

All Saints Anglican Church
Howick

Preparing for a Funeral
and
Navigating the Death of
a Loved One



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Contact Details

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Introduction

Of all human events, death concerns us the most deeply. When death approaches, whether it be our own or that of someone close to us, it immediately becomes our principal and overriding concern.

On the one hand, Christians know that Christ has triumphed over death, and that therefore we need no longer fear it. The last event in our lives leads on to something richer. On the other hand, when we have loved deeply and received love, especially when this love has been lasting, the grief and pain suffered is extreme.

A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa, pg. 811

When a loved one dies, alongside your own grief, you may find yourself having to deal with a range of issues and decisions that are outside your immediate experience. This guide is offered as a resource to help you navigate some of those things. It can also be used to assist you as you plan your own funeral. It is often a great help to family members and friends if they know your wishes ahead of time. They can organise your funeral with a measure of confidence in the midst of whatever other issues they may also face.

Funeral Services at All Saints, Howick

All Saints is open to anyone who wishes to have a funeral or memorial service there. Such services are conducted by the All Saints clergy in accordance with the Christian understanding that “there is hope in death as in life, and that there is renewed life, in Christ, after death” (ANZPB/HKMOA, pg.826).

Making the Arrangements

Funeral directors will liaise with a member of our Ministry Team and the family of the deceased to organise a funeral. As soon as possible after being notified, a member of our Ministry Team, will contact the bereaved family to offer support and guidance, and to discuss the format of the service.

In the funeral service:

- We remember and give thanks for the person who has died and offer comfort to those who mourn.
- We hear God's word of hope and consolation.
- We pray for ourselves and all who mourn.
- We commend the deceased to God's mercy and love.
- We commit the body of the deceased to burial or cremation.

At All Saints, funerals follow a structure that looks something like this:

The Funeral Service

Music can be played as we gather. This can be played on the organ or piano or from a recording.

The casket can be placed in the church before the service begins or you are welcome to bring the casket in accompanied by music or a hymn as we begin the service.

Words of Welcome

Here the minister welcomes people and explains what we have gathered to do:

- to remember and give thanks for the person who has died
- to commend them to God's keeping,
- to commit their body to be cremated/buried
- to comfort those who mourn.

A Hymn/Music* *may be played or sung here.*

The Remembrance

This is where tributes are offered and people have the opportunity to speak about the person who has died. In planning this time, it may be helpful to ask particular people to speak about different areas of the person's life. Asking people beforehand, rather than holding the space open for anyone to speak, has the advantage of giving you a measure of foreknowledge about who will be speaking and what will be said. It also allows people to plan what they would like to say and avoid repeating what others may say. Alternatively, if it is important for you to have time for anyone to come forward and speak, this can be offered after any designated speakers have spoken.

It is often helpful for speakers to write down what they plan to say. This makes it easier for the person to continue when emotions well up. In the event that the speaker is unable to speak, it also enables the minister or another person to read it on their behalf.

You might like to conclude The Remembrance with a brief time of quiet reflection which could be accompanied by music and/or a slide show of images from your loved one's life.

Reading(s)

Here, one or more passages of scripture are read (see below for a list of appropriate passages). A piece of poetry or other writing that speaks to you of

your loved one or expresses something of your feelings for them may also be read here.

The Address

This is a short sermon or reflection offered by the minister expressing the hope we have for life now and after death through the resurrection of Jesus.

The Prayers

Here we would give thanks for your loved one's life and pray for all who are grieving.

We would conclude these Prayers with *The Lord's Prayer*. There are both traditional and contemporary versions of this prayer (see below) and you can choose which one feels most appropriate.

A Hymn/Music* *may be played or sung here.*

The Commendation

This is the prayer in which the person who has died is commended to God's care and God's keeping.

The Committal

In this prayer we acknowledge that, through cremation or burial, your loved one's body will be returned to the elements. We use the following words, with which you may be familiar, "...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...". This prayer can be offered as part of the funeral service in the church or it can be offered at the graveside or place of cremation.

A Blessing

Here we pray that God's love and peace will give strength and comfort to all who are gathered as they depart.

The casket is then carried out to the hearse that will be waiting in the covered way outside the church. Music can be played as we do this. There may also be an opportunity to place flower petals or sprigs of rosemary on the casket as a personal act of farewell.

The hearse may leave at this point and people are welcome to make their way to wherever refreshments are to be served.

** Two possible places where a hymn or music would be appropriate have been suggested, but there are other moments during the service where hymns or music would be equally appropriate. Singing hymns is by no means compulsory, and it may be more appropriate not to sing at all if those who are gathering for the funeral are few in number and/or unfamiliar with hymns.*

Readings and Hymns

The following is a selection of Scripture Readings and Hymns Suitable for use in a Funeral Service

PASSAGES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE APOCRYPHA

Proverbs 31	In praise of a good woman (selected verses)
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14	A time for everything
Isaiah 25:6a,7-9	Death shall be swallowed up in victory
Isaiah 40:28-31	The Lord is an everlasting God
Lamentations 3:(17-21)22-26	The steadfast love of the Lord
2 Esdras 2:42-48	The faithful are exalted in heaven
Wisdom 3:1-6,(7,8),9	The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God
Wisdom 4:7-9,(10-12),13-15	Age is not length of time

PASSAGES FROM THE PSALMS

Selected verses may be used from the following.

Psalms 23; 25; 27; 46; 103; 121; 130; 139.

PASSAGES FROM THE EPISTLES AND REVELATION

Romans 6:1-11	Dead to sin but alive in Christ
<i>or: 3,4,8,9 for a child</i>	
Romans 8:31b-39	God's love in Jesus Christ
1 Corinthians 13	Faith, hope and love remain
1 Corinthians 15:12-19	The assurance of a resurrection
1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 35-38, 42-44,(53-58)	Our resurrection
1 Corinthians 15:20-27a	Our resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:51-58	Our resurrection
2 Corinthians 1:3-5	Consolation in Christ
2 Corinthians 4:7-14	Perplexed, but not in despair
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10	At home with the Lord
Philippians 3:8-21	Our citizenship is in heaven
Philippians 3:20-4:1,4-7	Rejoice in the Lord
1 Thessalonians 4:13,14,(15-18)	Raised with Jesus
1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Revelation 7:9-17 (also suitable for a child)	The great company of the redeemed
Revelation 21:1-7 (also suitable for a child)	A new heaven and a new earth

PASSAGES FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 5:3-10	True happiness
Mark 10:13-16	Let the little children come to me
Luke 15:11-32	The parable of the lost son
Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-7	The death and resurrection of Jesus
Luke 24:13-19,(20-26),27-35	Jesus known in the breaking of bread
John 5:19-29	Eternal life in Christ
John 6:36-40	Nothing lost
John 6:46-58	Jesus the bread of life
John 10:1-15(or:11-16)	The good shepherd

John 11:(17-20),21-27	The resurrection and the life
John 12:23-26	Where I am, there shall my servant be
John 14:1-6	Jesus the way to the Father

Hymns suitable for a Funeral Service

Abide with me
All creatures of our God and King
Blessed assurance
Blest are the pure in heart
Christ the Lord is risen again
For the beauty of the earth
Guide me, O thou great Redeemer
He who would valiant be
How great thou art
How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
Immortal, invisible, God only wise
Jesu, lover of my soul
Jesu, son of Mary
Jesu, the very thought of thee
Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Just as I am
Lead us, heavenly Father
Let saints on earth in concert sing
Lord it belongs not to my care
Lord of the living
Love divine, all loves excelling
My faith looks up to thee
Mā te mārie
Now thank we all our God
O God our help in ages past
Piko nei te Mātenga
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
Rock of ages, cleft for me
Te Ariki hei au koe noho ai
The Church's one foundation
The day thou gavest
The king of love my shepherd is
The Lord's my shepherd
The strife is o'er, the battle done

Funeral Homes

All Saints Anglican does not have a specific relationship with any one funeral home in the area. Generally, a funeral home is not involved in the planning of the church service. Please provide us with contact information so that we can coordinate with them.

Some local funeral homes

Aroha Funerals

5 Kitson Place,
St Johns,
Auckland 1072
0800 276 420
Open 24 hours

Davis

2A Udys Road
Pakuranga
Auckland
09 576 7108
09 638 6520

Howick Funeral Home

35 Wellington Street
Howick
Auckland 2014
09 534 7300
Open 24 hours

Resthaven Funeral Services

Cnr Picton &, Walter MacDonald Street

Howick

Auckland 2014

09 533 7493

Open 24 hours

Service Times

At All Saints' we are happy to conduct a funeral service from Monday - Saturday. Common times for funerals are 11.00am or 1.00pm. Funerals are not held on Sundays.

Seating Capacity

Our new church can comfortably accommodate 300 people. We are also able to seat a smaller number of people in such a way that it will remain an intimate space.

The Selwyn Church will comfortably seat smaller groups of up to 60 people.

Flowers

Flowers are welcome on the retable behind the altar, and in front of the altar rail. Flower arrangements are also welcomed elsewhere in the church. After the service, families may take the flowers with them or leave them at the church.

Live Streaming the Service

Live streaming the service ensures that everybody gets to say goodbye, even when they cannot be present in person. An unlimited number of guests can view the funeral service online via a provided link, connecting family and loved ones, anywhere in the world. Please discuss arrangements with your chosen funeral home or a member of the ministry team.

Photographic Tributes and Recorded Music

Please discuss arrangements with your chosen funeral home or a member of the ministry team. The new church is equipped with screens. The Selwyn Church does not have a screen. You are most welcome to organise a screen and projector for use during services held there. Sound systems are available for use in both venues.

Music

A church service does not need to include music. Some families opt for only organ or recorded music, while others include sung hymns. Families sometimes request that a friend or family member sing or play an instrument. This should be arranged with the Vicar and or the organist, who will schedule a rehearsal.

Music pieces and hymns should be discussed with the clergy and (if necessary) the organist.

Christopher Graham

cjgmusic@hotmail.com

Order of Service

Normally the funeral director will work you to create the printed order of service. If you have a specific poem or verse to be included in the bulletin, please send it to them. A picture of the deceased and special photographs may be included on the order of service.



Function Rooms

The Haseler Hall, downstairs in the new church can accommodate up to 120 people. We are unable to provide catering but full kitchen facilities are available. You are of course welcome to use an alternative venue.

The Oak Room, upstairs in the new church may be used for small groups of up to 40 people.

Charges for the use of All Saints Anglican and the Selwyn Church

Selwyn Church	\$550.00
(\$300.00 admin + \$250.00 Heritage Building)	
New Church	\$300.00
AV Support (by negotiation)	\$60.00
Hasler Hall (including use of kitchen)	\$100.00
Oak Room	\$27.00/hour
Suggested Clergy Honorarium	\$250.00 Koha



Catering

We are unable to provide catering but full kitchen facilities are available. Listed below are a selection of catering firms in the local area.

Catering by Debbie

121 Elliot Street,

Howick,

Auckland 2014

021 163 8791

<http://cateringbydebbie.co.nz>

Gattings' Events and Catering

09 521 7220

info@gattings.co.nz

The All Saints Anglican Cemetery

If you have purchased an ashes plot or place on the Memorial Wall please speak to a member of the Ministry Team about interment. This may be done privately by the family or by Clergy. You may choose to have a small service, or some words spoken.

Places are available on the Memorial Wall at a cost of \$115.00 (Inc. GST). Ashes of those people with a space on the Memorial Wall may be placed in the communal ashes plot located in front of the wall.

Plaques are made and provided by:

WORRALL JEWELLERS LTD

PO Box 28386, REMUERA

TEL. (09) 578 3330

nworrall@xtra.co.nz

*It is important to stipulate the correct type of plaque when ordering. Please speak to the Parish Office before contacting Worrall's.

What you need to do when someone dies

For more information, please visit:

<https://endoflife.services.govt.nz/>

When someone dies it's important to let the right people know as quickly as you can. The authorities you'll need to contact will depend on how the person died, as each situation will be handled differently.

You may also need to tell family, whānau, friends and the person's employer if they were working.

When someone dies at home

When someone dies at home you'll need to call 111 and ask for an ambulance and police if the death was unexpected, or call their doctor if the death was expected - this can wait until morning if the person died overnight.

A doctor will check to confirm the cause of death. If the cause of death is known and from natural causes they'll be able to complete a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death. You must have this certificate before you or a funeral director can go ahead with a burial or cremation.

Usually you'll be able to stay with the body at home until you feel comfortable to call someone - for example a funeral director of your choice.

If the cause of death is not obvious, or suspected to be from unnatural causes, further investigation will be required. In this case the doctor will need to report the death to a coroner.

When someone dies unexpectedly

When someone dies unexpectedly you'll need to call 111 and ask for an ambulance and police.

If a doctor can confirm that the death is due to natural causes they may be able to complete a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death.

In all other cases the police will refer the death to a coroner. The coroner has to confirm the identity of the person who died, how they died and what led to their death.

The coroner will decide if a post mortem (autopsy) is required to determine the cause of death. A pathologist (specially trained doctor) will try to do a post mortem as soon as possible - usually it's the next working day.

For some cultures and religions it's important to stay with the body or have the body returned quickly. You can talk to the coroner about your options.

If someone close to you has died from suicide, homicide or a road crash, there are lots of places where you can get extra support when you need it.

When someone dies in a hospital, hospice or rest home

When someone dies in a hospital, hospice or rest home you'll need to alert medical or rest home staff on duty.

The medical or rest home staff will contact the doctor who'll check to confirm the cause of death. If the cause of death is known and from natural causes they'll be able to complete a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death. You must have this certificate before you or a funeral director can go ahead with a burial or cremation.

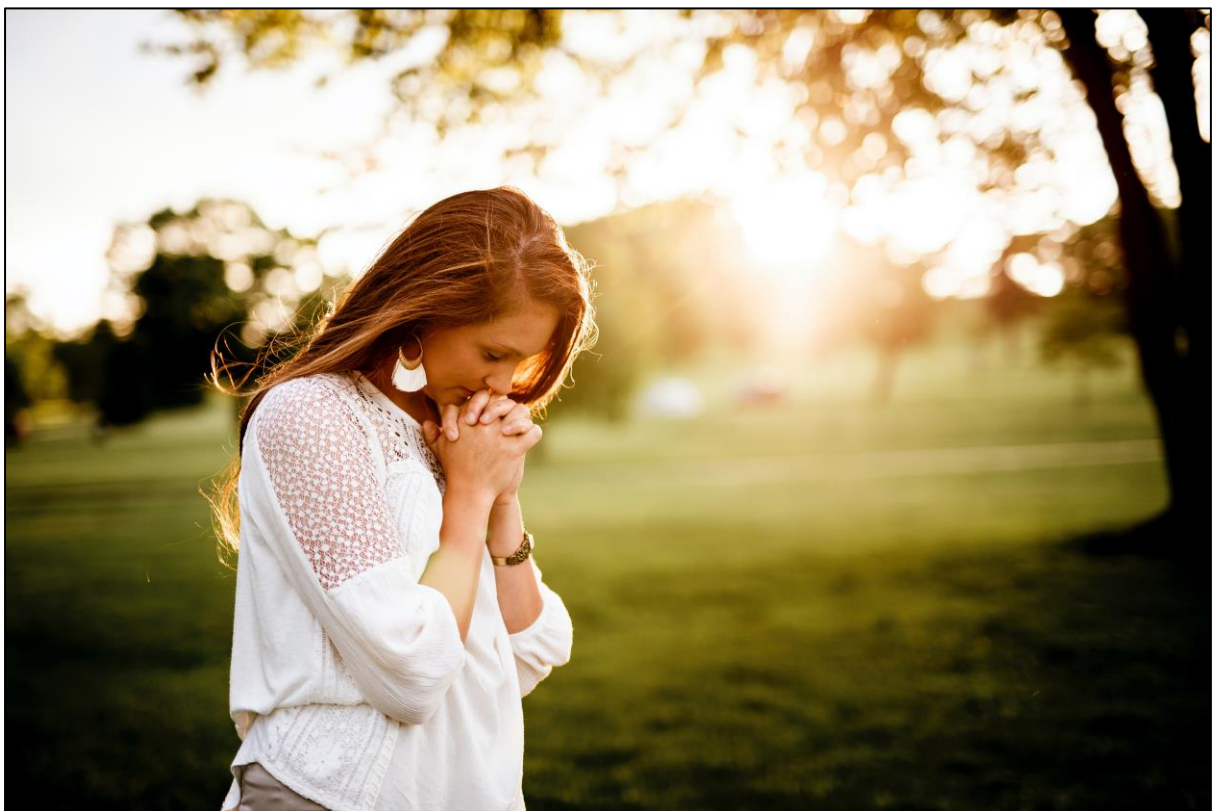
Usually you'll be able to stay with the body until you feel comfortable to call someone - for example a funeral director of your choice.

When someone dies in care

If the cause of death is not obvious, or suspected to be from unnatural causes, further investigation will be required. In this case the doctor will need to report the death to a coroner.

What happens when a death is referred to a coroner

You'll probably need to collect the person's personal belongings. If there are certain items you want to stay with your loved one, such as a wedding ring, you'll need to make sure you let the staff know.



Next Steps

Confirming and registering the death

When someone dies, the death and the cause of death have to be confirmed by a doctor or nurse, or sometimes by the coroner, before the body can be buried or cremated.

In most cases it will be confirmed by a doctor or nurse, who'll issue a "Certificate of Cause of Death". But if the death was accidental or involved violence in some way, or if the cause of death isn't known, the death has to be reported to the local coroner; they'll investigate if necessary, including by ordering a post-mortem (autopsy) if one is needed, and confirm the cause of death.

As well as this official confirmation of death, there are other documents the funeral director or relatives will need to complete or obtain from others – for example, special approval forms if the body is to be cremated.

After the deceased's body has been buried or cremated, the death must be officially registered with Births, Deaths and Marriages at the Department of Internal Affairs, who'll then issue an official "Death Certificate".

If you're using a funeral director, they'll register the death for you. You'll need to give them some personal information about the person who died.

If you're organising the funeral, then you must register the death. You'll have to fill out a Notification of Death for Registration form (BDM28) which you can get from Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Financial Assistance

When someone close to you dies there can be many costs involved. You might be able to get financial help from the Ministry of Social Development, Veterans Affairs and ACC, if you're:

- the spouse or partner
- a child
- a parent or guardian
- an other dependent
- the administrator of the estate.

In some circumstances, you might also be entitled to help with living costs or childcare.

Ministry of Social Development

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/>

ACC

<https://www.acc.co.nz/>



Grief

Understanding Grief

Grief is the natural emotional response to the loss of someone close, such as a family member or friend. Grief often involves intense sadness, and sometimes feelings of shock and numbness, or even denial and anger.

Grief responses may include:

- deep sadness and heartache
- anger
- guilt
- increased loneliness and alone-ness
- forgetfulness and confusion
- feeling overwhelmed and like it's too hard
- exhaustion

Good self-care can help reduce the negative effects of stress during this time. This can include:

- good nutrition
- getting enough sleep
- exercise
- relaxing and doing only what you have to
- planning 'nice' times, such as listening to music or meeting up with a friend

There are people who care about you and want to help you through this difficult time.

Grief Support

It's at this time, in the days and weeks that usually follow a funeral, that the shock wears off and the reality of your loss sets in.

You may be experiencing some of the most intense and powerful emotions you've had. Talking to other family members or those who understand what you're feeling can help.

There are lots of places where you can get extra support when you need it.

Our Ministry Team are always available to support you.

Seasons for Growth

All Saints Anglican partner with and support Seasons for Growth. Seasons for Growth is an 8-week programme for children, young people or adults who have experienced grief or loss. Please speak to a member of the Ministry Team or contact the coordinator if you think that you, or someone you know would benefit from attending this programme.

Candice Thum

griefandloss@allsaintshowick.org.nz

Support for adults

If you, or someone you know, needs support you can go to your family doctor or:

- Skylight offer counselling, support, resources and personalised information packs.
- Grief Centre offer counselling, support groups, brochures, books and articles.
- New Zealand Association of Counsellors can help you find a counsellor near you to help with grief and loss.
- Employee Assistance Programmes (EAP) offer free counselling in some workplaces - ask your employer about this.

You can also call:

- Skylight freephone: 0800 299 100
- Lifeline freephone: 0800 543 354
- Samaritans freephone: 0800 726 666

Support for children and teens

Children and teens also need ongoing support through this time. Teens will often seek this from peers.

Grief responses may include:

- sadness and crying
- clinginess
- irritability
- nightmares or not sleeping
- being easily distracted or forgetful
- blaming themselves for what's happened.

How to help your children:

- keep routines and usual activities going as much as possible
- reassure them that they're safe and will be looked after
- give simple explanations and encourage questions
- show them affection and kindness
- include them in family times
- encourage play and art work - that's how children process what's happened.

If your child needs extra support, you can ask your family doctor for advice or contact:

- Skylight offer counselling, support, resources and personalised information packs.
- Grief Centre offer counselling, support groups, brochures, books and articles.
- Kids Health offer knowledge and advice for parents, kids and teens.

You, or your child, can also call:

- Skylight freephone: 0800 299 100
- Youthline freephone: 0800 376 633
- Kidsline freephone: 0800 543 754
- What's Up freephone: 0800 942 8787

Working through affairs

Working through someone's affairs after they've died can be a quick process or a very long one. It depends on the preparations made by the person who died and how complex their estate is. Their estate is everything that they owned – property, money and possessions.

The usual process includes:

- checking if there's a will
- checking if you need apply to the High Court to get permission to handle the estate
- paying any debts
- distributing the estate

If you're unsure about any part of the process its important to see a lawyer for legal advice.

Family Disagreements

Family disagreements in a time of intense emotions are not uncommon. These disagreements may be about:

- the final resting place of the person's body (burial or cremation)
- who'll collect the ashes
- what'll happen to the ashes
- service preferences
- cultural preferences and traditions

If your family can't agree on something then your main options are:

- to have mediation, or
- to go to the High Court

Mediation is generally less expensive, less stressful and quicker than going to court, but other family members must be willing to take part.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.cab.org.nz>