

God's love and power extend over all creation. Every life, including our own, is precious to God. Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as in life, and that there is new life in Christ over death.

Even those who share such faith find that there is a real sense of loss at the death of a loved one. We will each have had our own experiences of their life and death, with different memories and different feelings of love, grief and respect. To acknowledge this at the beginning of the service should help us to use this occasion to express our faith and our feelings as we say farewell, acknowledge our loss and our sorrow, and to reflect on our own mortality. Those who mourn need support and consolation. Our presence here today is part of that continuing support.

(From the introduction to the funeral service)

If you have any questions please phone Revd. Chris Rowberry on 01489 789578 or e-mail revchrisrow@me.com

SERVICES @ ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Sunday services

8:00 am Holy Communion
9:45 am Eucharist (Crèche and Godly Play 2nd and 4th Sunday)
9:45@945 1st Sunday (Messy Church)
9:45 am Family Communion (3rd Sunday)

12 noon and 2:00pm Baptism (2nd Sunday)

6:30 pm Informal communion (1st Sunday)

Wednesday

10:0 am Holy Communion, coffee and cake

Children & Youth

Wednesday - Underhill Centre

1:30 - 2:30 pm Sunbeams (0-4 years)

1st Saturday of month - Underhill Centre

10:00 am - 12:30 Discoverers (5 - 11 years)

Reg. No: 1147617 - The Parochial Church Council of
the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Evangelist
Hedge End

Funerals at St John The Evangelist Church Hedge End



Funeral in Church

Since 1874 St John's has been the focus of the Church of England in Hedge End. This beautiful Victorian church offers a variety of Services and community facilities through its Underhill Centre.

In that time it has seen celebrations of birth, marriage and of death. In the early Celtic times folk believed that there was a veil that separated the worlds of the seen and the unseen; those who had died would pass through that veil into the unseen world. It was from there that they would join the cloud of witnesses who would pray for us in the seen world.

Today in our modern world we may find such beliefs difficult and whilst for people of faith there is a sense of knowing that the person who has died is in "heaven" for those with no such faith this can be a hard time. Here @ St John's we try through the words, music and the place to create a sense of dignity and appropriate use of the building to make the funeral service be both helpful and as personal as possible.

Funeral in the Crematorium

Much of the above applies to a funeral in the crematorium. The main exception is that the time may be limited. Your Funeral Director

will be able to guide you on which is the best option for you.

When the minister visits they will spend some time discussing the following with you.

Music: this may be played on the organ or piano for more traditional hymns. If you are in doubt as to what is right for you then you may like to look at the attached choice of hymns leaflet. Perhaps the most popular hymns are: The Lord's My Shepherd (Psalm 23), Abide with Me, Jerusalem and All things Bright and Beautiful. You may like to choose music on a CD or a tape. This may be music that the person who has died liked themselves or music that you feel says something about them or just a piece that you like. It is possible to play music at the beginning (going into) and at the end of the funeral (coming out). Personally I do not think that there is an inappropriate piece of music if you think that it is right. If you are using the Church you may also ask a friend to play or book a soloist.

Readings and prayers: Sometimes you may have an idea of what should be read or perhaps the person themselves had something special that they liked.

Again readings are very personal. It may be from the bible or other religious book or from a card that someone has sent. It is the same with the prayers. If you would like

someone else to read or say a prayer then please do say so.

The Eulogy or the person's life story: When visiting, the minister will talk to you about the life of the person and ask you where they were born, what they did and how you all knew each other. This is to try to build up a picture of the person's life and their story. From this a eulogy will be created that remembers the person's life. Combined with some reflection on the reading, this will form the "sermon" for the service. In some cases there is another person or several people who can tell the life story from a more personal angle; this is often better than the minister doing it and can make the service more personal. If someone is going to do this it should be fairly short 5 -7 minutes long (particularly in the crematorium).

Lighting candles: You may wish to light candles during the service - this is only possible if the service is in the church, due to health and safety reasons.