

CHOICE OF FUNERAL



Funeral services can be as individual as the deceased, taking into account their cultural or religious beliefs. They can be personalised to reflect the life of the person you've lost, a celebration of life, an opportunity to give thanks or to say goodbye.

We believe a funeral should be an uplifting and fulfilling experience in honour of the deceased; a day friends and family can look back on with a smile. We encourage our clients to go with their own ideas, moving away from the serious and dour Victorian style funerals people often dread.

DECIDING WHETHER TO BURY OR CREMATE

Many factors affect a person's decision to bury or cremate. Whether it's due to religious considerations, family traditions or pre-ownership of a family grave,

Welham Jones can guide you through the arrangements for both types of funeral.

BURIAL

A burial can be more expensive than a cremation, unless your family already owns a grave with unused space in a cemetery, or your parish church has an open churchyard. If the burial is to take place in a local authority owned cemetery outside the deceased's town or parish, this will also cost more.

For burials, we can arrange to re-open existing graves including the removal and replacement of an existing

memorial. It is worth bearing in mind there are a growing number of woodland burial sites available, should burial space be an issue.

You might also want to consider purchasing additional graves in a cemetery where all your family can be buried together, although not all cemeteries allow this.

COFFINS

We have a comprehensive range of solid and veneered timber coffins and caskets for you to choose from, as well as 'green' coffins using

renewable materials and personalised 'picture' coffins. Please enquire for full details.

CREMATION

Crematoriums are often further away and therefore difficult for elderly relatives and friends to get to. Many people decide to hold a church service first to include a 'lych-gate' committal, so that everyone who wishes to may attend.

For the cremated remains, you may need to purchase an urn to keep/bury them in, unless you intend to

scatter them in a place of significance. We have a number of urns for you to choose from. Please enquire for full details.

Whether you choose a Churchyard, a cemetery, memorial gardens or a special place of your choice, until you decide, we will keep the cremated remains for you at no additional cost.

THE CORTEGE

The choice of funeral cortege is really up to you. We have a fleet of modern hearses and limousines, but we can also arrange alternatives such as a horse-drawn carriage, a motorcycle hearse or even a dray cart.

Led by the hearse, followed by one or more of our limousines (if they are required) and the cars of other mourners, the funeral cortege will most likely

start from the deceased's home. We then tend to take a direct route to the service, but if you would like the cortege to travel past places of special significance or memories, we can arrange that too.

We can also take the coffin home or to the church the day before the funeral or in advance of the service, if desired.



THE SERVICE

Whether you opt for a Christian, or Other Faith service, a Humanist or Secular funeral, this can depend on your wishes, or those of the deceased. You can choose a simple or ornate service, private or open, or you can choose to have a memorial, or service of thanksgiving at a later date.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Family members, or close friends are encouraged to participate in the service. This could include a reading, poem or a eulogy. The officiant will contact you regarding the specifics of the service, as well as to discuss the deceased and their life.

For the service, the front seats will be reserved for close family. Most crematoria offer the choice of

If you know the type of service you want but do not know anyone to officiate, we can introduce someone suitable. Theoretically, anyone can take a funeral service, but that can limit the venues available.

concealing the coffin behind curtains, lowering the coffin from view or keeping it in view at the point of committal.

At a burial, coffin bearers will lower the coffin into the grave: Scottish cords are available. It is sometimes possible for members of the family or close friends to carry the deceased.

MUSIC FOR THE SERVICE

Music plays an important role in many funeral services. Whether you choose from favourite hymns, tunes, songs, or pieces of music (yours or the deceased), you should discuss these requirements with the officiant first.

If desired, we can arrange an organist for the service (at an additional charge). Alternatively, music can be provided in digital format. Many crematoria will

source specific tracks for you. Other venues still function with CDs, or you may be able to provide your own via a memory stick or smart phone.

If you would prefer live music, we can source musicians for the service, including soloists or a choir, 'pipes and drums', a bugler for the Last Post, or even a jazz band.

SECULAR FUNERALS

Secular funerals are an increasingly popular alternative for those who were not religious. Venues for secular funerals include crematoria chapels, cemetery chapels, village halls, gravesides and woodland burial sites.

As a secular service is one of remembrance and celebration, greater family input is generally required.

It may involve music of significance to the deceased; a eulogy read by a family member or appointed officiant, readings, family letters, poems and the displaying of photographs.

We strongly advise the use of an officiant for a secular service, as without a framework, they can lack focus and have a tendency to drift.

BURIAL AT SEA

Welham Jones can arrange a burial at sea for your loved one, if required. Usually conducted off the East Sussex coast we enlist the help of an ex-RNLI vessel crewed by retired RNVR personnel. However, if you are

considering a burial at sea, there are a few things you should take into account.

Please enquire for more information.



Welham Jones has been serving the communities of west Kent and south east London for over 25 years and has extensive knowledge of local customs and traditions.

Managed by the individuals and family members who own it, familial values carry through to our customers. These values underpin the business and everything we do making the relationship between the Welham Jones family and the families we serve extremely important.

Offering all the resources of a large company, whilst maintaining that small company feel, we are not members of a larger corporate group trading under a family name long gone.

At Welham Jones, we are genuinely committed to the community we serve. Responsive to you and your needs we take pride in the service we provide, putting our customers first at all times. Go on-line and read the biographies of our staff to see just how much we care.



BOROUGH GREEN

43 Western Road TN15 8AL Tel: 01732 780600

CHISLEHURST

4 Belmont Parade, Green Lane BR7 6AN Tel: 020 8467 2222

CHELSEFIELD

9 Windsor Drive BR6 6EY Tel: 01689 452525

SEVENOAKS

156 London Road TN13 1DJ Tel: 01732 742400

SWANLEY

31 Station Road BR8 8ES Tel: 01322 619100

TONBRIDGE

164 High Street TN9 1BB Tel: 01732 617171

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

39 Crescent Road TN1 2LZ Tel: 01892 300330

enquiries@welhamjones.co.uk
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PLEASE NOTE:

Subject to the Office of Fair Trading recommendations we offer a limited service 'community funeral' comprising:

- removal of the deceased to our premises (excludes removals from home, nursing or care homes) within a 10 mile radius between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays*;
- care of the deceased including hygienic treatment and a chapel visit during normal office hours;
- our services in attending to the necessary funeral arrangements including receiving floral tributes from immediate family only;
- viewing during normal office hours;
- a coffin suitable for cremation or burial;
- provision of a suitably equipped vehicle (together with an appropriate number of staff) to the nearest crematorium or cemetery on a day, and at a time, suitable to us*.

Full details are available on request. Disbursements and fees are extra. Not available for pre-purchase. In providing this funeral we need your co-operation to minimise our overheads and we respectfully request that you pay all moneys in advance when ordering this service. A pro-forma invoice is available on request for clients seeking Benefit Agency support.

* Some additional service options available at additional cost. Committal times not between 11am and 3pm.

