



green fuse funeral directors

contemporary funerals with heart and soul

green fuse is recommended in Best Funeral Directors
in the Good Funeral Guide



Helpsheet:

10 ways to make a crematorium funeral special

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One of the biggest complaints about funerals is how impersonal and soulless the funeral at the crematorium can be, but that's where 70% of us end up. However, with a few personal touches, you can make a crematorium funeral special. Here's our top ten list to help you:

- 1 Take some decorations with which you could quickly personalise the ceremony hall, such as flowers or plants, candles (if allowed), swathes of material and photographs, or make the coffin personal with decoration or objects placed on top of it.
- 2 If you want a more intimate feel, place the coffin on trestles closer to the mourners, instead of on the catafalque at the top.
- 3 Ask for religious objects to be removed or covered if they are not appropriate and replace them with objects relevant to the person who has died.
- 4 Choose whatever words and music you like – they do not have to be funereal or religious. Most crematoria have good sound systems and you are allowed to have live music.
- 5 See if you have a choice of crematoria. Often you may have a choice of two and you may have a nicer ceremony hall or a longer ceremony time.
- 6 Consider holding the main funeral ceremony elsewhere. Just a few mourners or the funeral director could accompany the coffin for a simple committal at the crematorium afterwards. We've held funerals at home, in a function room, in a marquee or yurt, outside, in village halls and other places.

- 7 Book a double time at the crematorium if you want to have a longer ceremony, so that you don't feel rushed.
- 8 If there is time give everyone a sprig of heather or a single flower and have a few moments when they can put these on the coffin. This connects everyone and creates a sense of intimacy.
- 9 Find the right person to take the ceremony, who will spend time finding out about the person who has died and devise a special ceremony which reflects their views and beliefs. Our independent funeral celebrants have no dogma.
- 10 If you don't want to see the curtains close or the coffin move out of sight at the end of the ceremony, ask for it to be left in place. But bear in mind it is different for you to leave the coffin containing the person who has died than for the coffin to leave you.

For further information and more ideas like this, buy our book *We Need To Talk About The Funeral - 101 Practical Ways To Commemorate And Celebrate A Life*, by Jane Morrell and Simon Smith, available at bookshops or download from www.greenfuse.co.uk/funeralbook.htm for £14.99.

Green Fuse can help you make all your arrangements as funeral director, or just help you with the ceremony as funeral celebrants.



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