



Planning a Funeral or Thanksgiving Service

We are so sorry to hear of your loss and trust this information will help you plan an appropriate funeral or service thanksgiving.



Bible reading suggestions

John 6:35-40

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life..."

John 11:17-27

I am the resurrection and the life.

John 14:1-6 & 27

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God...

Romans 8:31-end

More than conquerors

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love...

1 Peter 1:3-9

Praise to God for a Living Hope

1 Peter 1:23-25

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever

Revelation 21:1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

There is a time for everything...

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd...

Psalms 121

I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?

The full passages can be found at the website of biblegateway.com

Popular Hymns

Abide with me

All things bright and beautiful

Be thou my vision

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Great is thy faithfulness

Guide me O thou great redeemer

Lead us heavenly Father lead us

Lord of all hopefulness

Love divine all loves excelling

Make me a channel of your peace

Morning has broken

Now thank we all our God

O God our help in ages past

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 I'll not want

Thine be the glory risen conquering son

Making contact with Holy Trinity

For more information and the help you need, please call Janet Watkins in the church office on 01372 463603 option 1 or email janetwatkins@htclaygate.org



The printed order of service

The order of service can also include information about charitable donations in memory of the deceased and details about a reception being held after the funeral.

The church office can put everything together and print the order of service.

The charge is £35 for the preparation plus 10p per copy printed in black and white or 20p per copy if there is colour photograph.

Most orders of service are printed on a single sheet of white heavyweight card folded into an A5 booklet. But additional pages can be added and are charged pro rata. Samples are available.

Other information

Holy Trinity has a Garden of Remembrance for cremated remains. If you would like to consider this option please ask for details.

We hold a Giving Thanks and Remembering Service, followed by tea, on the first Sunday in November at 3pm. Invitations are sent for the first two years following a bereavement. But all who have been bereaved - whether recently or many years ago - are welcome to attend.



Involving others

Family members or friends are welcome to take part by reading a poem, a Bible passage, leading prayers or playing music during a time of reflection.

The tribute

Writing a tribute is a way of saying farewell to someone while giving a reminder of the unique life they have lived and their value to others. It therefore needs to be written with care and thought.

If the service is at a Crematorium, time constraints mean there should be only one tribute lasting about 5 minutes. This is roughly 450 words.

If the service is at Holy Trinity there is more flexibility. There can also be more than one tribute, they can be longer, and there can even be a slide show of memorable photographs.

A family member or close friend can read a tribute on behalf of someone else. And, if required, the Minister can read the tribute on behalf of the family.

It is recommended to be concise, with there being opportunities to share memories after the service.

The Minister will need a copy of the tribute in advance so they are able to make suggestions about what to include.

Planning the service

The Minister will meet with you to plan the order of service. It will be helpful to have started to think about this before you meet.

The Minister will be able to give you advice about the style of the service and how it can be made personal by the choice of music, readings and the tribute.

A typical service might look like:

- Music to enter
- Welcome and introduction
- Hymn - see suggestions overleaf
- Tribute
- Prayer
- Bible reading - see suggestions
- Talk by the Minister
- Prayers including The Lord's Prayer
- Hymn
- Blessing
- Music to leave

We hope the information here will help you at a time when there is so much to deal with and to think about.

Please be sure that our Ministers and office team have helped many families plan personal and appropriate funerals or thanksgiving services. They are here to help.

Also, we will be praying for you and your family at this time of loss and as you prepare for the funeral or thanksgiving.

Arranging where and when

Services are usually held at a Crematorium or at Holy Trinity - and sometimes a combination of both. Burial in the churchyard at Holy Trinity or at a local cemetery is also an option.

The church office staff, liaising with your chosen funeral director, can help make the initial arrangements regarding the date, the venue and the availability of a Minister.

If the service takes place at Holy Trinity, then the foyer or hall can be hired for the reception.