



Petersfield
CELEBRANTS



If you would like the wishes outlined in this document to be **legally binding** they need to be included within your will.



Alternatively, simply keep a copy with your will.



Most importantly, make sure someone knows where to find it.

Pre-planning your final farewell:

Saying goodbye in a way that's meaningful to **you**.

Thinking or talking about our own inevitable demise isn't always easy. Often considered a taboo subject, many people try to brush the topic aside, as if to pretend it will never happen. Yet dying is one of the certainties of life for us all and talking it about more openly can benefit all concerned.

You may be aware that there's been a move towards a greater openness around death, to encourage open conversations and planning, all aimed at removing the stigma around the reality of end-of-life.

As an Independent Funeral Celebrant, a key part of my job is to work with a family on planning a final farewell. If that's ever been you, you'll know how the bereaved only wish they knew more about what their loved one would have wanted.

I've created this document to help simplify that process for all concerned and it starts with you.

How would you like to be remembered?

It sounds like a simple question but it's not always easy to answer. It's also a conversation many of us avoid. And yet, taking a little time to think about it now can make things so much easier for the people you love.

Think of this as a way to leave a thoughtful gift: clarity, comfort, and guidance for those who will one day say goodbye to you.

I have designed this guide to help you gently plan ahead. There's no rush and no pressure to complete everything at once. You can dip in and out, reflect, change your mind and come back whenever you're ready.

Take your time. Read the questions through first. You then might wish to reflect quietly, make notes and return later.

There are no right or wrong answers, only what feels right for you.

You also don't need to do it alone. You might want to involve friends or family or, if you prefer, I am here for you so please get in touch.

About your final farewell itself:

Do you have a particular Funeral Director/Undertaker in mind to arrange your event?

Do you already have a prepaid Funeral plan in place? Yes No

If yes, who is that with? _____

What kind of ceremony or service feels most like you?

A traditional religious service

Less traditional with religious elements (e.g. hymns or readings but not in a church)

Totally secular/non-religious

In a natural/outdoor setting

Other _____

Do you have any thoughts on where would you like it to take place?

A place of worship

At a crematorium

At a consecrated burial ground

A natural/woodland burial site

At a funeral home

At an independent venue, eg. a hotel, barn, or other events venue

Anywhere specific? _____

Do you have any other details in mind? (e.g. taken by a hearse, horse-drawn carriage, etc.)

Do you have a preference for the kind of coffin to be used?

Traditional (e.g. Mahogany, oak, etc.)

Wicker,

Cardboard,

Other

Any other details, e.g. colours, additional features, etc.? _____

Flowers or donations?

Flowers welcome from anyone

Family flowers only

No flowers

If no flowers or family only, would you prefer donations to a charity?

If so, which charity? _____

Personal Details, Eulogy and Celebration Leader

Date of birth: _____ Place of birth: _____

Names of your parents: _____

Have you written or made any notes for your eulogy or life story?:

If yes, please keep a copy with this document.

If not, you might like to start a simple timeline including:

- ✓ Key life events
- ✓ Work and achievements and what they meant to you at the time
- ✓ Hobbies, pastimes and passions
- ✓ Special memories
- ✓ What matters most to you

You can build this gradually over time, and your family or friends can of course add to this document.

You don't need to do it all at once, but can start to create a document that can be added to.

Not sure where to start or how to do this?

I can help you so please get in touch via the contact details at the end of the document.

Most funerals and Celebrations of Life are led by someone with relevant experience.

Do you have any preference as to who would lead for you?

If you have an individual in mind please put their details here:

Name: _____

Contact Details: _____

Anything else that might help to find them: _____

OR, do you have a preference between:

Religious Leader, or a
Celebrant

Any preferences on style, gender, approximate age, etc.?

About the service:

The music that is played before, during and at the end of a service sets the tone of the whole proceedings and are normally chosen to reflect the person being remembered. If you already have some pieces you would like played then making a note of them here will be so helpful. You can choose any genre of music you want for different parts of the service.

MUSIC FOR:

On entry: _____

During the Time for Reflection, Photo Tribute or similar:

As the service comes to an end: _____

ANY OTHER STAGE:

When? _____

Which piece? _____

Hymns or songs: _____

Solos: _____

For all to sing: _____

Would you like there to be any readings? These might be from a religious book, a poem or any other piece you choose and can even be something you have written yourself.

How many readings would you like? _____

Titles, author or source: _____

Would you like any prayers, quotes or special words? These are generally well-known pieces and can also include something you or someone close has written or said just for you.

How many? _____

Titles, author or source: _____

Aside from the eulogy, is there anyone you'd like to speak or share a memory?

If you would like help in completing this document, or with drafting your life's story or eulogy, please contact me.

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Committed to creating and delivering funerals and Celebrations of Life that truly represent and celebrate the person being remembered.