



# green fuse funeral training academy funeral celebrant's diploma

by Jane Morrell and Simon Smith,  
funeral directors, funeral celebrants and  
authors of *We Need To Talk About The Funeral*  
*101 Practical Ways To Commemorate And Celebrate A Life*

## Course dates for 2010/11:

Part 1 Thurs 15th - Sat 17th July

Part 2 Fri 15th - Sat 16th Oct

Part 1 Thurs 16th - Sat 18th Sept

Part 2 Fri 10th - Sat 11th Dec

Part 1 Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> – Sat 27th November

Part 2 Fri 18<sup>th</sup> – Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011

2011

Part 1 Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> – Sat 15<sup>th</sup> January

Part 2 Fri 15<sup>th</sup> – Sat 16<sup>th</sup> April

Part 1 Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> – Sat 19<sup>th</sup> March

Part 2 Fri 17<sup>th</sup> – Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June



## Why become a funeral celebrant?

To be able to help a family devise and deliver a personal funeral ceremony, that exactly meets their wishes and leaves them with good memories at a painful time, is a rare gift. It is also a fascinating, fulfilling and challenging role.

If you think you could help people during one of the hardest weeks of their lives, listen well and give form to their ideas and feelings, help them to devise and organise a ceremony and hold that ceremony on the day, then this is something you could do. Don't worry, if you have the basic qualities and a real interest in this, you can learn the skills you'll need. That is what this training is for.



## our learning philosophy

The training reflects the care and attention that families deserve. Run in beautiful Devon countryside and woodland, this course not only gives you the information and experience you need, but also enables you to explore your feelings around loss. We provide home-cooked food, time for discussion and a supportive environment to make this an excellent learning experience using a range of methods and practise. You receive a one hundred page manual. We engage the help of an actor, a poet and a singer to help with presence and speaking.

More than ever there's a need for independent funeral celebrants. The current main choices of a religious minister or humanist officiant no longer cater for public demands. "(There is a) trend towards family-centred, participative funerals. Taken with the rise of secular funerals it implies that church-style funerals will decline further, and the humanist model, resting on a single celebrant with minimal input from others, will increasingly be felt too controlled and directive. . . .If secular celebrants are to keep up with the growing demand for more participative funerals, they will have to abandon their 'lead speaker' model in favour of one closer to that of producer in a theatre." John Pearce. *Pharos Magazine* (The Cremation Society Of Great Britain)

By building a reputation in your area for delivering excellent and distinctive funerals, you could well find yourself able to be the celebrant at several funerals a week, earning fees of around £150-£200 for each.





## funeral celebrant's diploma

### Learning Outcomes

1. Provide you with knowledge of the history of the funeral in Britain and the current context for funerals.
2. Explore the role of the independent funeral celebrant.



3. Help you to identify and develop the skills needed to be a funeral celebrant, including self-management, presence and presentation, working with and listening to newly bereaved families and writing and finding the right words for each funeral.
4. Understand what a funeral is for and the importance of ritual and ceremony in achieving its purposes.
5. Work with a structure into which any content can be placed.

6. Appreciate the importance of the place in which the ceremony takes place.
7. Learn to devise, with the family, ceremonies appropriate for the nature and beliefs of the person who has died and their family.
8. Learn to write the eulogy, committal and other words for the ceremony, and to help families choose poetry and music.
9. Orchestrate all the elements of the funeral, including the timing, setting, words and music.
10. Find out about liaising with other funeral professionals.
11. Understand the basics of operating as an independent funeral celebrant, including brochures, marketing and charging.



working with actor Pete Joscelyne

# the diploma programme

The programme begins with three days together, followed by a gap of three months in which weekly assignments are completed, before the final two days. We provide you with a 100 page manual, feedback on assignments and supervision for your first five funerals. On successful completion of these and all assignments, we issue you with your diploma. Each course is for a maximum of 6 participants.

The course covers all the information you need to know and includes visiting funeral venues, both traditional and less conventional. We also have an exciting team to bring you vital skills practice, including one-to-one work on voice projection and presentation skills with actor Pete Joscelyne, leading singing with musician and singer Basira Ward Davies.

Overview of funeral ceremonies

The current trends in funerals

Re-visioning funeral ceremonies

The role of the independent funeral celebrant

The funeral ceremony

What makes a good funeral ceremony

The purposes of the funeral ceremony

The ceremony as a means of transition

Structuring a funeral ceremony

Different types of funeral ceremonies for sudden, early and complicated deaths

Funerals for different faiths

How to write a good eulogy or life story and other words

The life story told by more than one person

Reflecting the character and beliefs of the person who has died

Choosing words and music

How to create ritual using words, music, movement, flowers, candles, light, scent etc

Preparing opening and closing words

The committal, when everyone says their final farewell.

Involving the family and community

Interviewing and listening to the family

Active listening and working with conflict

Involving the family and community

Creating a sense of ritual

Selecting and preparing the venue

Possible venues

How the crematorium works

Ten ways to improve a crematorium funeral

Preparing the ceremony space with drapes, flowers, objects, incense, sound and light

Building skills and confidence

Managing yourself and your emotions e.g. anxiety, overwhelm, grief

Liasing with funeral directors and crematorium staff

Being the funeral celebrant on the day and directing proceedings

Creating a safe space for emotions

Presentation and voice skills

Stance, breath and eye contact

Using technical equipment

Promoting your services to the public and the funeral trade and pricing.

This diploma programme is demanding and challenging as well as enjoyable, because we want you to be one of the best funeral celebrants, able to do a really good job for each family.





*"We Need To Talk About The Funeral is by some margin the best guide available for all those who want to shake off existing conventions. (It) displays an awareness of feeling, as well as ceremonial skill, from which any celebrant will learn a great deal."* Pharos Magazine (The Cremation Society Of GB).



## who we are

green fuse was founded by Jane Morrell and Simon Smith, funeral directors, arrangers, advisers and celebrants since 1999 and are authors of *We Need To Talk About The Funeral - 101 Practical Ways To Commemorate And Celebrate A Life*, a guide based on their work with families.



Jane and Simon run green fuse contemporary funeral directors, with a High Street Funeral Centre, providing support, information and advice to local families in Devon. Their passion for improving the standard and effect of funerals is borne of their own personal experiences of the deaths of close family members. They both hold diplomas in Psychosynthesis Counselling. Trained in nursing, Jane has trained in funeral celebrancy with Welfare State International.

Simon has been writing and running training courses for over ten years, has been a professional speaker and leadership consultant and trainer and is enrolled on Bath University's Foundation Degree in Funeral Services.

green fuse funeral directors is recommended in the Best Funeral Directors list by The Good Funeral Guide

## feedback on green fuse, our courses & book

"We Need To Talk About The Funeral is by some margin the best guide available for all those who want to shake off existing conventions. (It) displays an awareness of feeling, as well as ceremonial skill, from which any celebrant will learn a great deal." John Pearce. Pharos Magazine (Cremation Society of GB) about our book

"What can I say!? Thank you so much Jane and Simon. You have done a great job. My first funeral as a celebrant, and even the crem phoned to say thanks and what a good job it was, professional to the tiniest detail. That's a tribute to you and the thoroughness of your training. Most important was the family. They had a funeral that they felt really honoured their son and his life. To have helped in a small way to deal with this horrendous tragedy was a privilege. This is absolutely the most amazing, profound and meaningful job I have ever done." Basira Ward Davies Oakwood Funerals

"Thank you for a really superb three days. Having spent the past thirty years organising and running groups I think I am pretty much an expert. Your course, its content, structure and, of course, the superb food, is truly exceptional and I found it faultless. You held the group wonderfully. I feel extremely privileged to be working and learning with you." Stella West-Harling

"Jane Morrell and Simon Smith have an abundance of knowledge, which fortunately they have chosen to share with others. Their experience as funeral directors and celebrants, together with their individual educational and career backgrounds equips them to carry out the sharing of this knowledge to an exceptionally high standard." Christine Parkes. Superintendent Registrar

"The course generally gave me the poise and self-assurance I needed to market myself, to meet individual funeral directors with passion and sincerity, to start networking – and to start working! It gave me the all-important self-belief – without that belief in your own abilities, you will never convince funeral directors to use you! It's worked for me, and I have. Within a few weeks of the end of the training, I was the celebrant at six funerals, recommended by three different funeral directors. I now regularly have 10 funerals a month. I looked at the various funeral celebrant trainings available and I'm glad I chose this one. It was enlightening, inspiring, encouraging and educational. I now feel part of a strong, supportive 'family' and a quiet revolution!" Jan Comley

"I have been delighted to find a celebrant course which combines a professional quality and knowledge and experience I can trust, with an approach which fosters pioneering creativity for the professional and the bereaved. In fact the commitment to empower the bereaved at this difficult time is reassuringly a key theme throughout. I do believe that I have had fantastic good fortune to find this course!" Caragh Walsh.

"I found the celebrant training so very human. Jane and Simon foster the growth of each individual's own way of working, in an environment of honesty, openness and trust. I felt safe to reach beyond my boundaries and allow myself to be more open, to explore parts of me that I tend to keep hidden. The course was inspiring, thought provoking and challenging in a good way. I came away thinking 'I could do this'". An amazing experience! Fiona Hughes. Wiltshire.

"The funeral courses run by green fuse are full of practical guidance and information. They take away the mystique surrounding how funerals are created and carried out. Jane's and Simon's experience as funeral directors, arrangers and celebrants provides the required authority as well as imaginative ideas. Their teaching equips the student to support grieving families in the making of important choices they otherwise might not have known were even available. I believe it gives families the chance to be more effective, and to grieve and celebrate a life more proactively, than does the traditional method of submission to a system. There is a need for this at a time when death is still such an emotive and closed subject, and these courses are a bold attempt to meet that need. I think almost anyone involved with people in the early days of bereavement will find the experience of attending these courses helpful in their caring work." Jonathan Taylor. Humanist Funeral Officer

"I thought the attention to detail was superb both in the subjects and methods discussed to of course the food! All of which made me feel I was learning from and trusting professionals who take great care in every aspect of their work. Even a cheese sandwich was the best I'd ever tasted. Thank you" Pippa Sparkes

"The directors of green fuse are not just trying to re-brand undertaking as a profession, they are responding, I think, to a new reflective individualism; people quietly thinking through what is the right relationship for us to have with the dead and what relationship we may wish to have with the living once we are dead ourselves." Tim Gardam, Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, presenter of Beyond this Life, BBC Radio4 Oct 2009

# green fuse funeral training academy

## Funeral Celebrant's Diploma Application Form

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number: Daytime

Evening

Email:

Current work:

Please state briefly why you are interested in attending this course:

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Course you would like to book: Funeral Celebrant £1,150 [ ]

Date of course you wish to book:

Venue: Ashburton, Devon

Dietary and other special requirements:

Terms and conditions of booking and payment

The Funeral Celebrants diploma is five days, split into three and two days with a gap of about three months between. The cost of the course includes assessment and ongoing supervision for the first five funerals you conduct. This can be paid in four instalments of £287.50. The deposit is £150, to be included with the application, and a further £137.50 to be paid at least two weeks before the course begins. If you would like to pay over a longer period, please let us know and we can discuss it. Please note, once you have made a firm booking and paid the deposit of £150 and the course is due to begin within 14 days, you are committed to paying the whole course fee of £1,150 unless we can find a replacement.

I agree to the terms and conditions of booking and payment:

Signed:

Date:

Please make cheques out to Green Fuse Limited and send to 7 High Street, Totnes TQ9 5NN



To book a course

To book your place on the diploma programme, please fill in the application form on page 7 or send us an email or telephone us and we will provide you with a pre-course pack including dates and venues, questionnaire and application form. email: [jane@greenfuse.co.uk](mailto:jane@greenfuse.co.uk). Tel: 01803 840779

The cost of the diploma can be paid in instalments over the time period of the course.

*"The force that through the green fuse drives the flower, drives my green age." Dylan Thomas*

*"Walk on a rainbow trail; walk on a trail of song, and all about you will be beauty. There is a way out of every dark mist, over a rainbow trail." Virginia Woolf*

green fuse limited

7 High Street

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01803 840779 [jane@greenfuse.co.uk](mailto:jane@greenfuse.co.uk)

[www.greenfuse.co.uk/training.htm](http://www.greenfuse.co.uk/training.htm)

Tim Gardam, Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, presenter of Beyond this Life, BBC Radio 4 October 2009:

*"The directors of green fuse are not just trying to re-brand undertaking as a profession, they are responding, I think, to a new reflective individualism; people quietly thinking through what is the right relationship for us to have with the dead and what relationship we may wish to have with the living once we are dead ourselves."*