

# Religious Funerals

Some things to keep in mind when arranging a funeral reflecting someone's faith.

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If you hold religious beliefs, you may wish to consider contacting your minister, priest, rabbi, imam, elder or other spiritual leader as a priority after the death has occurred and so receive detailed appropriate advice and support.

Our chapels of rest are able to accommodate multi-faith requirements and offer facilities for ritual washing, if needed. We also appreciate the requirement of some faiths for a short period of time to pass from death to committal. This is an area in which we are experienced and, in most cases, can accommodate. The decision of cremation or burial may be dictated by your religious beliefs or may simply reflect the personal wishes of you or your loved one.

When it comes to the funeral service, there is much more flexibility about where it takes place than is commonly realised. You may wish it to be held in a place of worship, but it can also take place in at a crematorium or cemetery chapel, or even in a private residence if space allows. Because of historical cultural influences, crematoria and cemetery chapels tend to be of Christian architecture but, in the vast majority of cases, any religious iconography present can be removed or covered up to respect those of other faiths who are holding services there. The internal layouts of many chapels also reflect the times in which they were constructed. So you may find that the seating arrangements are in rows rather than allowing people to sit around the body, as may be traditional for other non-Christian faiths. If this is an issue for you, you might want to exercise your option of holding the service in another location.

Content-wise, the service can be religious or secular in nature and, whichever is the case, there is considerable scope to enable the participation of mourners. The service can include prayer, hymns, music, song, readings, poetry and even dance. Musicians, singers and live bands can also be incorporated although if the service is taking place in a crematorium chapel, it may be prudent to book two consecutive time allocations. Other service venues tend not to have such time-sensitive considerations to be taken into account.

Whatever the faith base of the funeral, we are here to work together with you to make sure the arrangements are a fitting and religiously appropriate tribute to your loved one.

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