

Funerals at Trinity



Can I ask for a funeral at Trinity Church and how do I arrange one ...?

The death of someone we love is one of life's hardest challenges and on top of the emotional strain of bereavement there are also many things to arrange. The list of arrangements to make and forms to complete can feel daunting. At Trinity Church we are committed to ensuring that whenever people request **a funeral in church** it is made as easy as possible for this to be arranged.

We recognise the worth of an accessible place for family and friends to gather, particularly when for some the journey to a crematorium can preclude their attendance, and we welcome funeral requests regardless of whether the deceased or mourners profess a strong faith. We count it a privilege to open the doors and offer a funeral as an expression of the church's faith in the God who knows and shares our grief and sadness.

*... And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod
Then they find that selfsame aching deep within the heart of God.*

Bishop Timothy Rees (1874-1939)

Your chosen Funeral Director will liaise with the church (normally through the Minister) in order to establish what dates and times are possible – working with what works best for you and taking into account the availability of the church and minister. The Minister (or his deputy at times when he is unavailable) will visit and meet with loved ones to prepare a funeral which most appropriately reflects the person whose life is being celebrated. The Minister will make every effort to ensure the service contains a Tribute and will, unless otherwise requested, expect to prepare and deliver the Tribute himself. The Minister will offer a funeral service drawing on the liturgical practises of the United Reformed and Methodist Church and will attempt to blend an air of dignity with a personal feel. The involvement of family members/friends or ministers/priests known personally to you in the conduct of the funeral is possible subject to a conversation with the Minister.

Trinity Church seeks to be flexible in its approach regarding the content of the service, though it will be taken for granted that the service will contain prayers and at least one Bible reading. The church offers the option of the digital projection of photographs on the screen and CDs can be played through the church's PA system. The printing of black and white Orders of Service, using the church's photocopier, can be discussed with the Minister.

The Minister will expect to conduct the committal at the Crematorium or graveside as well as the service in church. In your conversations with the Funeral Director you may find it helpful to know that it is possible to both follow or precede the church service with the committal – that is, you can opt to have the short service of committal at the Crematorium or graveside and then the 'main' service (without the coffin) in church. Some people opt for this as it enables both a more private and intimate gathering for the committal and also ensures

a larger number of those attending the funeral stay on for the refreshments that often follow the service. Both the Minister and Funeral Director will be happy to explain this option further *before you decide*.

Local Funeral Directors are aware of the current church fees. These fees are 'set' annually and are determined by the national suggested rate and in consultation with the *Bramhall & Wythenshawe Circuit Staff Meeting*.