

Before the Funeral

Before the Funeral, remember to take time to stop, think and pray. Spend time with your other family members, particularly those who do not see or have contact with often. You may want to say the following together or alone.

**Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublesome life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over
and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

In the time ahead may the Lord grant you comfort and peace.

You are always welcome to Church
to reflect,
light a candle
or pray.

If you'd like to speak with a Clergy member
or one of the Pastoral Team,
at any time,
please do get in touch.

Do not hesitate to get in touch if you
have questions or need anything.

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A guide to help you plan a



Funeral

Funerals are often difficult times for families and individuals. There is lots to organise, think about and prepare before the day of the funeral.

In regards to the funeral service itself, we would like to help make things as smooth for you and your family as possible. So below are some general pointers to help you reflect on the service; whether it be in Church or at the Crematorium, a burial or a cremation or interment of ashes.

***“God's love and power extend over all creation.
Every life, including our own, is precious to God.
Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as in life,
and that there is new life in Christ over death.”***

Pastoral Introduction, Common Worship, Church of England

Hymns

When you select the hymns for the funeral service, it is best trying to choose hymns that people will know – family favourites, popular hymns, well known tunes. You may already know what music you would like. If not however, try some of the following:

The Lord's my Shepherd

The Old Rugged Cross

Love Divine

Abide with me

Dear Lord and Father

Lead us heavenly Father

All things bright and beautiful

The King of love my Shepherd is

There is a green hill

How Great Thou art

Morning has broken

Amazing Grace

Jerusalem (And did those feet)

Praise my soul the King of heaven

Other Music

It is perfectly acceptable to play music from a CD (recording) at the start or at the end of the service. The song/s should have suitable lyrics. It may be a song dear to your loved one, or to your family. The song should help you reflect on their life.

As the coffin enters the Church/Crematorium, words from the Bible are read aloud. It would usually therefore make sense to play a more reflective, quiet song on entrance, or to use organ music. At the end of the service however, other music can be played.

Bible Readings

There will always be one reading from the Bible. Often the clergy person leading the service will choose this. This can be read by a member of the family or a friend. Other readings may include poems, sonnets or verses. Do check any additional readings with Clergy. These can also be read by members of the family or by family friends.

It is quite common that Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd) will be read anyway by the clergy leading the service. Some other scripture readings that may be used (there are lots more too)

John 11.17-27 *I am the resurrection and the life*

John 14.1-6 *In my Father's house are many rooms*

2 Corinthians 4.16 - 5.10 *The heavenly body*

Ephesians 3.14-19[20-21] *The power to understand Christ's love*

2 Timothy 2.8-13 *If we have died with him, we shall also live with him*

1 Peter 1.3-9 *We have been born anew to a living hope*

Prayers

These will usually be led by the Priest and direct our thoughts to the following:

Thanksgiving for the life of the departed

Prayer for those who mourn

Prayers for readiness to live in the light of eternity.

Prayers usually end with the Lord's Prayer (Our Father, who art in heaven...)

During the prayers it is appropriate that some family names be read out. For example, the closest family members to the deceased—siblings, children etc. There may also be others who have died in the family that you may wish to be remembered.