

5 points for flowers for funerals

1. If you would like flowers to be an expression of the person who has died talk to your florist about what the person loved the most; maybe a particular scent or colour, countryside walks, strolling along the sea shore, holidays in the Mediterranean, Chinese food, rock concerts; whatever it is a good florist will be able to interpret these moments with appropriate flowers. Try to find a florist who will not expect you to order from a catalogue.



2. You can make your own flower tributes, you don't have to be an experienced flower arranger to make a lovely piece. The thought and effort you put into your arrangement will carry a great deal of love. Cut garden flowers twelve hours in advance and stand them in a cool shady place in a bucket of water. Add extra stems from the florist if you need to give your home-grown material a bit of a lift.

3. When you are organising a ceremonial space think about the major focal points of the room i.e. the entrance/ exit, where the coffin will be placed, where the celebrant/speakers will stand. These are excellent places to position flowers for maximum effect.



4. Provide a basket of single stems at the entrance to the ceremony hall so that people can select a blossom and place it on the coffin or in the weave of a willow coffin. This will enable people to approach the coffin in a natural manner and the ceremony will feel more inclusive as a result.

5. As a general rule woodland burial sites do not welcome flowers wrapped in plastic or even arranged in oasis. Ask your florist not to wrap the flowers and use a natural raffia tie rather than a plastic ribbon. Flower petals, lavender stems and foliage are lovely to place in the bottom of the grave or made available for people to throw in after the coffin has been lowered.



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.

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