

Arranging a Funeral or Thanksgiving at St Barnabas' Church



St Barnabas: the Parish church for
Emmer Green and Caversham Park



Who can have a funeral at St Barnabas' church?

Anyone can have a funeral at St Barnabas' church. There is often some connection to the church, but you don't need to be a regular churchgoer.

Choosing a location for the funeral is a significant decision. St Barnabas offers a warm atmosphere and plenty of time and space for you to remember your loved one. Funeral services can be followed by cremation or burial elsewhere. Sometimes it is more appropriate to hold a thanksgiving service following a cremation or burial elsewhere: we can advise with the planning.

A message of hope

We believe that death is not the end and that your loved one now rests in God's love. In the service, the minister will proclaim that hope in the resurrection and the eternal love of God for your loved one.

About your loved one

Each life is special and unique, and the church celebrates this fact. We are all created by God and all his works are wonderful. Getting to know more about your loved one is important to us. We will spend time with you, talking about the people who were important to the deceased, what they did in their life, and finding out about some of those special memories you have and what the person meant to you.

This is a chance to reflect on a person's life: to give thanks for all that they did; to recognise the challenges they faced; and how they influenced the lives of others. Particularly after a long illness or in difficult circumstances, the funeral can be the first chance we have to take a step back and take a perspective on a whole life.

The Funeral service

Arranging a funeral service can be daunting. We work alongside your funeral director to advise and guide you through the process, helping you celebrate the life of your loved one. Every funeral is unique to the person whose life we are remembering. Here are some of the ways in which we can help:

Mourners

The church has flexible seating: we can accommodate up to 200 people; yet still create an intimate setting for much smaller gatherings. We have step-free access and a T-loop fitted in the church for those who are hard of hearing.

The Coffin

In most cases, families choose to have the coffin brought to the church as the service starts but sometimes people ask to have the coffin brought to church the evening before or an hour before the service.

Music

Music can often help us express our feelings in ways that words alone cannot. Playing the music which our loved ones enjoyed is often an important part of a funeral. We have an organ, a piano and the ability to play pre-recorded music through our audio system. We can help you choose hymns, songs or other music, to sing or listen to, and to weave that into the service.

Readings and Tribute

There will be a bible reading and the option to read poetry or other literature. It is appropriate to pay tribute to the person you are saying goodbye to and tell their story: this is best written by the family, and again we can support you through the process. All these pieces may be read by members of family or friends.

Other Personal Touches

We are also very happy for you to suggest other personal touches that help you celebrate your loved one's life. Is there something that was precious to them, or special photos? Please ask about how these may be incorporated into the service.

Flowers

There are often flowers in church, but many families bring their own floral tributes: please tell us what you would like to do, we will help make that happen.

Prayers

The minister will offer up prayers during the service. If there are any special prayers or particular people you would like to be included, do please let the minister know.

Orders of Service

We will help you bring the different components of the service together and order them in a way that flows well. We collaborate with your Funeral Director to draft the text of an order of service for them to print.

Parish Centre and Church Hall

Many families wish to hold a gathering after the service. Our Church Hall (next to the church) or Parish Centre may be suitable for this. Again, please ask if this is something that you are interested in.

Finances

There are [certain statutory fees](#) which apply to funerals: we can explain these to you. For services in St Barnabas church, we do ask families to cover certain costs, where incurred:

Musician (organist or pianist subject to availability)	£120
Contribution towards heating (October to March)	£100
Verger	£50

Donations

We serve the community of Emmer Green and Caversham Park: we are self-funding and reliant on voluntary donations to continue our work (around £90k per year). We are thankful for any donations received and invite families, if they are able, to make a donation.

Contact details

St Barnabas church and hall

The Parish Centre, Grove Road, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8RA

Vicar: The Revd Kevin Lovell
Tel: 01189 475214 or 01189 478239
Email: vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk

Hall bookings: Jon Barclay
Tel: 07580 029910
Email: hall@saintbarnabas.org.uk

Online:
Website: www.saintbarnabas.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/StBarnabasEmmerGreen

Payments can be made online, direct to our account:

Account Name: St Barnabas Church
Sort code: 20-71-03
Account number: 10089206

Please add a suitable reference so we can identify your payment.

Donations can also be made online (including Gift Aid if appropriate) via our secure Parish Giving site: either scan this QR code or go to www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for Emmer Green.

