

What happens after the funeral?

In the case of a Cremation, the Ashes are usually interred (buried). This may be done in a public Cemetery (e.g. Almondsbury Cemetery) or in the Churchyard at St Mary's.

There is a Memory Book in church, where we record if wished the name and date of death of the deceased. There is also the opportunity to put flowers on this table, perhaps on the anniversary, in memory of your loved one.

Every autumn we hold a Memorial Service in church, to which the next of kin and other family and friends are invited. Many people find this a helpful part of the grieving process.



What is the next step?

Contact Rev Philip Rowe on 01454 613223
or email: vicar@stmaryssevernside.org.uk

Funerals at St Mary's Almondsbury



Planning a Funeral

**For a loved one who has died,
or planning ahead for yourself.**



Planning a funeral is never easy, but we are here for you at every step. Do speak to the Vicar and arrange a time to meet. Philip will be happy to help and to support your choices as you plan the service.

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or email: vicar@stmaryssevernside.org.uk**

Can only churchgoers have a funeral service in St Mary's?

Everyone has a right to a funeral in the Church of England church in their parish, whether or not they were a churchgoer. We also welcome families who are having their loved ones buried at Almondsbury Cemetery.

We believe it is an important part of our ministry in the parish, and gladly listen to and help all who are planning their own funeral for the future, or who are facing the loss of someone they know and love.



It is important that the service reflects the person who has died

The service should be a celebration of who they were and their character. The tribute is an important part of this.

We can help you to prepare the tribute, and although it is always good if this is read by someone who knew the deceased well, the minister will be happy to read it if you prefer.



What is the purpose of the funeral?

A funeral is an opportunity to express grief, to give thanks for the person's life, and to commend them into God's keeping.

Comfort is found in the promises of Jesus Christ, in the hope of the Resurrection and in the belief that the beloved person is safe in the hands of God.

Readings

The best-loved Bible readings for funerals:

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| Psalm 23 | Psalm 139 verses 1-18 |
| Isaiah 61 verses 1-3 | Ecclesiastes 3 verses 1-8 |
| John 6 verses 35-40 | John 14 verses 1-6 |
| 1 Peter 1 verses 3-9 | Revelation 21 verses 1-7 |

What does the service cost?

There are some statutory fees that we are required to charge. The Funeral Director will explain these to you and they will form part of the total invoice that you receive from them.

Music

You are welcome to choose music to be played before and after the service. We do permit the use of CDs of favourite and appropriate music. Please provide the original CD (rather than a copy) with the track number clearly marked.

People often choose up to three hymns for the service, but this is up to you—we are here to help and advise you.