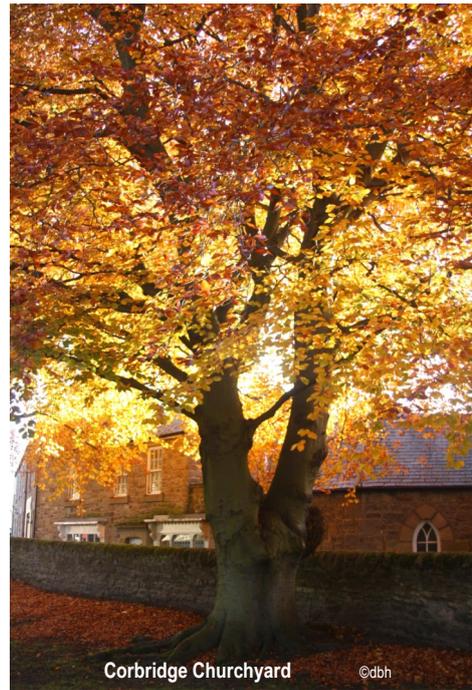


Funerals

Whatever the circumstances a death in the family is a traumatic and sad experience for all concerned. We, at St. Andrew's, will do all we can to support families through this time when they are forced to make plans often quite quickly, and when they are not in the best frame of mind for decision making.

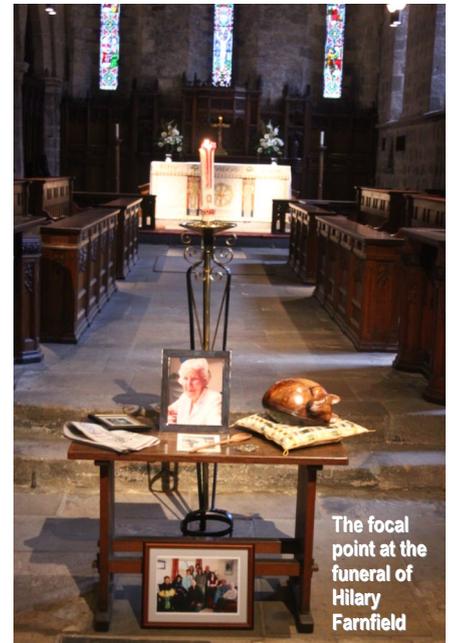
It is hoped that the following will be helpful, but always talk to the clergy when they visit. Your specific wishes can usually be accommodated.

- It is really helpful to families if the deceased has thought about how they would like their funeral to be conducted and left these requests with a family member. The vicar is always ready to help people should they wish to make such plans themselves.
- Take time to choose a Funeral Director
 - * You may wish to use a national chain or a local family firm
 - * Talk to friends and others who have experienced funeral directors' services recently
 - * It is quite in order to ask for quotes from a number of companies
 - * Do check that the funeral Director is not going to be constrained by time on the day of the funeral, especially if you are expecting a large number of people to attend
 - * Contact details can be found in the local press, on line, or in The Bridge
- *"Where can the service be held?"* *"Will people stay behind if we have a cremation following a church service?"* are two often asked questions. There are a number of options:-
 - * church service followed by cremation in Newcastle or at Mountset, near Consett. Take time to research crematoriums as some are more convenient than others but some have a more restful ambience or allow more time for the service.
 - * As above but the committal taking place in church or at the church gate rather than at the crematorium. This means that there is no service at the Crematorium for people to go to.
 - * church service followed by burial in the village cemetery.
 - * cremation followed by a church service on the same day.
 - * cremation with a church service the following day after which the ashes are buried in the cemetery or Garden of Rest
 - * crematorium service, with ashes scattered later at the crematorium, or scattered by the family in an appropriate spot at a time they decide, or buried



at a later date in the cemetery or in the Garden of Rest.

- * private cremation with a Memorial Service in church at a later date.
- Funerals and burials can be held at St. Oswald's, Halton and St. James', Newton for those who lived in those areas of the benefice or who have a longstanding link with either of those churches. St. James' is in process of being sold, but services will be able to be held there by arrangement with the vicar and the new owners of the building.
- Take time to think about what you want to be included in the service. There will be limitations of time, especially if the service is held at West Road Crematorium. The points below refer, in the main, to services in church:
 - * There are hymns - usually two or three. Do borrow a hymn book from church to help you choose.
 - * There are readings - one bible and anything else the family might like. There are books available which contain readings and hymns suggestions. It is probably better to consider these choices carefully, rather than go for "the usual hymns".
 - * There is music, perhaps you would like the organist to play specific pieces at the beginning and end of the service, or you might like to play recorded music.
 - * Members of the family might like to take part, perhaps reading, talking about the deceased or playing music.
 - * You might wish there to be some symbolic element to the service:
 - ◇ e.g. Royal British Legion Standard;
 - ◇ placing flowers on the coffin during the service,
 - ◇ lighting candles.
 - ◇ Using a series of pictures in the Order of Service or projected onto a screen illustrating the life of the deceased
 - ◇ Use of incense
 - ◇ Where cremation has taken place before the service in church a focal point on the chancel step is often used. It may be the flowers that accompanied the coffin, a photograph of the deceased or a display of objects calling to mind aspects of their life, interests and personality.



The focal point at the funeral of Hilary Farnfield



- A small cross with the deceased's name on it will be placed in The Lady Chapel either during the service in church, or the day after a crematorium service. This acts as a constant reminder for family and friends that none of us is separated from God's love, not even by death. Crosses are given to families at the annual Memorial Service.
- St. Andrew's is open during the day, every day. Please do use it as a quiet spiritual place. Come and remember, think, say a prayer, light a candle ... or just 'be'. It sits at the centre of our community and is church for us all.
- Families may ask for donations to specific charities of their choice. The money collected in church has, by law, to go through the church books, but all money placed on the Donations Plate will be sent to the charity in question, and written details will be given to the family. St. Andrew's does NOT take a percentage, as some churches do. The treasurer keeps the account open for a few days, as there are often late additional donations. He will ask the charity to send the receipt directly to the family. To check the progress of any donations please contact

The Treasurer, St. Andrew's Cottage, Hill Street., Corbridge.

- Please do not forget St. Andrew's when deciding which charity/charities to support.
- Sometimes families like to buy specific things in memory that can be kept in the village by being used in church. If this is your wish please talk to the vicar. We are currently saving money to buy new altar frontals for the church. A book of donors to this project will be kept.
- Families should not be afraid to suggest unusual things that might be appropriate to their loved one. There was a funeral procession in Shropshire that was led by the deceased's JCB digger; the funeral of a child might include a Moses basket and the reading of a "Good night" story; one lady in Bristol placed her husband's ashes in their garden wall, another under the bird bath. If you wish to use 'green' coffins you should discuss this with the funeral directors. There is a book, called "Time to Go - Alternative Funerals", that people are free to borrow.
- Bereavement is often a bewildering process and the church is always ready to respond to anyone who would like to have support or a listening ear. Please contact the vicar.
- The Annual Memorial Service held at All Saints tide - early November - is a service to which all those who have lost loved ones in the past year are specifically invited, although the service is open to anyone who wishes to come. The service is simple, it includes the opportunity to light candles by any of those present who wish to and the placing of children's drawings etc. on the altar. The crosses from The Lady Chapel are made available to families. Afterwards there is tea. The service will be advertised in the Church Parish Magazine : 'The Bridge'.
- Memorials
 - * Memorials at the village cemetery are dealt with by the local council
 - * There are no specific memorials on The Garden of Rest at St. Andrew's, but the names of those whose ashes are interred there can be engraved on the curbing. Ask the vicar for details.
 - * Headstones can be placed in the churchyards at Halton and Newton. Consult a stonemason who should show you designs that are allowed by the diocesan authorities. The design will be submitted to the vicar and when permission has been given work can proceed.

