

What to Consider when Arranging a Funeral



When a loved one dies, you can find yourself faced with so much to think about - just when it is very hard to think at all. We are here to offer advice, whatever your decisions and wishes may be.

You may simply want to call us, on **01295 688488**. We can talk with you about your situation, your requirements and your wishes, and give advice as to the next steps you may like to take. We can also arrange to meet you at the burial ground, at your convenience, where we can show you around, answering any queries or concerns, allowing you to feel its reassuring peace.

Here is a list of things to consider when arranging a funeral. Go through them slowly, one by one. Decisions don't have to be made all at once.

Would you like to use a funeral director or have no funeral director? We have a list of funeral directors, including those who have used Sun Rising. If you are looking for a very simple funeral or are keen to do most of the arrangements yourself, you might choose not to use a funeral director, using our own no-frills service for the necessary basics. We can guide you – just ask.

What sort of coffin or shroud would be just right? At Sun Rising, we have a catalogue with a comprehensive range of biodegradable, environmentally-friendly and ethical coffins, ranging in price from the very simplest cardboard to luxury products. We also have the option of beautiful felt shrouds.

Do you have a date in mind? We can usually arrange a burial in 48 hours, or less if necessary. It is more usual to give yourself about 7 – 10 days in order to make all the necessary arrangements. If you've a preferred date, let us know. It is always a feat of co-ordinating the availability of the funeral director, minister, celebrant and family members.

Will there be a service in a church or elsewhere, before or afterwards, or will the service be held at Sun Rising? Most funerals at Sun Rising hold a service – religious or otherwise – in our Roundhouse before the burial takes place. There is also the option of a marquee for those who want more space (though this does add to the cost). Alternatively, for shorter services or in good weather, the funeral can be held entirely at the graveside.

Who will you invite to the funeral? There will always be some important people that spring to mind. However, you may like to consider making it clear to neighbours, work colleagues, the broader community of your church or clubs, that the invitation is open – or indeed if the funeral service and/or burial are only for close family. We often find more people attend than are expected.

Would you like a Christian minister or another celebrant to lead the service? Your funeral director will be able to arrange for a minister or celebrant. We also hold a list, including interfaith ministers (who embrace are able to build bridges

between beliefs and cater for individual's personal spiritualities), and civil or humanist celebrants for those with no religious or spiritual beliefs.

Would you like there to be an opportunity for family and friends to say something during the service? Whoever is organising the funeral service, make sure there is time for individuals to say a few words, read a poem, or the like, should they wish. A funeral can be as personal as you'd like it to be.

Will there be music? At Sun Rising, we are very happy to have music at funerals. For pre-recorded music, we have a portable Bose MP3 player; we can either download tracks or copy CDs onto our own iPod, or you could bring your own system. We also have a few musicians on our books, and welcome choirs or bands. The wooden roof of our Roundhouse has a beautiful warm acoustic.

Are there any extra touches you'd like to make a funeral personal? There are plenty of ways to make a funeral a very individual celebration of someone's life, from a horse-drawn hearse, releasing balloons or doves, or holding a celebratory picnic in the grass. Tell us what you think will make it special.

Will you want flowers? At Sun Rising, we encourage garden flowers and foliage, but all floral displays on graves are equally cared for. Let the florist know it is for a natural burial ground, and she may be able to offer organic or seasonal arrangements, with little or no plastic and wire. You may like to let guests know if you'd be happy for them to bring flowers or not. We can even recommend a florist who could create a wreath from what is available in your own garden.

Will you have a gathering afterwards or before the funeral? A number of pubs and hotels local to Sun Rising are happy to cater to your needs: just ask for a list or check our website. Alternatively, if you have a marquee or are willing to risk the weather, a funeral tea or picnic could happen at Sun Rising too. We can recommend local caterers.

Would you like a note in the local newspaper's Family Announcements page? A funeral director will arrange this if you are using one.

Do you have a budget you have to work within? Let us or your funeral director know your constraints, and we'll do what we can to work within them.

What about memorials? At your convenience, you can choose the specific plot - we can usually give you 2 or 3 options in either the meadow or woodland. We can also talk about trees, memorial plaques, and other ways in which you can remember your loved one and contribute to the developing nature reserve at Sun Rising.

At Sun Rising, every funeral is special, tailored to the specific needs and wishes of the family. Some funerals are traditional with the hearse and mourners in black, while others are entirely individual, with a jazz band and a picnic in the grass, or poems read by the grandchildren and doves released into the wide open skies. Some funerals last 15 minutes, and some families are at the site for most of the day. Not only are we here to ensure the funeral works for you, but we are here to advise just how it is possible to make that happen.

Call us for more information or if you have any queries : 01295 688488.