

Questions I'll ask during my visit...

Before going through the various points below, it's important to check – were any specific instructions given concerning the content of the funeral? If so, that could well affect how we deal with these questions.

General:

- Will the service have any religious content – a little / a lot / none at all / humanist.
- Do you intend to have a printed order of service? If so, we'll discuss that in more detail during my visit, and in subsequent emails/ conversations.
- Roughly how many people are you expecting?
- Are there any mourners with disabilities / limitations we should be aware of?
- Will there be any children (11 or under) present?

Arrival at / entrance in to chapel:

- Are you arriving with the hearse (whether in own cars or limousine)?
- Floral tributes – think about which flowers you want in chapel for the service.
- Will any family members be carrying the coffin?
- Entry in to chapel (options depend on numbers attending):
all take seats first / most take seats first, close family only follow coffin / all follow coffin in.

Music as you enter:

- Should this play to the end of the track, or can it be faded out once we're all in our places?

Welcome & housekeeping:

Normally I deal with the following at the start of the service...

- ask people to check their phones.
- Donations – to any specific charity?
- Afterwards – is there a gathering/wake? If so, I usually encourage people to attend that - should I mention it or not? And where is it being held?

Service content:

- Eulogy / tribute – various options as to what style of recollection of their life / personality can be used – this is discussed further during my visit.
- Did anyone want to deliver the eulogy/tribute, or read their own tribute (or a poem)? I can read things on others' behalf if need be.
- Any hymns/ music during the service?
- Poetry – many choices are available, if required, for use at various points during the funeral – that can be discussed further during the visit.
- Introduction to any reflective music – I can invite people to “say their own prayer in the silence of their own hearts” if you feel that's appropriate.
- Prayers: any to be used? Just the Lord's Prayer? Discussed further during the visit.

Commendation options:

- Commend to God's keeping / commend to 'a peaceful rest' or similar term/ use some reference to afterlife / no reference to afterlife at all.

Committal:

- Should the curtains close during the Committal or not?
They can close at the very end of the service, or not at all (allowing folk to bid a final farewell as they leave the chapel).
- Any religious content to the Committal?
- Should we use the 'traditional' phrase – "earth to earth, ashes to ashes" - as part of the committal words?

Close of service:

- Aside from my own closing words, are there any specific closing words / poetry required? Discussed further during my visit.

Closing music:

- Did you want to stay and listen to the whole song/ track before leaving the chapel?
This does depend on the time still available to us, and whether or not the curtains have closed.

Floral tributes after the service:

- If you want to take some / all of the flowers away with you, that's fine. Flowers are available for collection from the chapel for a couple of days.
- If you want to leave any flowers for use by the chapel for their own floral arrangements, we can let them know on your behalf.

Was there anything else that we should do during the service?

Everyone's requirements are different, so I might not have covered absolutely everything you wanted to happen during the service... don't be afraid to ask!