



nbft helpsheet

10 things to consider when arranging a funeral

1. **Set a budget** and appoint someone to get quotes for all the elements of the funeral you choose so you can manage your budget and get what you want.
2. **Choose between burial and cremation**
 - If cremation, is there a choice of crematoria? One may be more pleasant than the other or give a longer ceremony time.
 - If burial, you can choose between churchyard (if there's space), cemetery, woodland burial, and possibly burial on private land.
3. **Bringing them home.** Would you like the person who's died to be brought home before the funeral, perhaps for a vigil the night before, or would you or any family member like to see the person who has died before the funeral? You could ask your funeral director about this.
4. **Whether to embalm.** If you would prefer the body of the person who has died not to be embalmed, tell your funeral director. It is often unnecessary.
5. **What sort of coffin will you choose?** Cardboard, printed cardboard, plain pine, traditional veneered chipboard, bamboo, banana leaf, pandanus, willow, traditional solid wood e.g. oak, poplar? If you want to see pictures of these you can find them at www.greenfuse.co.uk/coffins.htm.
6. **Where might you like to hold the funeral ceremony?** You can hold a funeral ceremony almost anywhere with the permission of the owner of the land or building. In a church, the crematorium ceremony hall, at the graveside, in a community hall, at home, at home in the garden, in a marquee or yurt, in a function room (with separate access)?
7. **The order in which to do things.** If you prefer you can have a cremation first and a ceremony after perhaps with the ashes present, giving you more options for the venue if there is no coffin.
8. **Getting people involved.** Would any family or friends like to be involved in bearing or transporting the coffin to the funeral, decorating the coffin or ceremony space, or preparing food and drink for a gathering afterwards?
9. **What type of ceremony would feel right?** A celebration of life, a religious service, a non-religious service, something in between that reflects the particular views of the person? In which case you can choose between an independent celebrant, a religious minister, a humanist officiant or friend or family to take the ceremony?
10. **You can choose the ceremony, the entire content, music and words.** Your choices will be fine as long as they reflect the character and beliefs of the person who has died. Not everything needs to be serious and funereal.

You can find more information and ideas like this in our book *We Need To Talk About The Funeral - 101 Practical Ways To Commemorate And Celebrate A Life*, by Jane Morrell and Simon Smith, available at bookshops for £14.99 or download from www.greenfuse.co.uk/funeralbook.htm for £9.99.

