

FUNERALS

First steps in arranging a funeral

After the initial news of the death of someone you knew and loved, there are some important things that need to be done. These are two of the more immediate things:

1. **Register the death.**
2. **Meet a Funeral Director.** If you're not yet sure which one to use, you can find one near to you on the National Association of Funeral Directors' website, or on the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) website.

The Funeral Director will talk to you about what kind of funeral you would like.

Burial or Cremation?

One of the first questions they'll ask is whether you'd like a burial or a cremation. You might like to discuss this with other family members if you're not sure what the preference was of the person who died.

Location?

You'll then be asked where you would like the service to be held. When someone dies, a Church of England funeral is available for them in their own parish, whether they were churchgoers or not. A funeral can be led by a church minister in a churchyard, cemetery, crematorium or green burial site. It may also be possible to have the funeral in a church building.

The Funeral Director will ask about various details, including:

- Whether the funeral should be civil, humanist or religious.

Remember you don't have to be religious or a churchgoer to have a Church of England funeral – it is open to all.

The Funeral Director will also ask you:

- Whether there is a particular minister or celebrant you have in mind to take the funeral.
- What sort of coffin you would like.
- How you would like the coffin to be transported to the service.
- Whether you would like flowers.
- They might ask whether you have any thoughts on music or other special ideas to reflect the life of the person you knew. The person who leads the service will talk to you more about this.

There are helpful websites that offer local contacts for some of these choices, such as funeralservicesguide.com/ and funeralguide.co.uk/. Your Funeral Director will also have contacts nearby.

**If you choose to have a Church of England funeral,
we will visit and listen
to the story of the person you knew.
We will go through all the details
of the funeral service itself.**

A Church of England funeral is available to everyone, giving support before, during and after the service.

We are here to serve you.

If you are interested in a funeral at St Mark's Church,
please contact Rev Veronica at 07921514906.