

HOW TO ARRANGE A FUNERAL AT ST LEONARD'S

Condolences

On behalf of all of us at St. Leonard's Church please accept our sincere condolences for your loss and be assured of our prayers for you at this sad and difficult time. If you would like your loved one prayed for by name at one of our Sunday services please let us know. We are sorry that you are facing this difficult time, but hope that we can bring you God's loving care and offer our support to you in the coming days.

Who can have a funeral at St Leonard's?

Everyone who lives in the parish or is a worshipping member of the church is entitled to either a burial service or to have their ashes buried in their local parish churchyard by their local parish priest. You don't have to be religious or a church goer to have a funeral with the Church of England. If your loved one didn't live in the parish but had a genuine link to St Leonard's please speak to us about this.

Why have a church funeral?

From the moment that we are first in touch with you, throughout the funeral service and for as long as you need us afterwards we will be there for you. We offer ongoing support for as long as you feel that you would like it. The service commits your loved one to God's care and offers comfort in the hope of the resurrection.

Where will the funeral take place?

A Church of England funeral doesn't have to be in church, although you may like to hold it there. The service can also take place at the crematorium, a green burial site or a council cemetery for example.

What will happen in the service?

The Church of England funeral service is very adaptable with lots of different prayers to choose from. This means that it can be tailored to the individual and their beliefs. It is suitable for both someone who didn't go to church but had an understanding of God or someone with a very strong faith who was a regular church goer as it is very flexible. There will be time to give thanks for the person you are remembering, space to pray, think and reflect, and your loved one will be entrusted into God's care.

We aim to be as accommodating as possible so you can really personalise the funeral to reflect who your loved one was. You might want to include some of the following: hymns, popular or classical music on CD, photographs, poems, personal reflections, objects which meant something to or symbolised your loved one. The dress of those attending can be anything you like, traditional black, colourful, sports team etc. Just speak to us and we'll help with your ideas wherever we can.

St Leonard's C of E Church Langho & Billington

After the funeral

If your loved one has been buried at Old Langho at a later date you may want to place a headstone on their grave to remember them. We recommend waiting 6-12 months to allow the ground to settle. Because a churchyard is a place of Christian burial we have to be sensitive to the tradition and nature of the churchyard, which is different in some respects from that of a local authority cemetery. Therefore, there has to be regulation over what is installed in a churchyard because churchyards are public places, very often of significant historical interest. It is important that there is nothing within them which conflicts with the surroundings and certain rules are set down regarding this under Churchyard Regulations which are beyond the vicar's control. Please see our separate leaflet about the Churchyard Regulations which outlines all of this in great detail.

If your loved one has been cremated you may wish to keep their ashes or scatter them somewhere meaningful. If you have a family grave at Old Langho we can arrange to inter the ashes there for you (caskets permitted). If not, ashes can be buried at St Leonard's in our Garden of Remembrance. We regret that caskets cannot be used at St Leonard's and ashes must be placed directly into the ground.

If you would like your loved one's name to go into our Book of Remembrance, we can arrange this for you.

Further Information

More information on planning funerals and follow up support within the Church of England can be found online at <https://churchofenglandfunerals.org/>

We hope this information has been helpful. If there is anything you are not sure of, or wish to discuss further, please speak to the vicar. Your Funeral Director will also be able to offer advice and assistance on any queries you may have.

St Leonard's
C of E Church
Langho & Billington

Helpful Bible passages and prayers

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?'
John 14:1-2

'I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'
John 11:25-26

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Matthew 5:4

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39

Lord,
you created and fashioned us,
you know us and search us out,
you abide with us through light and dark:
help us to know your presence in this life
and, in the life to come, still to be with you;
where you are alive and reign,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen

God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy
you turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.
Your Son, by dying for us, conquered death
and, by rising again, restored to us eternal life.
May we then go forward eagerly to meet our redeemer
and, after our life on earth,
be reunited with all our brothers and sisters
in that place where every tear is wiped away
and all things are made new;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen