and a member of the federation of small businesses



please note I am not a Humanist celebrant



Janet Shell Ceremonies



what are my options?

You are here because you are thinking of a celebrant led ceremony in a beautiful setting of your choice. Right now I am not your *legal* option for a wedding, I want to be clear about that. That has to be done separately.

Most people, however, will organise their legal wedding through the short statutory ceremony at a registry office (£56) and then have the beautiful, bespoke option with a celebrant where they can choose music and readings without restrictions, and where the ceremony can include any number of additional elements to make it completely unique to you. I have written more about this on **pages 7-9** and I strongly advise checking that out so you are clear on options.

You will see from my photos how this can look. If that excites you, read on!



Janet Shell Ceremonies



what are my options?

From how you are addressed, to the words I speak, to the music and readings you choose, it is designed to be about you.

Celebrant ceremonies are becoming the choice of couples like yourselves simply because of the level of control and choice you can have. In my ceremony you may have some spiritual readings or music that features faith words and you can fuse together two heritages in a true marriage of cultures in a way that is sadly not possible elsewhere.

I have performed several interfaith ceremonies where we showcase the traditions from the Chinese tea ceremony to the breaking of the glass in the Jewish tradition.

People have sung, read their own poetry and created beautiful sand ceremonies and handfasting as a special moment and of course, the writing of the vows is incredibly special. I always carry tissues!



Including the seven blessings

There will always be a special place in our hearts for Janet and the ceremony she created



a colourful handfasting





what are my options?

Sometimes a couple will not want such a level of personalisation, and that is fine too. I have been known to create more formal vows for the couple to speak or acknowledge.

I encourage other guests to participate through readings or stories so by the end, we all feel we know the couple a little more than before, and they understand how appreciated they really are.

My ceremonies range across all ages and situations and each one is unique and beautiful and when I look back at photos, I ALWAYS find myself smiling at the happiness of the occasion,

There is the option of the certificate to sign, and when there are fewer guests, I invite *everybody* to sign as a record of the day. Oh, and that can be photographed, unlike the legal document.

Other times, we stick with tradition.



In a cake shop for a couple of 77 and 87 at Christmas time

the happy couple sign



a chance for all to sign



Janet Shell Ceremonies



what are my options?

Your venue can be anywhere; in a designated registered venue or a back garden, a field, some woodland, up a mountain, on a boat - any place where you can have a few guests and everybody can relax.



woodland section of venue



on a boat on the river Thames



in a private garden

Many couples and their guests find such a degree of personalisation heartwarming and guests always tell me how much they loved learning something about the couple and hearing stories from them, or others, about how the relationship developed.



what are my options?

The following pages are my attempt to help you decide what will work best for you so please do read them through. There are county wide differences and you may find some information rather difficult to find. Please do not be fobbed off with curt responses! And you may be interested to know that you can have the **short statutory wedding ceremony (only)** at **any** registry office in England or Wales as long as you give notice in the county where you live.

OPTION A - not me: Registrar at the Registry Office with guests where you will pay various fees set by the County on top of which you pay a notice to marry. Fees vary according to the number of guests. So that is (£42 + registrar fees +venue fees according to room size and day of week + possibly other document fees usually adding up to about £400 minimum).

Pros

- It is legal and all done in the same day
- Short ceremony

Cons:

- Music and reading choices vetted prior to event with no religious or spiritual elements
- Timing is short
- There can be another ceremony waiting in the wings
- Script is set (with a few options but in reality a few changes in a sentence or two)
- No guarantee of getting the lovely registrar you met at the time of booking
- No capacity to include a nod to different heritages or culture
- Can feel a little impersonal depending on the Officiant



OPTION B - not me: Registrars visit an approved or licensed venue

where you will pay a very large mark up due to travel and the attendance of two registrars. Each county sets their own fee. Surrey and London boroughs are currently the most expensive, along with West and East Sussex. Typically prices range from around £500 minimum to over £1,000, with Hampshire currently being slightly cheaper.

Pros-

- You are legally married on the same day at your venue choice
- Short ceremony allowing more time for celebrations!
- Some registrars love doing weddings and relish the change from their office based role

Cons:

- Registrars often have a list of venues to get through and cannot accommodate changes in plans or delays so need to stick to a set schedule
- You are required to meet with the registrars on the day in a separate room about 30 minutes before your actual ceremony - so you need to be ready by then!
- This is where music and reading choices are noted to make sure there is no religious or spiritual element
- Timing of the actual ceremony is short and can feel hurried
- Script is set with little personalisation despite recent attempts to include this, but they are bound by the law
- No guarantee of getting the registrar you met if you happened to like them
- No capacity to include different heritage or cultural references
- Can feel very impersonal and 'strict' (as one couple said to me "like a tick-box exercise")



OPTION C - ME! A ceremony at your chosen venue whether licensed or not where everything is personalised and unique to you. You will have approved my 'script' and included any extra symbolic rituals like handfasting or a sand ceremony etc and had control over all aspects

Pros-

- The ceremony is a true reflection of you as a couple and individuals
- Timing is flexible although I suggest 30 minutes is a good length
- Vows are your own words
- The ring exchange is part of the ceremony
- If you wish to have spiritual or religious readings or music this is welcomed
- Other guests can play a part in the ceremony and there is no limit on how many or how long that needs to be
- This ceremony absolutely can fuse together your own heritage and culture if different, providing insights and new understanding between families and friends
- This celebrant loves creating the words that will matter to you and equally loves delivering ceremonies with style, warmth and humour
- A relaxed and informal atmosphere that is inclusive yet with some structure around it to focus on what is important when it comes to the heart of the ceremony
- Ability to reference those unable to be part of the day for whatever reason
- Live streaming, if the venue can manage it, to around the world

Cons:

- You will need to have your legal (£56) statutory ceremony separately and councils are creating lots of barriers either by making it hard to access information on a website or limiting the days this can happen

You do not have to have the statutory basic ceremony (2 + 2) in your own county (so it pays to look around if things feel blocked) although you *do* have to give notice to marry where you live

Janet Shell Ceremonies



Fees



My fees are **all inclusive** so you will never get an unexpected shock or anything extra added in.

CEREMONIES £799 ~ all inclusive*

From the moment we connect until your special day, and often beyond, my focus is on *you*. The detail and the quality assurance means your day is going to begin with a meaningful and inclusive ceremony which will be remembered for all the right reasons.

You will have selected me because I am more or less in your region and am prepared to travel a couple of hours if not. You never pay for any of my travel, so even if you want to meet at the venue a couple of months before, I am happy to include that. You can have peace of mind on the costs involved because mine are transparent.

All meetings, writing of the ceremony, discussions, alterations, last minute changes, liaisons with the venue manager or wedding co-ordinator and photographer, discussions over music and readings, checks on the day, additions of symbolic rituals and of course delivery of the ceremony are taken care of. You can include a vow rehearsal and gain some tips from me on public speaking. Couples tell me they and their guests love my ceremony style, and my ability to speak so easily in public and feel they can entrust their day completely to me. That matters a lot to me and I value those opinions highly. If there is ever anything that does not sit right on reflection, then I prefer to refund money proportionately. For me it is a 100% guarantee of quality that matters.

***NB still cheaper in most South Eastern counties than having a registrar come to the venue and of course, my words are completely unique to you!**



So you can see there are options available (see page 14 for destination events) and I am here to give you a steer on the choices you can make.

Your day is as important to me as it is to you. If you choose to work with me, you will see how that is interwoven through every detail and all our correspondence.

The ceremony was heartwarming and personal. We were overjoyed with a forever memory on the best day of our lives

When it comes to delivery, my performance background lifts your ceremony onto a professional and sophisticated level that is always commented upon.

On the next page you can learn something about me, and by accessing my website you will see how all the other things I do centre around voice and performance and speaking. This means that I have levels of professional expertise in exactly the areas you would wish for in somebody who stands in front a group of people in an emotional context, able to be at ease and elevate the normal to the extraordinary.

This has been recognised in the fact that I have been awarded by couples as a 4 X award winner and one of the top 5 celebrants in Surrey.





who is Janet?

Janet Shell is a qualified teacher who was head of music for five years before leaving to pursue a professional classical singing career.

Her singing has taken her all over the world, onto radio and television, and if you are interested, you can view other aspects of her career through her website and hear her voice.

She is a sought after singing teacher and vocal coach.

www.janetshell.co.uk

Janet trained as a celebrant during lockdown and her skills are a natural fit. Her vast experience as a performer means she is comfortable whether in an intimate space or a much larger setting; is calm and focused under pressure, and her ability to connect with people quickly and easily, means her couples and venues respond immediately to her warm and friendly, yet professional, nature.

Janet is also an advocate of emotional intelligence in the workplace and this naturally extends into her professional space

Janet sang at the first Royal wedding in 500 years in the chapel at Hampton Court Palace for Lord Frederic Windsor & Sophie Winkelman with many well known celebrities and Royal guests in attendance



Janet Shell

Janet Shell Ceremonies

Just a handful of the many reviews I have been honoured to receive

Thank you so much and we really appreciate you going above and beyond to make our day special!

Everything that you do, always shows just how much you get to know the couple, the information you gather, the trouble you went to, keep everyone from being nervous, your infectious smile, that kept us smiling and calm. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts

We loved your ideas and that you have a comfortable aura. You helped us feel very at ease

Many thanks Janet for starting off our day in such a lovely way, it was perfect!! We had the best day ever, thank you. I cannot thank you enough though for your working so hard to fix our problem. Lovely of you

Both of us get very anxious and the ceremony was something we both felt would raise the anxiety. We are so happy we chose the lovely Janet shell to do our ceremony. Janet has the most beautiful calming voice and lovely smile.

All said the ceremony was very romantic and touching and reflected us both really well and our love for each other. We heard afterwards that there were quite a few tears!! (happy tears!:)) we would definitely recommend you. The ceremony was brilliant.





Janet Shell Ceremonies

Destination wedding events



Sometimes I get asked to fulfil a celebration elsewhere. In many European countries, there are not usually celebrants as they have officiants who perform the legal ceremonies in the town halls and then couples have a celebration after. This does restrict the service to the official wordings and of course, in the local language.

I occasionally get approached by couples who wish to have an English speaking celebrant and a personal ceremony as in the UK. Bear in mind the legal will still need to be done separately.

Please get in touch if that is something you wish for.

Clearly there are cost ramifications and again, I offer a global fee and then added to that will be travel, any accommodation - reasonable expenses. I don't need a 5* hotel and am very happy to jump on Eurostar (if applicable) or a plane, whichever is cheaper.

For reference, I speak reasonable French, enough to get by and am a good communicator!



In 2026-7 my global destination wedding fee is £1,000 with any reasonable expenses as an additional cost.



Inspired?! Then please visit my website for details on other information,
and reach out! I'll be there!

If you are still unsure, think whether you really want to compromise on a
day tailored to your hopes and dreams because you will need to do a
separate legal ceremony. It may seem like a faff, but for a little more
effort, you will *probably* save money too and have a more relaxed time
with your loved ones.

Janet Shell Ceremonies

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Christopher Goldsack

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