



Green Fuse Funeral Training

# Diploma For Funeral Celebrants

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

This Diploma is Nationally Accredited at Level 3 by OCN London  
and Green Fuse Training is an OCN Recognised Learning Centre



## 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 at our riverside funeral home in beautiful rolling Devon countryside, 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 and a relaxing environment. We make time for discussion and use a range of methods and practise to make this an excellent and easy learning experience. You receive a one hundred page manual and readings and poetry anthology. We engage the help of an actor 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.



# Green Fuse Diploma For Funeral Celebrants Level 3

We think thorough and professional training is absolutely necessary to fulfil this multifaceted role well. This Diploma programme requires time and commitment and will probably take you 6 months to complete. This careful preparation will give you the confidence, skills and mindset to do a wonderful job for each family you work with. Each family deserves that in their time of need.

## 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 presentation of the space 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.



# The Diploma

This Accredited Level 3 Diploma begins with three days together, followed by a gap of three months in which assignments are completed, before the final two days and time to complete assignments. For most the course takes 6 months. We provide you with a full manual, feedback on assignments and email and phone supervision for your first five funerals. Each course is for a maximum of 8 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.

## 1. History and modern context of funerals

A brief history of funerals

The impact of current social and cultural trends on funerals

Re-visioning funeral ceremonies

What's a funeral for?

## 2. Creating Ritual In Ceremony

What makes a good funeral?

The importance of ritual space

The ceremony as a means of transition

How to create ritual

Appreciating the importance of the place

The roles of beauty and movement

Orchestrating all the elements of the funeral.

## 3. Writing ceremonial scripts

How to structure a funeral ceremony

Preparing opening and closing words

How to write a good eulogy or life story

Reflecting the character and beliefs of the person who has died

Choosing words and poetry

Using poetic language and idiom

Words for the committal to reflect individual beliefs.

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

## 4. Listening and communication - working with families

Working with bereaved people

Active listening skills and practice

Keeping with the agenda of the family

Working with families in conflict

Semi-structured interviewing

Devising a ceremony collaboratively with the family.



## 5. Personal presentation skills

Managing yourself and your emotions

Creating a safe emotional space

Developing personal presence and appropriate authority

Speaking in public

Leading singing (even if you 'don't' sing!)

Using your voice in different modes Being a calm and reassuring presence.

## 6. Business and marketing

The business of being a funeral celebrant

Using technology

Knowing your USPs and your local market

Building your local resources

Liaising with other funeral professionals

Operating as an independent funeral celebrant, including brochures, marketing and charging.

Joining the Green Fuse Guild and celebrants' forum.



## who we are

**Green Fuse** was founded by Jane Morrell and Simon Smith, funeral directors, arrangers, advisers and celebrants since 1999 and 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 Heart and Soul Funeral Directors**, awarded **Funeral Director of the Year 2012** by the Good Funeral Guide. 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.

Jane and Simon both work as funeral celebrants and directors and have been running funeral celebrant training since 2007. Simon has written and run training courses for over 20 years, a professional speaker and leadership consultant and trainer. He has graduated in Bath University's Foundation Degree in Funeral Services, the highest qualification in the funeral industry.

Basira Ward Davies is a full course trainer and Course Development Director. Basira is an experienced funeral celebrant who trained with Green Fuse in 2008.

Actor, Pete Joscelyne adds the presentation skill and presence elements to the training.

*"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).



## 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

# Green Fuse Funeral Training

## Diploma For Funeral Celebrants Training Application Form

Name:

Address:

Phones: Daytime:

Evening:

Email:

Course you would like to book: Funeral Celebrant [ ] £2,200

Date of course you wish to book:

Dietary and other special requirements:

Venue: Riverstone, 18 Dart Mills, Totnes Road, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0NF

### Terms and conditions of booking and payment

The Funeral Celebrants course 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 on-going supervision for the first five funerals you conduct.

You can pay in four instalments of £550. The non-returnable deposit is £550 to be included with the application. The next payment is due 21 days before the start of the course. The other two payments are due monthly after the first part of the course.

We will ask you either to set up a standing order or to give us post-dated cheques to cover these. If you need to pay over a longer period, please let us know and we can discuss it.

Please note, once you have made a firm booking, paid the deposit of £550, and the course is due to begin within 21 days, you are committed to paying the whole course fee of £2,200 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 Riverstone, 18 Dart Mills, Buckfastleigh TQ11 0NF.

Direct payments can be made to Green Fuse Ltd, sort code 40 44 24 Account no. 91219685.

Please let us know if you are making a direct payment.



### To book your place

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

“The sun of her last day sets clear in the sweetness of her liberty. Grown lighter than breath she is set free in our remembering and cannot be lost” *Wendell Berry*



### Green Fuse Limited

Riverstone, 18 Dart Mills,  
Buckfastleigh TQ11 0NF

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[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:

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