



# Welcome

Thank you for considering holding your ceremony in Gloucestershire.

Whether you are looking for a small intimate occasion or a larger celebration, you have a selection of options to help you plan a ceremony to suit you as a family and create your perfect day.

We hope this brochure will give you all the information you require but if you need any further advice, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our ceremonies team who will be happy to help.



## What we can offer

It is your day, so we want you to have an occasion to remember.

There is no legal status to a Naming Ceremony, therefore, with the exception of any religious content, you are free to enhance your ceremony any way you choose, and we are happy to help you create a unique and memorable experience for yourself, your family and friends.

You can choose to hold your celebration in one of our registration offices, one of our beautiful approved venues across the county or you may prefer the comfort and familiarity of your own home. There are many options available to you. For details of Gloucestershire venues please see our [Find a Venue](#) page.

# What next?

## Booking your ceremony

You can make a booking with us by calling 01452 425060 option 3 and a member of the ceremonies team will be happy to help.

Once you have made your booking your ceremony will be confirmed via email. Within 24 hours of receiving your email a non-refundable administration booking fee will be required, this is payable online, through your personal [customer account](#). Details of which will be emailed to you separately.

## Paying for your ceremony

The ceremony fee must be paid at least 2 calendar months before the date of your ceremony, through your [customer account](#). In the case of bookings made within 2 months of the proposed date, full payment is required at the time of booking. Part payments are not accepted and may lead to a booking being cancelled.

Please see the [Celebrate with us](#) website for [ceremony fees and charges](#). Our fees are reviewed annually but may be subject to change at other times. If your ceremony is taking place after 1st April new fees will apply. Please check our website or email [ceremony@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:ceremony@gloucestershire.gov.uk) to find out the cost of your ceremony.

## Making choices for your ceremony script

We will provide you with options and a structure for your ceremony script. If you wish, you can personalise your ceremony by including readings, music, and naming special people.

You can access your ceremony choices through your [customer account](#). Please complete and submit 2 months before your ceremony date.

## On the day

The Celebrant will take some time before the start of the ceremony to introduce themselves to you and meet your new arrival.

They are there to guide you through all you have to say and do so there is no need to memorise any of the words, just enjoy yourselves.

# FAQ

## How many children can be included in the ceremony?

There is no limit to the number of children we can include in a Naming Ceremony – please note, there is an additional fee per child.

## How do I include my older children?

If your older children are over 16 years old, perhaps they could be chosen as additional supporters. They would be asked to stand during the ceremony and make special vows to their new brother or sister. Alternatively, younger children may enjoy presenting the new baby with a gift, reading a poem, or singing a song during the ceremony.

## My partner and I both have children from previous relationships; can I create a ceremony which celebrates our families coming together?

We will be happy to discuss any amendments or additions to our script to enable you and your family to create the perfect celebration.

## My partner and I have adopted, how can we celebrate completing our family?

A member of the ceremony team will be happy to talk through the script with you, making any amendments you require.

## We would really like to hold our ceremony in our local village hall, would that be possible?

Gloucestershire Registration Service encourages families to hold their celebration where they feel most comfortable, we would simply be required to conduct a risk assessment in your chosen location, an additional fee will apply.

## My partner and I are getting married next year; can we incorporate a Naming Ceremony for our child too?

Yes, we will happily conduct a Naming Ceremony after our wedding ceremony. The price of the Naming ceremony will be reduced by 50%.

## My partner and I aren't married, can we arrange a Naming Ceremony for our children?

Yes, you do not need to be married to have a Naming Ceremony for your child.

## Who can arrange a Naming Ceremony?

Any person with parental responsibility can book a Naming Ceremony.

## Are we able to mention family members/friends who cannot be with us to join our celebration and provide a reason we have chosen specific names?

You can make special acknowledgments to people who cannot be with you, and we would be happy to facilitate you sharing a brief explanation of why you have chosen particular names for your child. Please add this information to the 'Special Requirements' on your ceremony arrangements form.

# Choices

## Welcome

- 1** On behalf of (Name of parent/s) I would like to welcome you all to (Venue's name) today to share in their celebration.
- 2** Today is a celebration of the love of (names of parents) and their joy in the birth of a new baby. They are delighted you are here today to share in their happiness.
- 3** We are gathered here today to celebrate a new life and the joy and hope it gives us. The family are pleased you could be here today to share this special time with them.

## Introduction

Around the world there are many traditions to welcome a new child into the family. These celebrations play an important part in our lives, not just to gather with family and friends, but the beginning of a special bond that will last a lifetime.

We are here today to name this child and welcome him/her into the world. At the beginning of this new life, we reach out to greet and protect him/her, to draw him/her into the circle of family and friends that will care for him/her and watch him/her grow.

Everyone here has a special relationship with this child – we affirm that simply by being here. They are already a part of our lives. Now his/her name will be added to the list of those we love and become part of our everyday lives. This name is his/hers to own and ours to celebrate.

(Name of parent/s/guardian/siblings) will dedicate themselves to their child by a series of promises made in front of you all. They have chosen special people who have agreed to help them in protecting, caring for and preparing their child for the future.

All of you here have a part to play in this ceremony. It is an opportunity for you to reflect on this/these child's/children's future and how your relationship with them can make that life better.

## Reading 1 (Optional)

### Naming your child

I now ask (parents name/s) to bring their child forward to be named.

### *Parent(s) to stand*

A name is what identifies us, something that is special for the rest of our lives. It is the way people will see us, respond to us and in which family, friends and the wider community will know who you are.

So, I therefore ask, by what names do you wish to raise your child?

*The celebrant will repeat and confirm these names.*

(Child's name) your family and friends have gathered here in your honour to welcome you into their lives. With your new identity you take your place in the world amongst those who love and care for you. May you have a life full of health, happiness, contentment, and joy and as you journey through this life may your footsteps leave only good memories for those who meet you.

### **Promises to your Child**

You have given life to (name/s) and brought him/her into the world. You have committed to love and support, care and protect him/her for as long as he/she needs you.

*Please select one or as many as you like.*

*(Parent replies 'I/We will')*

- 1** Will you help him/her to value those qualities that bring kindness, tolerance and respect for others?
- 2** Will you be a good example so he/she can learn right from wrong and honesty from dishonesty?
- 3** Will you respect (child's name) as an individual and help him/her to be his or her own person?
- 4** Will you consider the needs of (child's name) before those of your own?
- 5** Will you support (child's name) in whichever path they choose, irrespective of success or failure, without fear of rejection and teach him/her moral values to become a responsible and caring person?
- 6** Will you have the courage to let him/her go when he/she is ready to make his/her own way in the world?

### **Parent's promises to each other (Optional)**

The birth of a child is an awakening of thoughts and experiences. You become aware that your child will learn from you the value of caring, trust, responsibility, loyalty and what makes a binding, intimate relationship successful. The relationship between parents is a role model for an impressionable young mind.

With these thoughts in mind (Parent/s names), have taken this opportunity to affirm their commitment to each other.

Please select one of the following: -

- 1** I promise to give you my love and friendship, to be there when you need me, to support and comfort you and be faithful always, for as long as we both shall live.

**2** I make these promises in the presence of our family and friends, that I will love and cherish you, help and comfort you, through both the good times and the bad and to stay by your side as your loving husband/ wife/partner.

**3** I promise to care for you with love and friendship and be at your side for whatever the future holds.

### **Guiding Adults**

Would the guiding adults please join us in standing?

(Names of guiding adult/s) you have been chosen to be one/some of the most special and trusted person/people in (child's name) life. Your role is that of (a) substitute guardian(s), to support the family when help is needed, to be there always as a friend and impartial mentor, but to always keep the welfare of your sponsored child uppermost in your mind. This honour is not to be accepted lightly, but honestly and deliberately. It is a commitment that will last for a lifetime.

Will you be there for (child's name) through life's journey? To support him/her in times of difficulty, to praise in times of achievement, keep him/her true to their values that his/her family have taught him/her and to live in the confidence that he/she will always be loved and treasured?

*Please select one or as many as you wish*

**1** Will you care for (child's name) and encourage them to be true to themselves?

**2** Will you keep (child's name) in your thoughts as you walk your own path in life and endeavour to see no harm comes to him/her?

**3** Will you promise to give support to (child's name) and his/her family when needed and help them to achieve their hopes and dreams for this him/her?

**4** Will you promise to offer friendship without condition and guidance without judgement?

**5** Will you share in (child's name) success and give your support should he/she fail?

Thank you. May the acceptance of this honour also enrich your lives. You may take your seats.

### **Additional Supporters (Optional)**

*This option is for other family members i.e. grandparents, other children or close friends you wish to include in the ceremony.*

Would (Names of additional supporters) please join us now in standing?

(Parent/s names) have asked to honour the special place you hold in their lives.

(Additional Supporters name/s), will you offer (child's name) love, encouragement, and support? Will you always let (child's name) know that he/she plays a special part in your life (lives)?

Thank you, you may take your seats.

## Reading 2 (Optional)

### Signing the Commemorative Certificate

### Closing Words

We come now to the close of our ceremony here today.

I present you with this record of the ceremony as a lasting reminder of the promises made here today.

(Child's name) we wish you a long and happy life, secure in the love of those who surround you here today. May you have many days of sunshine and very few of tears.

Thank you for sharing in this ceremony today. I wish you a wonderful celebration, please welcome (child's name).

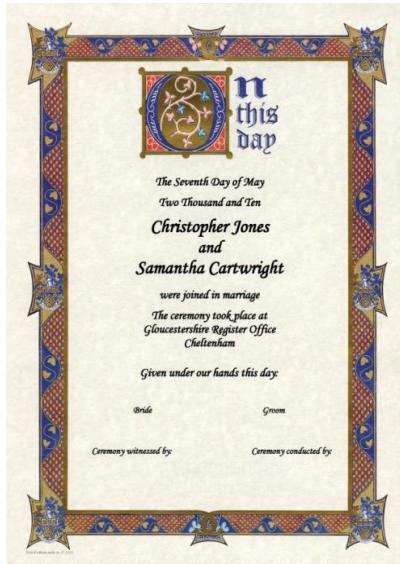
## Contact

If you require any information please call our ceremonies team on 01452 425060 (option 3) or email us at [ceremony@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:ceremony@gloucestershire.gov.uk) Further information can also be found on the [Naming Ceremony](#) pages of our website

The Register Office  
St George's Road  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL50 3EW

The content in this brochure was correct at the time of print. Please refer to our website for possible changes to terms and conditions - [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/registration](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/registration)

# Commemorative Certificate



A commemorative certificate is a memento of your day, with both of your names, the date and venue to commemorate the occasion but has no legal value.

The fee for this certificate is included in the price of the ceremony and will be presented to you to mark the conclusion of your ceremony.

Please add the details to your Ceremony Arrangements form exactly as you wish them to appear on the certificate.