

## AT YOUR SERVICE

Meet the people qualified to join you and your partner in matrimony



Rev. Simon Grigg, St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden, London

**My role is to encourage couples to understand the Christian view,** that

marriage should be life-giving and life-long, and to be excited about how wonderful that is.

**After I meet a couple we ask that they start attending church,** and we always go for a relaxed meal together.

**I run 'The Actor's Church' so have presided at a couple of marriages of quite famous people.** The ceremonies that stand out are any for whom you can tell it is a serious day.

**My favourite part is the rather intimate moment when the couple are making their vows.** It's more often the man who has tears in his eyes than the woman!

**Try to remember in all your planning and excitement:** this is about the beginning of a marriage, it's not just one day.



Robert Livesey, Registration Service Manager, York

**The Registration Service came into being in 1837 to formalise the registrations of births, deaths and marriages.** It had previously been the

responsibility of the clergy.

**There can't be any religious content in a register office ceremony.** The words spoken are laid down in law, but you can make up your own vows for the exchanging of the rings.

**The service can be personalised, to be formal or humorous.** Most couples add readings, whether it's a Pam Ayres poem or a Shakespeare sonnet.

**My favourite part is pronouncing the couple husband and wife, wife and wife or husband and husband.** I married one couple in Asda, and 12 bridesmaids coming up the travelator into the George clothing section was certainly a sight to behold!



Roxy Hotten – Celebrant, The Fellowship of Professional Celebrants

**A celebrant conducts a ceremony, minus the legal elements, which means you can get**

**married anywhere.** You will need to register your union either before or afterwards though to make it legal.

**Planning the ceremony should be just as enjoyable as planning the reception.**

I don't stipulate what should or shouldn't happen; it's totally collaborative.

**I love meeting a couple for the first time.** Every couple is different, and they're telling me how they met and why they love each other. You don't really get to hear about that very often in every day life!

**One couple incorporated Star Wars elements into their day and the guests had no idea.** They were escorted down the aisle together by storm-troopers!

## Totally tassels

You will need:

50 x 75cm sheets of tissue paper, sharp scissors, 2m of twine, lace or ribbon, 36in round balloon, 5cm heart balloon

**1** Fold your sheet of tissue paper in half lengthways and cut down, creating two pieces.

Use one piece per tassel. Cut from the bottom edge of your paper up to 8cm from the lengthways fold. Make each fringe about 1cm wide. Unfold and gently roll the middle of the paper (uncut area) to form your tassel.

**2** Roll until it is tight and starts to twist from the centre outwards.

Bring your two ends of the tassel together and gently help the twist to form a rope-like effect. The top of the tassel will have a small natural loop. Add a small length of lace or ribbon to secure your tassel tightly.

**3** Make your tassels and attach the twine through the loops,

around 30cm apart, tying the twine to each tassel. Tie one end of twine to fully inflated 36in round balloon. Attach 5cm heart balloon with a little glue. Project courtesy of [prettylittlepartyshop.co.uk](http://prettylittlepartyshop.co.uk)



## The Lodge

Offering panoramic views of the mountainous Scottish coast, the Treehouse at The Lodge in Argyll is ideal for intimate celebrations. Call 01301 703 193, [thelodge-scotland.com](http://thelodge-scotland.com)



## Nash Point Lighthouse

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## SKY-HIGH VENUES

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For urban-chic up high, look no further than the capital's 20 Fenchurch skyscraper. Unmissable in London's skyline, its swanky rooftop Sky Garden is the perfect setting for a stylish city do. Call 0333 772 0020, [20fenchurchstreet.co.uk](http://20fenchurchstreet.co.uk).



## Ackergill Tower

A 15th century Scottish castle with spectacular views of the North Sea – and it sits in 3,000 acres of lush land. Call 033 0333 7222, [amazingvenues.co.uk/venue/ackergill-tower/](http://amazingvenues.co.uk/venue/ackergill-tower/)