

# Swindon Advertiser **COMMENT**

## An up-to-date way to say farewell

HUGH Milsom is indeed a man with a mission.

The former lay minister has set himself up as an independent funeral celebrant... and is willing to take on any form of personalised funeral families may wish for for their loved ones.

And he has found, in the 22 or so departures he has presided over, that people respond more readily to a man in a suit with a knowledge of the quirks, foibles and loves of the deceased, than they would to a cleric in robes following the more conservative route.

Hugh spends time and effort looking at family photos, listening to bereaved relatives... and generally painting a picture of the dear departed.

His ambition is to make such a name for his personalised final tributes, that families will feel able to say farewell in a way that is fitting yet singular to the loved one they have lost.

OK, it's not everybody's cup of tea, and some of us may prefer the more traditional form of paying tribute. But we have all been to funerals where the celebrant has little, if any knowledge, of the deceased and simply reads something from a piece of paper.

In these days when congregations are dropping and fewer and fewer people know their local vicar or priest, let alone attend services, Hugh is providing a breath of fresh air and comfort.

We wish him success in his venture.