



Help planning a Funeral



St. John's Hospice

'Built by the people for the people'

www.sjhospice.org.uk

Planning the funeral

Your options

A funeral service can be held in any suitable venue, though many people choose to have the service in a church or crematorium chapel.

The service can include anything you feel appropriate – if it is in a church the minister will guide you as to what is appropriate. If you want to hold the service at the crematorium or cemetery chapel, your local minister would be able to lead the service for you there. In theory anyone can lead a funeral service; it could be a religious minister, a humanist or civil ceremonies leader, or a friend or relative.

The majority of people choose to make their arrangements through a funeral director, and they will help you plan what is right for you. Some people may have made specific requests about their funeral, verbally or in a Will or Advanced Directive. You may choose to be guided by these, but note they are not legally binding.

Funeral Director

Who to choose? Try to get a recommendation from a family member or friend who has had a well-arranged funeral. Ask them questions, and choose one you feel comfortable with. Funeral Directors can offer the same services but may vary considerably in price. Ask for a written estimate. They should belong to a trade association (FSC, NAFD, SAIF), and they have codes of conduct.

When, how to contact? It is perfectly acceptable to call a Funeral Director (by phone or in person) before you have had a bereavement, or you can make contact at any time afterwards.

What can they do?

- Manage all the funeral arrangements for you, advise and support.
- Transfer the deceased from place of death to their own premises, and then on to the place of the funeral, burial or cremation.
- Provide a suitable coffin – there is now a wide range of coffins, including a range of more ‘environmentally friendly’ ones.
- Some people find viewing of the body in their Chapel of Rest helps, and others find it upsetting; your Funeral Director can talk this through with you.

- You may be asked by your Funeral Director to choose what you would like your loved one to wear.
- Provide a hearse - if you wish to have a particular type, discuss this with the Funeral Director.
- Arrange to pay 'disbursements' – fees for crematorium, cemetery, church; doctors for certificates; leader of service; musician, etc.
- The Funeral Director may offer additional optional services:
 - embalming of the body;
 - help you with invitations to the funeral;
 - limousine(s) for mourners;
 - flowers for the coffin;
 - announcements in local papers;
 - print an Order of Service;
 - Collect donations —the hospice can supply gift aid forms
 - arrange refreshments after the service.

Burial or Cremation?

Burial You may already have a family plot that could be re-opened, or you might need to purchase a new plot. Options include some local church graveyards, civic cemeteries; there are now 'woodland' sites or woodland areas of existing cemeteries; or private land. Note that in some areas burial space may no longer be available. The service could be held in church, cemetery chapel, graveside or elsewhere. It is worth checking with the graveyard/cemetery beforehand whether headstones are allowed; most woodland sites don't allow them.

Cremation Usually costs less than burial. The Funeral Service can be at a crematorium, or elsewhere, before or after the actual cremation. At the crematorium in Lancaster the time allocation is 45 minutes, allowing for a service of 30 minutes, which is usually sufficient. You will need to decide on the final resting place of the ashes (your Funeral Director can advise on your options and timescale).

How much might it cost?

A typical cost for a simple funeral with one car for relatives could be around £2,900 for cremation, £3,100 for burial in an existing plot (*Sept. 2011*), although prices may vary from one Funeral Director to another.

The Funeral Service

There are no legal or spiritual requirements for the form of the funeral Service. You should choose what is appropriate for the person who has died, and for you and your family. The things people usually consider include:

When: There is no time pressure. It is usual that funerals are within about 7-10 days, but this can be varied to suit your needs, depending on availability.

Where: Church, cemetery chapel, graveside, crematorium, or at an increasingly wide range of other venues.

Who to lead: Make sure that you choose the right person to lead the Service for you. Anyone can lead a funeral service. Your Funeral Director will have contacts with ministers from all faiths, including humanist funeral leaders. If you want something 'in-between', there are ministers that will keep the faith part to a minimum and concentrate on the life of the person who has died. In addition, Lancaster Civil Ceremonies, and the Registrar's Office in Lancaster, both offer people who can lead a Funeral Service.

Content: Consider what you would like said, and by whom; Music - pre-recorded or live - often played on entry, exit and sometimes also for contemplation during the Service? Hymns? Prayers? Readings? You may perhaps consider a printed Order of Service

'D-I-Y' Funerals If this approach appeals, and you have time to research and prepare, enquire at the cemeteries department of your local authority for guidance (for North Lancashire: Lancaster City Council Community Dept., 01524 582635; for South Lakeland District Council: 01539 733333 x7142). Some Funeral Directors are willing to help with such arrangements. You could also get information from the Natural Death Centre.

Funeral Directors

Local [01524]

Lancaster

Co-operative	64650
J Mason	65304
Lancaster Islamic Society	64131
Preston, Ireland, Bowker	64023

Morecambe / Heysham

Alex Willis	851595
Bare & Torrisholme	410240
Cliff Small	231942
Co-operative	410292
Morecambe & Heysham	415787

Hest Bank / Bolton-le-Sands

Alan Fawcett	824848
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Carnforth

Alan Fawcett	733048
John Fishwick	734181
JN Wilson	723301

South of Lancaster

Cockerham / Forton

AJ Wainman	01524 791347
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Garstang / Pilling

Ascension Funerals	01995 605548
L Stewart Dimond	01995 602316

North of Lancaster

Caton

Cliff Small	01524 770886
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Milnthorpe / Levens

John Fishwick	01539 563108
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Holme

Edward Duckett	01524 784232
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Kendal

Co-operative	01539 739099
GF Martindale	01539 720197
Hayes & Parkinson	01539 720105
Ruxtons	01539 722299
Stan Brockbank	01539 731132

South Lakes

Endmoor / Staveley

Ted Mason	01539 560600
JW Johnson	01539 821329

Windermere / Ambleside

Bleazard & Scott	01539 446089
JB Longmire & Son	01539 443427
Tom Edmondson	01539 433184

Newby Bridge

J Wren	01539 531082
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Cartmel / Witherslack

Anthony Clarke	01539 530828
H & G Hodgson	01539 552453

Grange over Sands

G Postlethwaite	01539 553040
Saunders & Son	01539 532566

Flookburgh

Alan J Thompson	01539 558732
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North Yorkshire

Sedbergh / Dent

JJ Martin	01539 625334
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Ingleton / Bentham

Brown & Whittaker	01524 241293
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Kirkby Lonsdale

John Fishwick	01524 271400
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Preston / Blackpool

Preston

H & G Wilde	01772 335974
H Porter	01772 862574
Kirkham	01772 735713
M Billington	01772 864856

Poneton / Presall

Chris Hull	01253 899845
Moon	01253 810492

Further help

Information about cemeteries around Lancaster:

Tel: 01524 382635 www.lancaster.gov.uk/cemeteries

Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium Tel: 01524 848394

Lancaster City Council Bereavement Guide, available on request:

Tel: 01524 582635 www.lancaster.gov.uk/cemeteries

What to do after a death - free booklet from Jobcentreplus ,
or on:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Death/WhatToDoAfterADeath

Other sources of information

General information about funerals, including 'green' funerals and natural burial grounds:

Natural Death Centre

Tel: 0871 288 2098 www.naturaldeath.org.uk

General information about funerals and what to do with the ashes, and suggestions for readings etc. for the service:

www.funeralinspirations.co.uk

www.ifishoulddie.co.uk

Advice on anything to do with funerals can also be obtained from the Family Support Team at St John's Hospice

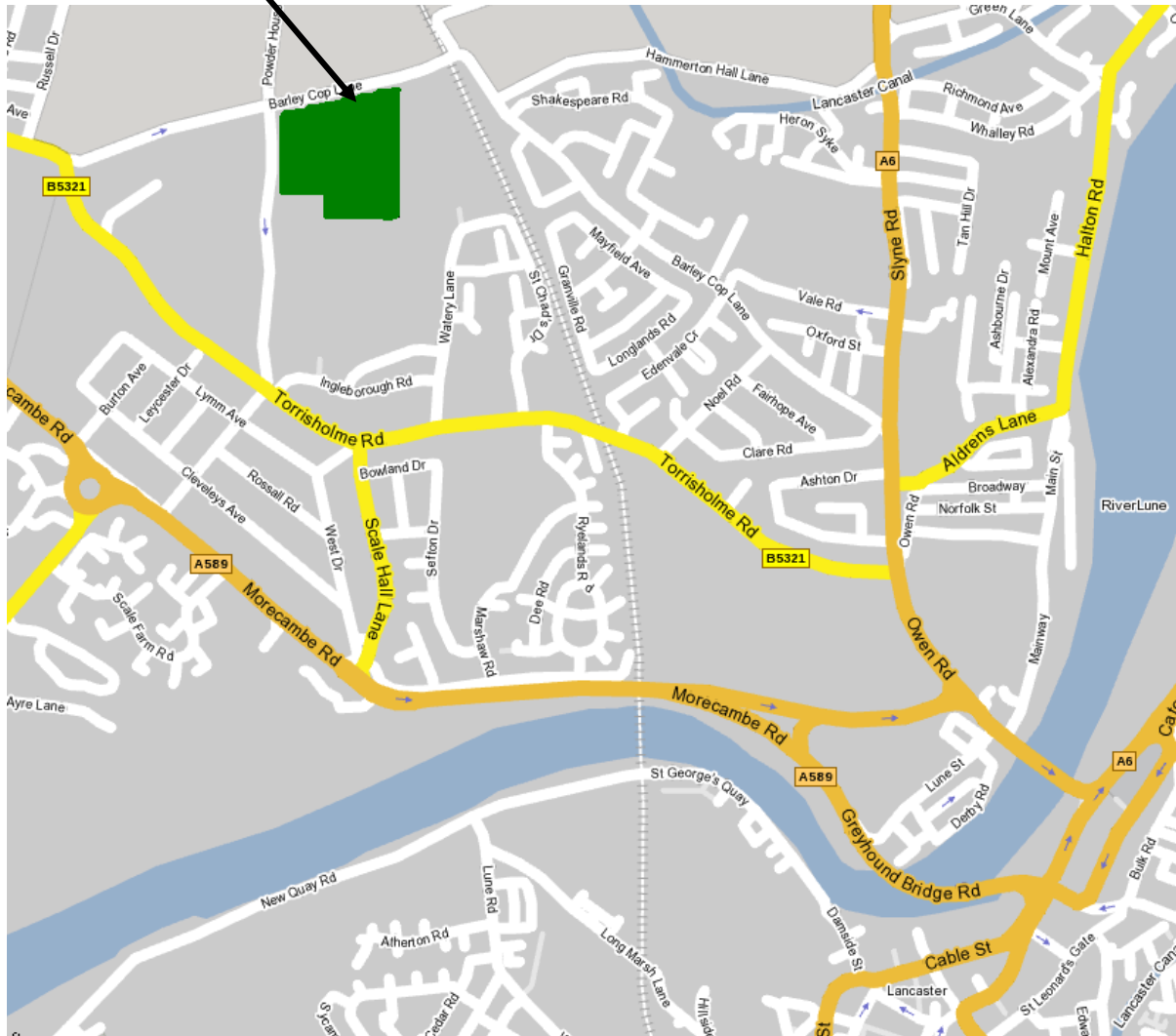
Your notes

Please note that this booklet is as accurate as we can make it. Information contained in the booklet does not mean recommendation or endorsement.

Directions to Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium

Entrance

Powder House Lane, Lancaster LA2 6AD



Produced by the Family Support Team
October 2011

Slyne Road, Lancaster, LA2 6ST
Tel: 01524 382538



ST. JOHN'S
HOSPICE

reg charity no. 510667