



Cheveley Group  
Parishes of  
Cheveley, Ashley,  
Woodditton  
and Kirtling.

## A Funeral



Priest in Charge:  
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**A funeral** marks the close of a human life on earth. It is the opportunity for friends and family to express their grief, to give thanks for the life which has now completed its journey in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

Funerals can follow several models:

- ✝ A church service followed by a burial or crematorium
- ✝ A full service at the crematorium
- ✝ A brief crematorium service followed by a memorial/thanksgiving service in church.
- ✝ There is also a green burial site nearby in Brinkley, where a simple graveside service can be offered

## **Funeral Plans**

Sometimes, the deceased has left explicit plans and requests. People are welcome to meet with the minister and arrange funeral plans at any stage in their life.

If there are no plans, the funeral director or minister will be happy to advise you. We aim to be as flexible as possible so that the funeral will be a truly personal and special time for your family and friends.

**Everyone** has the right to have a funeral in their parish church, whether or not they were church-goers.

## Who do I contact?

The funeral director will make arrangements for you and then contact the church to confirm availability.

A Minister will then arrange to visit the immediate family – usually the next of kin – to talk about the deceased, to pray for everyone affected by the death, to discuss arrangements for the service and offer advice on hymns, music, readings, and a tribute.



## What happens at the funeral?

Whether at church or in the crematorium chapel, the minister will be there to greet the family. The funeral director will bring the deceased in a coffin and may provide special transport for the immediate family.

The service usually begins with music, the entrance of the coffin and the reading of Bible sentences about the resurrection hope, such as:

*"I am the resurrection and the life" says the Lord; "those who believe in me, even though they die, will live..."*

Once everyone is seated the minister will welcome you and say a prayer. Following that there may be hymns, readings and a tribute celebrating the life, a bible reading, and a short talk by the minister. There are prayers giving thanks for the life of the deceased, and asking for comfort and strength for those who mourn.

At the end of the service there are prayers commending the deceased to God's mercy and love, followed by a committal – either at the graveside if a burial or in the crematorium.

In the Ashley, Woodditton and Kirtling parishes the churchyards are still open for burials and the Minister can advise on suitable memorials. In Cheveley there is a village cemetery beside the church. Ashes can be buried either at the crematorium or our churchyards all have a special place set aside for burying ashes. There, a brief service may be held for the family at a later time and a small memorial plaque can be placed.

The funeral service will reflect the Christian hope and belief in the resurrection and eternal life in Christ. Feelings of grief, gratitude, joy and sadness often intermingle. Sometimes, a sense of tragedy is uppermost, especially when it is a young person who has died. When it is the end of a long and fruitful life, the feelings of thanksgiving can be strongest.

## **After the funeral...**

*People who have lost someone close to them are often so busy with practical details and arrangements between the death and the funeral that they do not experience the full sense of their loss until later. Grieving is a natural and important part of coming to terms with and healing this loss and it may continue for several months.*

A member of the Pastoral Care Group will be happy to talk to you or pray with you at any time – just give Pat Cobby a call (01638 730297) The Group includes trained pastoral visitors, with experience of bereavement, who can visit you in your home and provide a listening ear. It is often helpful to be able to speak to someone about your loss, and we do our best to help, and to answer honestly any questions you may have.

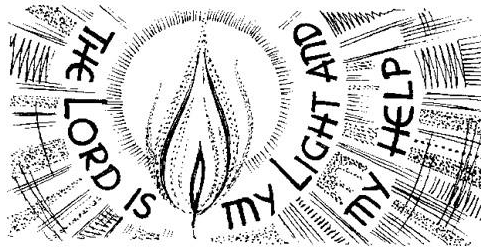
If small children have lost a parent or sibling, we may be able to advise about books and other resources and help you to explain to them about death and grieving.

Cheveley, Ashley and Kirtling churches are open every day. There you will find space and quiet, a place to sit, light a candle, or pray.

*Comfort is also to be found in the promises of Jesus Christ, in the hope of the Resurrection and in the belief that the beloved person is safe in the hands of God.*

## Memorial or All Souls Service

In late October/early November each year we hold a Memorial Service for people from all four churches in our group. This is an opportunity for families to come together and remember their loved ones in a simple service – where their name will be read out for prayers and candles lit for each one.



## Questions of life and death

Funeral services always raise profound questions about the meaning of life and death. Jesus himself believed in a life-giving God: 'the God of the living, not of the dead.' Christians believe that Christ's resurrection is the triumph of good over evil and of life over death and has made eternal life available to us.

You are always welcome to talk to the clergy and the Pastoral Care Group about your feelings and questions.



*May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus  
Christ bless and console us, and gently wipe every tear  
from our eyes:  
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen*