Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground
and Nature Reserve

My Last Wishes

At Sun Rising we know how important it is for family members and friends to feel sure that the funeral of a loved one is just what they would have wanted. When those organising a funeral know the last wishes of a loved one, it makes it so much easier to get through those first difficult days. The knowledge is a priceless gift.

Yet, talking about our wishes can be extremely hard. Even finding an appropriate moment to raise the subject can be difficult. Our desire to talk about such things can be seen as morbid or negative, when really we are simply looking for peace of mind.

This step-by-step guide is designed to take you through all the key elements you may want to consider when setting out plans to be laid to rest at Sun Rising. You can either use the space provided on these pages, or draw up a separate Letter of Wishes, keeping it safe with a copy of your Will, letting family and executors know what you have done.

Preparing in Advance

Have you an up-to-date Will? YES / NO
If YES, where is this kept?

Have you purchased and paid for a funeral plan in advance? YES / NO
If YES, when did you take out the plan and through which company?
Where do you keep the paperwork?

Have you purchased a grave plot in advance? YES / NO
Keep your Licence (or a copy of it) with these your Last Wishes.

Would you like to be laid to rest near or beside anyone else? If so, who?
At Sun Rising, it is possible to reserve the adjoining plot – but only in meadow areas.

If they have already passed away, where are they buried?

Would you like to be buried or cremated? At Sun Rising, it is possible to be buried or have your ashes interred after cremation. For environmental reasons, we encourage burial but recognise that some people have strong feelings otherwise.

Funeral Directors

At Sun Rising, we happily work with funeral directors, but we can also provide a service which does not require one.

For burial, we offer our own very simple arrangement service, providing all the essentials. Without a funeral director, we can keep costs to a minimum. However, if you would like a service in church, funeral limousines, a more traditional feel, or if you have bought a funeral plan in advance, you will need a funeral director.

For cremation, we can offer a 'cremation direct' service, where there is no service at the crematorium. Otherwise, you will need a funeral director.

For BURIAL : would you like to use Sun Rising's own simple funeral arrangement service or are there other plans in place?

For CREMATION : would you like a friends and family to attend the crematorium or would you prefer a cremation direct? Do you like do you have a preference about which crematorium?

If you would like to use a funeral director, do you have one you like and trust?
Name:

Telephone:

Have you spoken to them about your arrangements? **YES / NO**

My Funeral

What sort of coffin or shroud would you like? At Sun Rising, we have a catalogue of biodegradable, environmentally-friendly and ethical coffins - simple cardboard, willow, bamboo and other woven coffins, wool and solid pine. We also offer beautiful felt shrouds, or simple cotton shrouds. If you would like more information to keep with your Last Wishes, let us know. For cremation, we recommend a solid pine coffin.

Thinking about your last journey - would you prefer a traditional hearse or would you rather something different? For Sun Rising, you may prefer be a smaller and more discrete vehicle, such as a hearsette. There are other possibilities, including motorbike hearses, VW Campervan hearses, and the horse-drawn carriage. We are happy to discuss with you the most environmentally-sound option.

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Would you like a religious service at your funeral? YES / NO / DON'T MIND

If YES, which religion would you require? Do write it here so there can be no doubt. You may wish to write down the name of the church or minister too.

If NO, would you like a humanist service? Humanist services make no mention of religion or spirit, but focus on the celebration of a life well lived. A celebrant from the British Humanist Association can hold the service. If you have a celebrant in mind, put their name down here.

Would you prefer a funeral service that is spiritual without being religious? Civil or interfaith celebrants can offer funeral services to suit your own individual beliefs. If you have a celebrant in mind, put their name down here.

It is not necessary to have a celebrant. **Would you prefer there to be no minister or celebrant, letting the family do it themselves?**

YES / NO / DON'T MIND

Or would you prefer it if there were no service at all? Some choose to have an informal gathering where music is played, memories shared, over a glass of wine or a dram of whisky. Some would like nobody to attend on the day, allowing family and friends to arrange a memorial service at a later date if they would wish.

Where would you like the service to be held? The majority of our funerals have the service at Sun Rising, but if you have a preference put it down here.

Can you think of a few words that describe the funeral you'd want for yourself? These will help the arrangers grasp just what they should be aiming to achieve on the day. e.g. simple, no fuss, traditional, natural, ethical, colourful, lots of music, creative, informal, the children, lots of flowers, thanksgiving, celebration ….

Would you prefer just close family to be at the funeral, or would you be happy if a broader invitation were sent out? Is there anyone in particular you would want invited to the funeral? What about the children? Children are particularly welcome in the open easy environment of a natural burial ground like Sun Rising.

Are there any particular poems or readings you'd like read at the funeral? It may be useful to print these out and keep them with these Last Wishes.

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Is there any particular music you'd like played at the funeral? You may like to consider a few pieces of recorded music, or live musicians or a choir. At Sun Rising, we are very happy to have music at funerals; the wooden roof of our Roundhouse has a beautifully warm acoustic. Two or three short pieces would be sufficient; but you may like to write your choices here in order of importance.

Would you want flowers at the funeral? Do you have a preference in terms of colour and variety, would you prefer them from a florist or the garden? You may like them to go to a particular hospice or be left at the graveside, or decide there should be no flowers at all.

Would you want a collection made for a particular charity at the funeral? Your funeral directors would be happy to arrange this, or we can do it for you. It is always possible to donate to Sun Rising, either for bulbs and wildflowers to be planted, the birds fed, or for the long-term upkeep of the site.

Would you like there to be a gathering after the funeral? There are some great pubs, hotels and tearooms local to Sun Rising well practised in funeral gatherings. Do you have a favourite?

Would you like a note placed in the local or national newspapers' Family Announcements page? If so, which ones? A funeral director can arrange this.

What about memorials? At Sun Rising, in the meadow there is the option of a slate plaque on a memorial post. In the woodland, you can have a tree and a slate tree plaque. Do you have any particular preferences?

Other Considerations

Where do you keep your finances and related paperwork? You may like to keep a list of your bank accounts, insurance policies and any social security or pensions you receive, here with your Last Wishes.

Call us for more information or if you have any queries : 01295 688488.
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http://sunrisingburialground.co.uk

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