

Confidence

- You can feel confident that the minister has been properly trained and qualified in all aspects of ministry, whether that's in the public setting of the service, or in private, offering you and your loved ones help and advice at a sensitive and emotional time.
- The minister will be sympathetic, careful to listen and willing to work with you to achieve the funeral service you want for your loved one.
- She or he will make themselves available to you to make preparations.
- Your funeral director will usually make the initial contact so that a mutually convenient time can be established, and you will be given the minister's contact details so that ongoing contact can be maintained as appropriate.
- Most ministers are based at a particular parish church, which is likely to have a website you can access to find out service details and other contacts. Don't be hesitant about keeping in touch – they will be happy to hear from you and help you however they can.
- After the funeral you can share your experience and give feedback if you wish, either directly or via the funeral director.

A Christian Funeral

A Typical Service Order

Music to enter.

Welcome and Introduction.

Hymn, Song or Music.

Readings - A Bible reading, favourite readings, poetry or prose.

Tribute - an outline of the life of the loved one from a family member, colleague or minister.

Short personalised talk from the minister.

Prayers for the family and for the loved one.

Prayers of final committal.

Blessing for family and friends.

Music to leave.

Contact

Please contact your local Church of England minister who will help you plan your service:

Name:

Tel:

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Guildford

www.achurchnearyou.com

A Christian Funeral

Remembering and Celebrating

Planning a funeral service
with care and support

Arranging a personal,
local and dignified
service for your loved one

Losing a Loved One

When you're experiencing the pain of losing a loved one, the prospect of making an important set of decisions about their funeral service is not easy. Death is sometimes unexpected and at other times comes at the end of a long illness. In any event, there's so much to deal with, so many people to tell, so many feelings to take on board, that the details of a funeral service can easily take second place. Who you entrust to lead this important service can make all the difference. We have confidence in all our clergy and their ability to be capable, personable, and able to listen - as well as being able to give help, advice and long term support.

The Church of England

For many years, Church of England ministers have come alongside those who are grieving, conducting funeral services, and providing pastoral care for those in the local community long after the service is over. They have a responsibility for the pastoral care of all who live locally in their parish, regardless of who they are or whether they attend church services.

Your Church of England minister is readily available to visit and help you prepare a service appropriate to your loved one. They will be able to give you advice based on long experience of how to make a service personal and memorable. They will be able to help you by taking responsibility for putting the service together alongside you and working with other family members or friends who may want to make their own contribution. After the service is over they will, if you wish, ensure that there is continuing pastoral care through visiting, praying for you and your family and inviting you to remember your loved one on occasions such as Memorial Services.

A Christian Service

Some people assume that if they don't go to church they shouldn't choose a Christian service or Church funeral. Rest assured that this is not true.

Whether or not your local Church of England minister has met you beforehand and however you are feeling, you will always be welcomed.

The minister taking the service will not ask about your own or your loved one's church attendance, nor about your personal beliefs; rather they will meet you where you are.

Neither will they expect you to come to church though, of course, you would be welcome at any time.

You might find it helpful to remember these points:

- Your minister is there to help you provide the best and most personal farewell to your loved one.
- A Christian funeral doesn't have to be formal or complicated.
- You're not required to conform to a particular set of beliefs or adopt certain practices, either beforehand or afterwards.
- Services may be held in Church, at the Crematorium, a Cemetery or Burial Ground, wherever you decide is most appropriate.
- All Church of England ministers will have been properly trained and authorised by their Bishop to conduct services and make pastoral visits.
- The charge for the service is set nationally - there are no extras apart from an organist and/or choir, if you would like one.
- Your minister will offer ongoing pastoral care after the service - this may consist of further visits, invitations to particular occasions etc. Many find this really helpful, but you're free to decline it if you prefer.

Planning a Service

The style of the service can be tailored to the person who has died to reflect their life and their wishes.

You can choose favourite songs or pieces of music that celebrate their life. This can be music on CD or live music.

There's no requirement to sing hymns if you'd prefer not to.

You can include poems or readings - these are often read by a family member.

A member of the family or close friend can share memories and reflections on everyone else's behalf, or lead the prayers.

You can create a service sheet using pieces written by the family or photographs.

You can ask for particular prayers including the Lord's Prayer.

Photographs and pictures can be used to provide a visual memory.

Your Minister will be able to conduct the service for you wherever you choose.

