**Planning Your Funeral (or indeed someone else’s)**

This is designed to help you plan your own funeral so your family know your wishes. It can be a very healthy thing to do – and talking it through with your family where possible may also be helpful. But this information equally works if you suddenly find yourself bereaved and needing to plan the funeral of a loved one. Funeral directors and clergy are here to guide you or your family through everything you need to think about and do and we are able to take away some of the anxiety or burden you may be feeling. We work very closely together, and liaise together on your behalf, so you needn’t worry about having to arrange it all. We talk everything through with you, and then can do all the arranging on your behalf, according to your wishes.

**Church and Crematorium Funerals and the Clergy**

Every person who lives in the parish has a right to a funeral held at their parish church, should you wish that. St John’s Church is always glad to welcome the wider community – we are here to serve you, and please do not be shy about telling us or your funeral directors that is what you want. You need never have come to church to have your funeral with us – that is never a concern. We will always be your Parish Church, just here for you whenever you might need us.

You can also request a member of clergy to take your service at another place, rather than the church, at one of the crematoriums, and Revd Helen Bailey is always available to do that if you live in the parish or have a connection to St John’s. You need to ask the funeral directors this and make your wishes known.

**Whole Service at the Church or Church Service Followed by Service at the Crematorium**

If wished, the whole of the service can be conducted at the church, including the final committal prayer, which means no one has to go on to a further service at a Crematorium unless you choose to have that separate 5 minute committal take place there (which if course you can do, and the member of clergy will accompany you to the crematorium after the church funeral service for the committal).

Knowing this can widen your choices, so for example, you need not worry about having to go on to Bournemouth Crematorium for the committal, you can hold it all at St John’s. You will know that Poole Crematorium on Gravel Hill is currently available as a Ceremony Hall only, not available for cremations.

St John’s also has the new annexe which can be hired for funeral teas after the service, so it means the family can immediately join their guests for refreshments. Please do note St John’s cannot provide food or kitchen / serving staff, so you will need to get caterers in and arrange for people to serve the drinks and lay out the food. The office will guide you in how the kitchen is used and how everything works.

**Planning The Funeral – What to Think About**

**Burial or Cremation**

Is your wish to be buried or cremated?

**Burial**

If burial is required, please note that unless there is an already existing family grave plot you have at Broadstone Cemetery, there are now no further spaces for burial there. There are plenty of other cemeteries and burial grounds that you may wish to go and have a look at. These include:

* Poole Cemetery
* Wimborne Cemetery
* Corfe Mullen Cemetery
* Woodland Burial Ground, Harbour View
* Poole and Wimborne Woodland Burial Ground, Wimborne

Please do check that they are taking new burial plots and would accept your postcode / address, and feel able to go and view these burial grounds. There may be others I am not aware of – a funeral directors should also be able to help you with this.

**Cremation**

Equally, most of the above burial grounds will take burial of ashes, and Broadstone Cemetery is still open for burial of ashes.

St John’s also has its Remembrance Garden for burial of ashes and if you live in the parish or have a connection at St John’s, that may be an excellent option for you. The Garden of Remembrance is consecrated ground, and a final resting place.

Again clergy are available for burial of ashes services at any location, even if you have not used a member of clergy for the funeral. Just make your wishes known.

Do please note that while some wish to have ashes scattered, many if not most cemeteries and locations do not allow this, and ashes cannot be scattered at St John’s. Members of clergy are not allowed to scatter ashes or take services involving scattering due to Church of England Canon Law that requires all human remains to be buried.

You are allowed, however, to split the ashes, and have ashes buried in two separate locations, should that be meaningful for you. That will involve two sets of fees however!

**Funeral Service or Thanksgiving Service**

We recommend that a church service happens before a cremation service, as there feels something important about the coffin being present not absent. It helps people in eth bereavement process. However, if you or the family want these services to take place the other way round, so that a cremation is followed by a thanksgiving, we can do that.

It is also possible to have an additional thanksgiving or memorial service some weeks or months after the actual funeral service – sometimes circumstances mean that can be helpful.