



## Ideas for my funeral service

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Welcome**

Funerals can be on our minds for all sorts of reasons. Thinking about your own funeral now and making your wishes known can be a comfort to you and your family in all sorts of ways.

This booklet gives you space to make some notes and begin to think about your ideas, including the sort of music and readings you might like. You could then use it to share with those around you.

**“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you”**

**- John 14.27**



## **First things first**

When a funeral is arranged, your relatives will see a Funeral Director and will be asked to make a number of decisions, including:

- Whether your body is to be buried or cremated
- Where your funeral is to be held
- Who will lead the service (eg. The local vicar or someone different)
- What type of coffin should be used
- Whether there will be flowers or if there is a special charity to which donations may be made from those at the funeral
- If there is a preference for the type of transport of the coffin to the funeral venue

You may like to think about some of these decisions and write down your preferences here. It will really help your relatives to have this information at an undoubtedly difficult time.

**My preferences:**

## **Arriving at the funeral**

Would you like any music played as the coffin enters the venue? You don't have to, but there could be some music that you think is just right for this moment. As the coffin is carried, the person taking the funeral may say some words. It only takes a minute so any music is likely to be an extract rather than a full piece. To help you choose, think about the mood of the music and how those attending will be feeling:

**“Be there at our sleeping  
and give us we pray,  
your peace in our hearts  
Lord at the end of the day.”**

**Extract from Lord of All Hopefulness**



## Hymns

A few words of welcome will be said and then there is space for a hymn at the start. Hymns can often help people express their feelings in a way that words alone can't. So as well as thinking about the hymns you love, bear in mind how those present will be feeling, and what sort of music will be suitable to the occasion. You can have one, two or more hymns throughout the service.

Here are some suggested hymns for funerals (there are many others to choose from, however!). Tick your choices or use the space to write your choices below (please give the first line where possible).

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abide with me                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Make me a channel of your peace              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All things bright and beautiful    | <input type="checkbox"/> Morning has broken                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amazing Grace                      | <input type="checkbox"/> God, our help in ages past                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dear Lord and Father of Mankind    | <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, I have promised                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How sweet the name of Jesus sounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Love that will not let me go                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I watch the sunrise                | <input type="checkbox"/> On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In heavenly love abiding           | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock of ages, cleft for me                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Just as I am, without one plea     | <input type="checkbox"/> The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  | <input type="checkbox"/> The King of Love my Shepherd is              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lord of all hopefulness            | <input type="checkbox"/> The Lord's my Shepherd                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love divine, all loves excelling   | <input type="checkbox"/> Thine be the glory                           |

Other:

## Readings

You can have extracts from literature, poems and other types of readings, as well as the required Bible reading. There are many Bible readings which offer comfort and hope to those who are grieving. Here are just a few popular examples:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23      | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8 v 31-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 21 v1-7   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 14 v 1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> I Corinthians 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecclesiastes 3 v 1-8 |

Do you have a preference for any of these? Tick any you like.

Or do you have ideas of your own for Bible readings, or readings from other places? Jot down any readings you really like here:

## **A message of hope**

There are two parts to a talk at a funeral: the first is about telling your unique story and the second focuses on sharing the Christian hope that death is not the end.

It will really help the person giving the talk if you write down some notes and anecdotes about your life here (use a separate piece of paper if you need to).

### **My life story:**

## **Prayers**

Are there any special prayers you would like to be included? They might include prayers for particular people who will be at your funeral or for particular things that you have held close to your heart in your lifetime, for example the Mothers' Union or British Legion. If anything obvious comes to mind, write it here:

## **Conclusion and Farewell**

This is often a particularly emotional moment for those attending your funeral. You don't have to include anything extra at this point, but if there is anything you would like to happen, such as a piece of music to be played or some final words to be said, write your ideas down:



## **The Burial**

Do you have a preference for the type of burial you have, or where it takes place? If you choose to be cremated, you might have some ideas for where your ashes are placed, but there could be restrictions depending on the location you wanted. You can explore the possibilities well in advance to check they can be done.

At our churches we have an area where your ashes can be interred.

Write down your initial thoughts, if you have any, here:

## Leave a legacy

Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you have the opportunity to make a lasting gift to God, by leaving a legacy to His church. Leaving a gift in your Will to your local church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support the mission and ministry in Barlborough and Clowne.

A gift can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, and can help keep your local church alive, and help transform its future.

You may wish to insert this clause into your Will:

I wish £\_\_\_\_\_ to be passed to the Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Clowne / St James the Greater, Barlborough (delete as appropriate) in the Diocese of Derby, to be used:

- at the discretion of the PCC or
- for mission and community outreach in that parish or
- for work on the fabric/building of the church

## **Additional notes**

Further information about funerals in the Church of England can be found online:

<https://churchofenglandfunerals.org/>

The Rector of Barlborough and Clowne  
The Rectory  
Church Street  
Barlborough  
S43 4EP

Tel: 01246 813569

Email: [revbryonytaylor@gmail.com](mailto:revbryonytaylor@gmail.com)