

Choosing Where To Hold A Funeral



Award winning funeral directors
for south and central Devon

Tel: 01803 840779 & 01364 643522 (24 hours)
www.heartandsoulfunerals.co.uk

Green Fuse Bereavement Care
www.greenfuse.co.uk

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Most funerals are currently held in places of religious worship and at the ceremony halls of cemeteries and crematoria. Religious buildings are evocative spaces, each one individual, often ancient, with beautiful carvings and decoration, a place that has seen much of life, joy and sadness. Entering one of these buildings is in itself a ritual act, moving out of the hustle and bustle of the normal world into a hallowed and sacred place. It is no surprise that they remain popular even with those who do not regularly attend them.

The ceremony halls at crematoria are used only for funerals, although a few of the newer ones are being designed to accommodate other ceremonies; they are non-denominational. The architecture and interior design of most ceremony halls is often vaguely like twentieth-century churches, but bland, because they need to be suitable for use by people of different faiths, individual spiritual beliefs or no faith at all. Many complaints are made about their impersonal, sterile, almost industrial feel, yet so many funerals take place in them.

As people have become more secular, or spiritual without formal religion, more choice of locations is needed, akin to the demand for wedding locations. There are no legal restrictions on where a funeral can be held (with permission of the owner of the site) and no licences are needed, so the choice is even wider than for weddings.

Possible venues

You can hold a funeral ceremony with the coffin present anywhere that will agree to have it. There is no licence needed. If you do not wish the ceremony to be held in a religious place of worship or a crematorium, you could try

- a village or local hall, or our ceremony hall at Riverstone, Buckfastleigh
- a function room in a hotel or pub
- a boat usually hired for parties
- the register office (purely secular ceremonies only)

A funeral can also be held

- at home
- in the garden

or if you want the funeral and the burial to take place together

- at the graveside
- at a woodland burial ground
- on your own land or other private land

A funeral can be held in any of these places prior to cremation. You may have more ideas of possible venues in your area.

If you have a favourite church that is not your local one, it is worth asking if you can hold the funeral there.

When choosing a place you need to consider:

The permission of the owner: you must have this and do not be surprised if you are refused, death is an emotive subject.

Privacy – you do not want members of the public to walk in on the funeral inadvertently.

If in a public building being used for other things at the time, ideally the room will have its own separate entrance to the outside.

Good access to carry a coffin in and out, so look out for narrow entrances, tight corners and stairs.

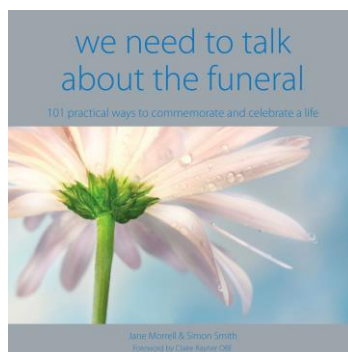
Adequate parking.

Sufficient seating.

Easy access for the elderly and disabled.

Availability of toilets and refreshments on the premises or nearby.

You can find more information and ideas like this in our book *We Need To Talk About The Funeral - 101 Practical Ways To Commemorate And Celebrate A Life*, available for download from www.heartandsoulfunerals.co.uk/funeralbook.htm





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