

Holy Trinity Church, Cannes

Advance plans for a Christian funeral



These are some of the issues you may want to consider in planning your own funeral, hopefully many years hence.

We suggest that you write a note based on some of the ideas here, date it, and leave it with your affairs. This will inform your family of the arrangements you would like to be made. It would be worth looking through your notes periodically, in case you've Agone off@ a hymn, or thought of a better reading, etc.

You should make it clear to your relatives that you understand that some of the arrangements may not be possible, depending on circumstances prevailing at the time of your death. After all, a funeral service is not just for the deceased, but also to bring comfort to surviving relatives and friends. They, too, should have an important say in how the funeral arrangements are made, as will the clergy conducting the funeral. Nothing you write should be taken as an absolute imperative; but it will of course be extremely helpful to them.

Most funerals here will involve the Cannes Crematorium or a local cemetery, but these notes recognise that you may be elsewhere at the time of your death.

Giles Williams

Funeral arrangements

Burial Cremation

Service in Church *followed by* crematorium committal or burial?

Service at crematorium only? (*this will limit the length and amount of material you wish to include: a crematorium funeral has to be over in 20-25 minutes; there may be limitations on the number of people who will be able to attend, too. Hymn-singing isn=t really catered for at the Cannes Crematorium.*)

* If the crematorium is distant from the church, you may wish to Aexcuse@ the family from accompanying the coffin from church to crematorium. Yes No

Do you have any preference for which church, crematorium or burial ground? (*NB, this may not be possible, depending on circumstances at the time of death.*)

Any preferences for Funeral Directors (*or any to avoid*)?

Costs of funerals can vary, and you may wish to advise your family not to spend a lot of money on your funeral, coffin, flowers, etc.

If you have already paid for your funeral, make sure your family know this, and to which firm.

Thoughts on announcements in the press (in which country)?

Anyone you would like to be notified, that your family might not think of? (*And how to contact them?*)

Arrangements for disposal of your cremated remains (*Aashes@*)?

The Funeral service:

The person arranging your funeral should discuss this with the clergy conducting the funeral before any arrangements are finalised.

Anything you would like to say about your Christian faith?

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Any comments on the Afeel@ or message, of the service?

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Hymns? (*You=re not obliged to have any, and time may be a limiting factor*).....

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Which music to be played (by a musician, over the PA, other...)?

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It will help your relatives if you have the music (CD, sheet-music, etc) readily at hand, or with your papers.

Bible reading(s)

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Other reading?

Eulogy, tributes, etc: *it is probably best to leave this to your family=s discretion.*

Any suggestions as to who might be asked to take part (conduct the service, reading, prayers, eulogy, sermon). *Obviously you must accept that they may not be available or feel able to do so, and other people may seem more appropriate to the family at the time.*.....

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Preferences for a collection, or other announcements?

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NB: There is a great deal of useful (and very important) information about bereavement and French legal issues on our website: www.holytrinitycannes.org. Our thanks to Sunnybank and the Bristish Association for providing this.