



THE
STORY OF
A
BIG DAY

*"Good luck for
the big day..."*

I hope all the plans are going well, it can't be long now till your dreams become reality and all that hard work and preparation pays off with the most wonderful of days to celebrate.

I'm really pleased you chose to form your civil partnership in Cheshire East, when I saw all the glorious venues they have I thought that if I was having my ceremony again now I would be really spoilt for choice!

It was good to know that my last bit of advice helped you, and so I hope that this next bit does too.

I remember in the last couple of months leading up to the big day, when most of the decisions had been made and our outfits had been bought, my thoughts began to stray towards the ceremony itself. What we could include and what wouldn't be allowed, and how we wanted the ceremony to be. I needn't have worried.

The Registrar contacted us in the weeks before the ceremony, asking us to complete a profile to give them an idea as to how we wanted the ceremony to be, they also asked if we would like to meet a member of the team to talk through the ceremony and put our minds at ease (nothing is half as daunting once you know what's going to happen!).

It was really reassuring to know that we could still have all the traditional bits if we wanted to keep the mums happy!

An usher escorted my mum to her seat (resplendent in her finery). My dad (beaming from ear to ear) walked me down the aisle (and was even asked for his consent to the partnership). The bridesmaids and ring bearers followed, and I'm told my other half looked particularly nervous as she waited for me.

The Registrar gave us lots of different options that we hadn't even considered for our entrance, whether we wanted to walk down the aisle together, or both be escorted, or maybe even both enter the room from different directions and meet at the top of the aisle – there really was lots and lots of choice.





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I couldn't believe I was finally there, as I heard the music begin for my entrance. Whilst we chose classical music, the Registrar said every ceremony was different, with some couples choosing classical, with others preferring popular music that was special to them. The ceremony itself was beautiful, with our vows and promises to each other included within the Registrar's script (we didn't have to think of our own vows at all – what a relief!).

We had two readings, the Registrar suggested some readings, but we were also free to choose our own. We managed to persuade two of our guests to read at the ceremony – the Registrar said family or friends reading would make a more personal ceremony, but if no one felt able to, then the Registrar would have read for us.

The ring bearer played their part to perfection handing over the rings at the right time. The Registrar then asked everyone to join in congratulating us. Everyone applauded. The Registrar then interviewed us to check and sign the partnership schedule. The photographer and our guests then had the chance to take photographs of us pretending to sign the schedule.

Finally the Registrar said a few words to finish the ceremony, everyone was asked to stand, the music began and we walked back down the aisle to a glass of champagne waiting just outside and celebrations began. Our civil partnership ceremony was perfect - just as I dreamed it would be - a celebration of our love for each other.

The Registrar was really helpful in guiding us through all the different aspects of the ceremony, and advised us on the ways we could make the day more personal to us. We could be as traditional, grand, low key or simple as we wanted to be – it really was without a doubt, 'Our ceremony and our choice'.

I hope you have a fabulous ceremony and remember work with your Registrar to enjoy the ceremony you wish for. Don't forget they've done this lots and lots of times before and are keen to make sure that you get to enjoy the best day of your lives.

