



green fuse helpsheet

10 things to consider to arrange a special funeral

1. Set a budget and appoint someone to get quotes for all the elements of the funeral you choose so you can manage your budget and get what you want.
2. Did the person who has died choose burial or cremation?
 - If cremation, is there a choice of crematoria? One may be more pleasant than the other or give a longer ceremony time.
 - If burial, you can choose between churchyard (if there's space), cemetery, woodland burial, and possibly burial on private land.
3. Would you like to bring the person who's died to come home before the funeral, perhaps for a vigil the night before or would you or any family member like to view the person who has died at some stage before the funeral? You could ask your funeral director about this.
4. Would you prefer the body of the person who has died not to be embalmed? You should be asked about this if it is to be done, and it is rarely necessary.
5. What sort of coffin will you choose? Cardboard, printed cardboard, plain pine, traditional veneered chipboard, bamboo, banana leaf, pandanus, willow, traditional solid wood e.g. oak, poplar? If you want to see pictures of all these you can find them at www.greenfuse.co.uk/coffins.htm.
6. Where might you like to hold the funeral ceremony: in a church, the crematorium ceremony hall, at the graveside, in a community hall, at home, at home in the garden, in a marquee or yurt, in a function room (with separate access), on a boat? You can hold a funeral ceremony almost anywhere with the permission of the owner of the land or building.
7. Would you prefer to have a ceremony for everyone with the coffin present before a private cremation or burial, or have a burial or cremation first and a memorial ceremony (perhaps with the ashes present)?
8. Would any family or friends like to be involved in bearing or transporting the coffin to the funeral, decorating the coffin or ceremony space, or preparing food and drink for a gathering afterwards?
9. What type of ceremony would feel right? A celebration of life, a religious service, a non-religious service, something in between that reflects the particular views of the person? In which case do you want an independent celebrant who will reflect the views of the person, a religious minister, a humanist officiant or friend or family to take the ceremony?
10. You can choose your own content, music and words for the ceremony. Your choices will be fine as long as they reflect the character and beliefs of the person who has died. Not everything needs to be serious and funereal.

You can find more information and ideas like this in 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 contemporary funerals www.greenfuse.co.uk
7 High Street, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5NN 01803 840779

