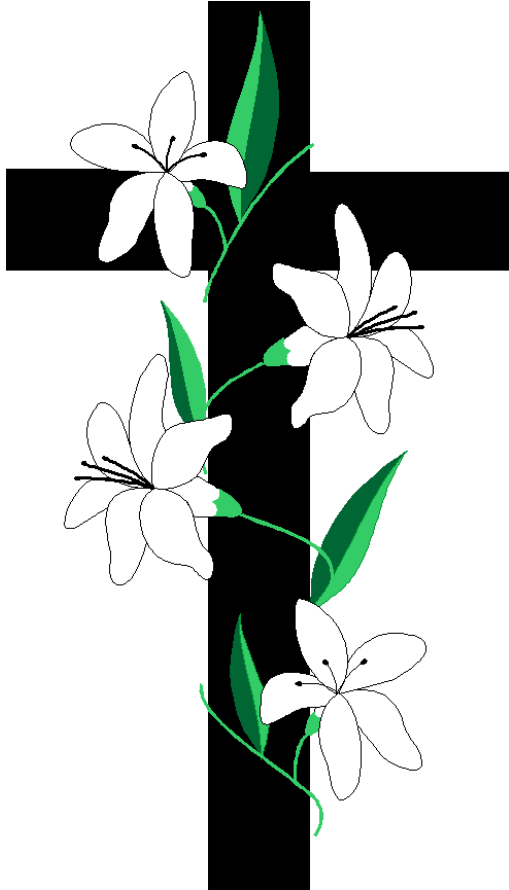


# Arranging a Funeral



**St. Mary's Church, Charlbury  
2023**

## **Funerals**

At St. Mary's we will always be here to help you through one of life's most difficult times. A Church of England funeral is available to everyone in this parish, giving support before, during and after the service, for as long as it's needed.

A funeral marks the close of a human life on earth. It is the opportunity for friends and family to express their grief, to give thanks for the life which has now completed its journey in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

### **Arranging a funeral**

The person who has died may have left a paragraph in their Will describing the sort of funeral arrangements they hoped for. Naturally, the family will want to keep to such arrangements as far as possible.

Not everyone knows that they have the right to a funeral in their parish church, even if they and the deceased have not been church-goers. Nor do practising Christians always realise that they can have a Communion service as part of the funeral.

### **Funeral Director**

The funeral director plays a very important part in all these arrangements and will want to know if the funeral is to be in the parish church or if the vicar is to take the service in the crematorium. Funeral directors know the local clergy, the local cemeteries and the crematoria. As part of a national network of funeral directors, they can, if necessary, give advice on funerals in other parts of the country, as well as on costs and fees.

## **The funeral service**

The form of the service will be discussed with the vicar who is taking the funeral. You will be able to discuss your choice of hymns, music and readings. The vicar may have some suggestions to help you, or you can decide with the help of your friends and family.

There will also be an address or a talk remembering the life and work of the dead person and the great Christian beliefs about life beyond death. This can be said either by the vicar leading the service or a close friend or relative.

## **Suggestions for readings at funerals**

1 Corinthians 13.1-13

Revelation 21.1-7

John 6.35-40(53-58)

John 11.17-27

John 14.1- 6

1 Corinthians 15

## **Suggestions for hymns at funerals**

Abide with me

All things bright and beautiful

Amazing grace

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father

Guide me, o thou great Redeemer

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Love divine, all loves excelling

Make me a channel of your peace

Praise my soul, the king of heaven

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended  
The king of love my shepherd is  
The Lord's my shepherd

More suggestions are available on line.  
[churchofenglandfunerals.org](http://churchofenglandfunerals.org)

## **Burials and cremations**

The churchyard surrounding St Mary's is now closed for burials. Your funeral director will arrange a burial in Charlbury cemetery through the Parish Clerk, Lisa Wilkinson. If a cremation service is chosen, the churchyard has a space set aside for burying ashes. However, no individual burial plots are marked, but there is a central stone where names of those whose ashes are buried can be recorded.

## **Memorial Service**

If your loved one is to be cremated some people prefer to hold the cremation *before* a church service. This can take place on the same day or even a different day.

## **Ashes Garden**

There is a part of the churchyard set aside for the burial of ashes but no plot is marked in any way. Flowers can be left on the central name stone. Please obtain a separate leaflet from the Parish Office which will explain the regulations for this.

## **Church Fees 2023**

*The funeral director will usually arrange the payment of these fees.*

Funeral service in church	£228
Funeral at the crematorium	£227
Burial of cremated remains in churchyard on another occasion	£190

In addition to these fees, set by the Church of England, there is an additional fee of £60 for the verger who prepares the church and is on hand to help the family in any way.

We can arrange for an organist to play at the funeral; the fee for this being £75.

All these fees are paid through the Funeral Director.

## **After the Funeral**

We hope to stay in touch with you after the funeral and we will continue to pray for you and your family for a little while. One of the clergy, or a member of the Pastoral Team, will be available to visit you if you feel you would like to talk to someone. We will remember your loved one on the anniversary of their death. We would be grateful if you could confirm permission for us to contact you.

## **All Souls Service**

We hold a special service on the Sunday nearest to All Souls Day, (2<sup>nd</sup> November) when you will be invited to come to St. Mary's and remember by name your loved one.

## **Questions of life and death**

The funeral service will reflect the personality of the one who has died and the circumstances of their death. Feelings of grief, gratitude, joy and sadness often intermingle.

Sometimes, a sense of tragedy is uppermost, especially when it is a young person who has died. When it is the end of a long and fruitful life, the feelings of thanksgiving can be strongest.

Funeral services always raise profound questions about the meaning of life and death. Jesus himself believed in a life-giving God: 'the God of the living, not of the dead.' Christians believe that Christ's resurrection is the triumph of good over evil and of life over death and has made eternal life available to us.

What heaven is like, none of us dare say too precisely but we know that we shall delight in the presence and love of God and of the whole company of heaven. Whatever is wonderful about life here on earth is only a glimpse of the glory of the life that is to come.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

**Vicar:                Vacancy**

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