

When someone dies, a Church of England funeral is available for them in their own parish, whether they were churchgoers or not. At the moment, a small funeral can be led by a church minister in a churchyard, cemetery, crematorium or green burial site. It may also be possible to have the funeral in a church building, but the minister can advise on this.

Photo taken in 2019

## Church funerals

With over 16,000 churches all over the country, there will be one close to you. Each church serves a particular parish – a geographical area.

To explore the option of having a funeral in a different parish, it's best to first contact the vicar of the church where you'd like it to be. Visit [A Church Near You](#) to find a particular parish and the name of the church there. In the results of your search, click on a church's name and the contact details should be displayed. You can usually telephone or email, and the vicar or another church contact will respond to your enquiry as soon as they can. If you have any problems getting in touch with a particular church, contact us for help.

## Cremation funerals

Families who wish to have a cremation may decide to have the whole funeral at a crematorium. The service would take place in the building and the coffin would remain there afterwards for the cremation. Funeral Directors and ministers are currently obliged to ensure government guidelines on social distancing are also followed.

### Involving the church at a cremation

A church minister can lead the whole service at the crematorium. Under normal circumstances, it's possible to have part of the service at the crematorium and part of it in a church, and the church part can take place before or after the cremation service. The church minister can help you decide which is the best option for you and your family. The church minister can also be there for you after the funeral and can offer prayers for when it is time to put the ashes in their final resting place.

## Burial funerals

There are several options if you choose to have a traditional burial in the ground. These are burial locations your church minister can come to:

### An outdoor or green burial site

An outdoor funeral brings the sights and sounds of nature into a funeral service. Whilst there's some risk of bad weather, it can be just the right choice for some funerals. The coffin will be carried out to the burial site and the minister can do the whole funeral at the graveside.

### Involving the church at a green burial site

In the future, when the lockdown situation is eased, and when the government says it is safe to do so, a service can take place in church, followed

by a shorter time of prayers by the graveside at the moment when the coffin is to be placed in the ground. It doesn't matter if the burial ground is in a different location to the church. The minister and funeral director will let you know how they can help you organise this.

**In a cemetery or churchyard**

If the person who has died can be buried in a churchyard or a cemetery, the minister can take the whole service outside at the graveside.

**Involving the church at a cemetery or churchyard burial**

A service in the church can take place first, then when the time comes for placing the coffin into the ground, everyone moves outside. If the funeral director can help you organise this.



**Related**

**[Find a minister](#)**

If you're arranging a funeral, a Church of England minister can lead it. Whether you already know the vicar, or whether you would like to make contact with a person where your loved one lived, this page will help you find out how.

**[First steps in arranging a funeral](#)**

Find out here some of the first things that need to happen when someone has died, and discover practical things you can do to make a start.