



Planning a Funeral or Thanksgiving Service

with a Minister from Holy Trinity Claygate

INTRODUCTION

We are sorry to hear of your loss - please accept our sympathy - and we hope that the information in this leaflet will help you at a time when there is so much to deal with and to think about.

The Ministers and the church office staff at Holy Trinity Claygate are very experienced at helping families plan personal and appropriate Funeral or Thanksgiving services. We will be praying for you and your family in the coming days, as you prepare for the funeral, and in the weeks ahead.

SERVICES

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**, will be able to help make the initial arrangements regarding the date, the venue and the availability of a Minister.

You will **meet with the Minister** to plan the order of service and it can 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 very personal by the choice of music, readings and the tribute.

A typical order of service might look like this:

Music to enter (CD or live)

Welcome & Introduction

Hymn (see suggestions overleaf)

Tribute (given by family member, friend or the Minister)

Poem (optional reading of a poem)

Bible Reading(s) (see suggestions overleaf)

Talk

Prayers (including The Lord's Prayer)

Hymn

Blessing

Music to leave (CD or live)

The church office can put together and **print the order of service** for you - the charge is £35 for the preparation plus 20p per copy printed in black & white or 30p per copy if there is a 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.

THE TRIBUTE

Writing a tribute is a way of saying farewell to someone while giving a reminder of a unique life of special interest and value. A tribute will therefore need to be written with care and consideration.

If the service is being held at a Crematorium then just one tribute, a maximum of 5 minutes (approx. 400 - 450 words), is appropriate due to time constraints, but if the service is being held at Holy Trinity there is greater flexibility regarding the number and length of tributes.

The Minister will need to have a copy of the tribute in advance of the funeral and, as appropriate, may need to make suggestions about what to include.

A member of the family or close friend can share these memories and reflections on behalf of everyone else, or if required the Minister can read the tribute on behalf of the family.

WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

Family members or friends are welcome to read a poem, Bible passage, lead prayers or play music during a time of reflection.

OTHER INFORMATION

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

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

On the first Sunday in November at 3pm we hold an '**Annual Service of Remembrance for the Bereaved**' followed by tea. We send invitations for the first two years following bereavement but all who have been bereaved - whether recently or many years ago - are welcome to attend.

POPULAR HYMNS

Abide with me
All people that on earth do dwell
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
He who would valiant be
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

BIBLE READING SUGGESTIONS

Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd...
Psalm 121	I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?
Revelation 21:1-7	Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14	There is a time for everything...
John 14:1-7	Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God...
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love...
Romans 8:31-39	If God is for us who can be against us?

Visit the biblegateway.com website for the full passages

CONTACT DETAILS

Please call Janet Watkins in the church office on 01372 463603 or email janetwatkins@holyltrinityclaygate.org.uk

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