

Front cover

## THE FUNERAL SERVICE

or

### A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of

Name of Deceased

Date of Birth – Date of Death

Christian symbol  
or  
Photograph

Date & Time of service

Names of Clergy conducting the service

Name of Organist

**GATHERING & WELCOME** – by the clergy conducting the service.

**HYMN/MUSIC** – Some important factors to keep in mind when considering music

- Organist with or without hymns to be sung. The organist will play before the service as family and friends gather and for the funeral procession from the Church. Organ music is especially dignified and the ideal accompaniment to the a funeral at St George’s.
- There are many hymns suitable for a funeral, including some beautiful contemporary words set to familiar tunes. The clergy will advise you about choosing hymns
- If you wish to use recorded music from a CD/iPod please first discuss its suitability with the clergy.
- If it is agreed to use recorded music, you will need to arrange a family member or friend to take care of the music during the service.
- A favourite piece of music may not be appropriate for the service and is perhaps better suited for the ‘wake’ following the service.

### Welcome

The clergy will welcome people and begin the service by calling to mind our purpose in gathering in God’s presence.

Sentences of scripture are read, such as:

‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord, ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet will they live.’ (John 11.25).

Let us pray, saying together  
**Loving God, you alone are the source of life.  
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,  
and fill us with compassion, one for another.  
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.  
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **TRIBUTES/EULOGIES – Some considerations to keep in mind when organizing the tributes**

- The clergy are very experienced in conducting funerals and will guide you as you decide about the number of tributes.
- One (or two) and five is a good rule of thumb. No more than one or two people speaking for no more than five minutes each.
- If more than one or two are speaking, ensure you are not all repeating the same ‘information’.
- Some families prefer to incorporate biographical information into the service booklet and leave the spoken tributes for personal reflections and anecdotes.
- It is advisable to have a written piece to refer to rather than something ‘off the cuff’ on the day. A guide to timing is that 100 words on the page is approximately one minute when speaking.
- Type the tribute in at least 14 font (or bigger) and have at least a 1.5 space between lines.
- Some people prefer to have a relative or friend stand beside them for support while they are speaking.
- In discussion with the clergy

### **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD – Some considerations when choosing passages from the bible or other readings.**

- There must be at least one reading from the Hebrew/Christian scriptures (Old and New Testaments) and the clergy are able to suggest suitable passages. The clergy will read or readings may be done by family members/friends who are accustomed to public reading..
- It is best if those who are reading become familiar with the passage if not already, so that the meaning is conveyed well as part of your love and respect for the person who has died and your care for the mourners.
- Speak slower than usual when reading, project your voice to the back of the Church and ensure that you have understood the passage.

Some suitable biblical readings from the Christian scriptures include:

The Gospel of John 6.37-40	<i>Jesus speaks of God’s promise of resurrection</i>
The Gospel of John 11.17- 27	<i>Jesus raises his friend Lazarus</i>
The Gospel of John 14.1- 4, 6, 27	<i>Jesus speaking of his Father’s house of many rooms</i>
Paul’s Letter to the Romans 8.31-39	<i>Nothing separates us from God’s love.</i>
Revelation 21.1-7	<i>John’s vision of the world restored where there is no death, no mourning or crying and pain.</i>

There are many other passages and the clergy will readily assist you to choose something suitable.

*After each reading it is customary to say:*

For the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**REFLECTION - by the clergy conducting the service.**

**THE PRAYERS - led by the clergy.**

Prayers giving thanks for the life of the person who has died and for those who are mourning conclude with the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, in heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*optional*

**HYMN/MUSIC**

**THE FAREWELL**

*Let us now entrust (N) into the care of God*

Lord Jesus Christ, in baptism you gave new birth to (N) by water and the Spirit. Grant that his/her death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your love.

We now entrust (N) to your merciful keeping: in the faith of Jesus Christ; who died and rose again to save us, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory forever. **Amen.**

**THE COMMITTAL is usually conducted in the Church for a cremation and at the graveside for a burial in which case the service in the Church finishes with the Farewell and a Blessing for the mourners.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
you have given us a sure and certain hope  
of the resurrection to eternal life.  
In your keeping are all who have departed in Christ.  
We here commit the body of our dear sister/brother in Christ,  
(N) to be cremated, earth to earth,  
ashes to ashes, dust to dust  
in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who died, and was buried, and rose again for us,  
and who shall change our mortal body that it  
many be like his glorious body. Amen.

**THE BLESSING**

## THE FUNERAL PROCESSION

*Please follow to the front of the Church building.*

***For your information:*** *The funeral procession will depart when the mourners have gathered, the church bell is tolled and the clergy lead the hearse into the road as the deceased person makes their last earthly journey from St George's Church.*

*(NAME) family thank you for your presence today and invite you to join them for refreshments (Address of Venue).*

***For your information:*** *the Parish Centre may be booked for refreshments, depending upon availability or a funeral may be arranged for a time when both the Church and the Centre are available.*

You may wish to insert biographical information here, rather than in the Tributes. Sometimes it is possible to insert an additional photo depending on the size of the booklet.

**Please note that St George's normally prints the service booklets. We ask that the service be finalised at least two days before the funeral. The clergy will guide you in planning a fitting and dignified service to enable you to give thanks to God for all the blessings of a person's life and to bring you comfort in your loss.**

Back cover:

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