**Hilary Leighter, London and Home Counties**

*I put my heart into my ceremonies, and aim to infuse any occasion with love.*

**What do you most enjoy about being a Humanist Celebrant?**

It is such a pleasure to make people happy. Whether it is bringing your family and friends together to celebrate a wedding or baby naming, or whether it is creating a perfect memory of the life of a loved person who has died, I am so glad that I can help you to have a day which focuses on happiness and love.

**Why did you become a Humanist Celebrant?**

I married my own wonderful husband in a personal Humanist Ceremony which was unique to us, and where we had the freedom to involve our Mums speaking and singing to us as we wished. So I thought this is brilliant, and I would like to provide this for other people. After my Dad died, my Mum insisted on a traditional religious ceremony which was inappropriate for any of us. So I also trained to provide Humanist Funerals, so that people will feel uplifted after the ceremony, and know it was exactly as their loved person would have wished.

**What makes a Humanist Ceremony special, and different from one with an independent Celebrant?**

Humanism is a philosophy that believes that people matter. So every Humanist Ceremony focuses on you and those you love, in as much detail as you desire. It is not sidetracked by religious beliefs that many people will not share. I truly value the continuing professional training which the British Humanist Association provides, and I know that the quality of my ceremonies, and their loving delivery, improves with every one I take.

Many of my couples and families have kindly written to thank me following a ceremony. Here are some lovely examples, thank you all very much:

“The moment we met you, we knew that you were exactly the right person to officiate at our wedding. Your kindness and warmth are palpable, and you bring a certain gravitas to your words that mark the importance of the ceremony. You took the time to get to know us both, and helped guide us through the process of writing a ceremony that was perfect. There was humour, there was solemnity, and most of all, there was love. We could never have gotten that from anyone but you – you really managed to get the best out of us, and in turn gave the best of yourself. We can’t thank you enough.” **Tiff and Rob**

“We can’t recommend Hilary enough. She was extremely helpful, professional and guided us all the way through from writing our ceremonial speeches to being the most memorable, charming, celebrant on the day of our Son’s naming day.  A joyful soul with a friendly and loving nature, Hilary is just what you need for any Ceremonial occasion.” **Aimee and Nick**

**“**Please may I say how wonderful you were, Hilary. My mother had requested a Humanist Funeral and in the circumstances it was most apt, especially as you were such a great orator and gave a frank, informed and at times amusing celebration of the life of my dear mother. I appreciated that you spent three hours with my husband and I prior to the funeral finding out as much about Molly as was possible. You collated and presented this information to the funeral party as if you actually knew Molly and had been a part of her life too. Thank you once again Hilary for making the end a comfort and a relief. ” **Erica**