



green fuse funeral celebrant training

by Jane Morrell and Simon Smith, authors of *We Need To Talk About The Funeral*

"We Need To Talk About The Funeral is by some margin the best guide available for all those who want to shake off existing conventions. (It) displays an awareness of feeling, as well as ceremonial skill, from which any celebrant will learn a great deal." John Pearce. Pharos Magazine (Cremation Society of GB)

"This course is a must for anyone wishing to learn how to develop funerals together with the family and friends in a sensitive and meaningful way. The safe space enables you to jump in and practice your presentation skills as well as interviewing families." Anne Bury, course participant.



Next course dates:

Part 1 29th-31st January 2009

Part 2 24th-25th April 2009

Part 1 20th-22nd March 2009

Part 2 27th-28th June 2009

Why become a funeral celebrant?

To be able to help a family devise and deliver a personal funeral ceremony, that exactly meets their wishes and leaves them with good memories at a painful time, is a rare gift. It is also a fascinating, fulfilling and challenging role.

If you think you could help people during one of the hardest weeks of their lives, listen well and give form to their ideas and feelings, help them to devise and organise a ceremony and hold that ceremony on the day, then this is something you could do. Don't worry, if you have the basic qualities and a real interest in this, you can learn the skills you'll need. That is



what this training is for.

More than ever there's a need for independent funeral celebrants. The current main choices of a religious minister or humanist officiant no longer cater for public demands. "(There is a) trend towards family-centred, participative funerals. Taken with the rise of secular funerals it implies that church-style funerals will decline further, and the humanist model, resting on a single celebrant with minimal input from others, will increasingly be felt too controlled and directive. . . .If secular celebrants are to keep up with the growing demand for more participative funerals, they will have to abandon their 'lead speaker' model in favour of one closer to that of producer in a theatre." John Pearce. Pharos Magazine (The Cremation Society Of Great Britain)

By building a reputation in your area for delivering excellent and distinctive funerals, you could well find yourself able to be the celebrant at several funerals a week, earning fees of around £150 for each.

Our learning philosophy

The training reflects the care and attention that families deserve. Run in beautiful Devon countryside and woodland, this course not only gives you the information and experience you need, but also enables you to explore your feelings around loss. We provide home-cooked food, time for discussion and a supportive environment to make this an excellent learning experience using a range of methods and practise. You receive a one hundred page manual. We engage the help of an actor, a poet and a singer to help with presence and speaking.



the course

This is a five-day course: three days are followed by a gap of three months in which weekly assignments are completed, before the final two days. We provide you with a 100 page manual, feedback on assignments and supervision for your first five funerals. On successful completion of these and all assignments, we issue you with your certificate. Each course is for a maximum of only 6 participants.

The course covers all the information you need to know and includes visiting funeral venues, both traditional and less conventional. We also have an exciting team to bring you vital skills practice, including one-to-one work on voice projection and presentation skills with actor Pete Joscelyne, leading singing with musician and singer Ruth Jenni and writing words and speaking intimately to a group with Radio 4 poet Matt Harvey!

Overview of funeral ceremonies

The current trends in funerals

Re-visioning funeral ceremonies

The role of the independent funeral celebrant

The funeral ceremony

What makes a good funeral ceremony

The purposes of the funeral ceremony

The ceremony as a means of transition

Structuring a funeral ceremony

Different types of funeral ceremonies for sudden, early and complicated deaths

Funerals for different faiths

How to write a good eulogy or life story and other words

The life story told by more than one person

Reflecting the character and beliefs of the person who has died

Choosing words and music

How to create ritual using words, music, movement, flowers, candles, light, scent etc

Preparing opening and closing words

The committal, when everyone says their final farewell.

Involving the family and community

Interviewing and listening to the family

Active listening and working with conflict

Involving the family and community

Creating a sense of ritual

Selecting and preparing the venue

Possible venues

How the crematorium works

Ten ways to improve a crematorium funeral

Preparing the ceremony space with drapes, flowers, objects, incense, sound and light

Building skills and confidence

Managing yourself and your emotions e.g. anxiety, overwhelm, grief

Liasing with funeral directors and crematorium staff

Being the funeral celebrant on the day and directing proceedings

Creating a safe space for emotions

Presentation and voice skills

Stance, breath and eye contact

Using technical equipment

Promoting your services to the public and the funeral trade and pricing.

This programme is demanding and challenging as well as enjoyable, because we want you to be one of the best funeral celebrants, able to do a really good job for each family.



funeral celebrant programme

Learning Outcomes

1. Provide you with knowledge of the history of the funeral in Britain and the current context for funerals.
2. Explore the role of the independent funeral celebrant.



4. identify and develop the skills needed to be a funeral celebrant, including self-management, presence and presentation, working with and listening to newly bereaved families and writing and finding the right words for each funeral.

4. Understand what a funeral is for and the importance of ritual and ceremony in achieving its purposes.
5. Work with a structure into which any content can be placed.



6. Appreciate the importance of the place in which the ceremony takes place.
7. Learn to devise, with the family, ceremonies appropriate for the nature and beliefs of the person who has died and their family and the circumstances of the death.
8. Learn to write the eulogy, committal and other words for the ceremony, and to help families choose poetry and music.



9. Orchestrate all the elements of the funeral, including the timing, setting, words and music.
10. Find out about liaising with other funeral professionals.
11. Understand the basics of operating as an independent funeral celebrant, including brochures, marketing and charging.

who we are



Jane and Simon run green fuse contemporary funerals, with a High Street Funeral Centre, providing support, information and advice to local families in Devon. Their passion for improving the standard and effect of funerals is borne of their own personal experiences of the deaths of close family members. They both hold diplomas in Psychosynthesis Counselling. Trained in nursing, Jane has trained in funeral celebrancy with Welfare State International. Simon is also a professional speaker and leadership consultant and trainer and is enrolled on Bath University's Foundation Degree in Funeral Services.

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green fuse was founded by Jane Morrell and Simon Smith, who have worked as funeral directors, arrangers, advisers and celebrants since 1999 and are authors of *We Need To Talk About The Funeral - 101 Practical Ways To Commemorate And Celebrate A Life*, a guide based on their work with families.



feedback on courses & book

"This course is a must for anyone wishing to learn how to develop funerals together with the family and friends in a sensitive and meaningful way. The safe space enables you to jump in and practice your presentation skills as well as interviewing families." **Anne Bury, Hospice education.**

"The course is brimming with practical content as well as a radically warm, empowering and sensitive approach to looking at funerals. " **Abigail Robinson, Music thanatologist.**

"The funeral courses run by green fuse are full of practical guidance and information. They take away the mystique surrounding how funerals are created and carried out. Jane's and Simon's experience as funeral directors, arrangers and conductors provides the required authority as well as imaginative ideas. Their teaching equips the student to support grieving families in the making of important choices they otherwise might not have known were even available. I believe it gives families the chance to be more effective, and to grieve and celebrate a life more proactively, than does the traditional method of submission to a system. There is a need for this at a time when death is still such an emotive and closed subject, and these courses are a bold attempt to meet that need. I think almost anyone involved with people in the early days of bereavement will find the experience of attending these courses helpful in their caring work.' **Jonathan Taylor, Humanist Funeral Officiant**

"The book is a splendid achievement and will certainly become the benchmark book, for some time to come. It is beautifully produced, with great aesthetic style and wonderful photographs. The text is a triumph of clarity and quietly expert, informed advice. It makes the reader feel guided by someone who knows from experience but wants you to find your own way." **Professor Malcolm Johnson, Centre for Death and Society**

"If only we'd had access to a book like this. It is absolutely full of inspiration on how to really celebrate the life of a loved one. Warmly recommended." **Lorna Howarth – Resurgence Magazine**

"bursting with practical advice . . . All a bereaved person needs to guide them through the myriad of necessary arrangements at a stressful time." **Fidelity Magazine (National Council Of Psychotherapists)**

"It has all the information you need. It is also rather inspiring." **Lesley Garner, Daily Telegraph**

To book a course

To book your place on the training programme, please fill in the application form on page 7 or send us an email or telephone us and we will provide you with a pre-course pack including dates and venues, questionnaire and application form. email: jane@greenfuse.co.uk. Tel: 01803 840779

The total cost of the training is £950, including assessment of assignments and supervision for your first five funerals. This can be paid in instalments over the time period of the course.

"The force that through the green fuse drives the flower, drives my green age."
Dylan Thomas

"Walk on a rainbow trail; walk on a trail of song, and all about you will be beauty. There is a way out of every dark mist, over a rainbow trail." *Virginia Woolf*

**green fuse limited 7 High Street
Totnes TQ9 5NN**

01803 840779 jane@greenfuse.co.uk
www.greenfuse.co.uk/training.htm

green fuse funeral training

Funeral Celebrant Training Programme Application Form

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number: Daytime

Evening

Email:

Current work:

Please state briefly why you are interested in attending this course:

Course you would like to book: Funeral Celebrant £950 []

Date of course you wish to book: _____

Venue: Ashburton, Devon

Dietary and other special requirements:

The Funeral Celebrants course is five days, split into three and two days with a gap of about three months between. The cost of the course includes assessment and ongoing supervision for the first five funerals you conduct. This can be paid in four instalments of £237.50. The deposit is £100, to be included with the application, and a further £137.50 to be paid at least two weeks before the course begins. If you would like to pay over a longer period, please let us know and we can discuss it.

Please make cheques out to Green Fuse Limited and send to 7 High Street, Totnes TQ9 5NN.