

Questions ... and Answers

If I chose Hugh do I still need the services of a Funeral Director?

Yes. Hugh works closely with your Funeral Director. Your FD will take care of all the legalities and logistics whilst Hugh will put together and deliver the funeral ceremony. Your FD is responsible for the smooth running of the ceremony and ensuring that all your requests are fulfilled.

Can I get help and advice to chose the right words and music?

Hugh will liase with the family and friends to plan and conduct a funeral ceremony that faithfully reflects the beliefs and ideology of the deceased. Because of his training, his experience in the established Church and his pastoral skills he is able to offer gentle advice about suitable words and music as well as provide support for any spiritual and/or religious aspects of the funeral should they be required.

Can I still have Hymns at an Independent Funeral Service?

Yes of course. Many families chose to sing hymns that have great significance – such as those sung at the deceased's wedding. Others prefer to sing along to a favourite song – it doesn't have to be traditional at all. Yet others are content to listen to music that evokes past memories ...

What about prayers?

If the family would like prayers then yes of course! – that's perfectly OK. There is no reason why prayers from a whole variety of different faiths should not be used.

What about having no religious language at all?

Together we can craft a beautiful and meaningful ceremony that does not rely on religious (or spiritual) ideology.

Can I have a green/eco-friendly funeral?

Yes. The range of coffin materials ranges from traditional wicker through cardboard right through to wool! Burial may be in a woodland setting or ashes may be scattered in some beautiful places ...

About green fuse

green fuse aims to provide both the public and funeral professionals with the information and skills they need to help them to create funerals that reflect the life, values and beliefs of the person who has died, and to improve the relevance and standard of funerals in the UK. A funeral can and should be something moving and memorable, something to cherish.

The **green fuse** training is professional and thorough, taking place over several months, so that their Celebrants can provide the family with a safe pair of hands, listen to them carefully, treat them with warmth and kindness, and inspire them towards the best funeral they can have for their loved person – one that is moving and memorable, something to cherish always.



A member of the green fuse celebrants guild

*Hugh will be happy to answer
your questions – call 01793 721414
... to further discuss*

HUGH MILSOM
Funeral Celebrant
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Funerals for the unaffiliated

Most people now are not a member of a particular religion. They are unaffiliated, but they still have their own beliefs. The right Celebrant will respect individual views and spiritual beliefs, and compose and conduct an appropriate, well-structured and imaginative ceremony, right from the heart. The family and friends can participate in any aspect of the preparation and holding of the ceremony should they wish to. In fact participation is encouraged.



Personal Choice

Funerals provide an opportunity, if not an obligation, to express publicly held beliefs about the meaning of life and death.

Many aspects of the funeral ceremony come down to personal choice with the opportunity for families to take an active role in choosing the music and readings and eulogising the person who has died. The primary task of the funeral professional today is to assist families in creating such a funeral.



An unaffiliated service

In the unaffiliated service the main focus is usually on the life, beliefs, values and character of the person who has died. Perhaps several people will talk about them, or there may be open spontaneous sharing.

Personal objects and photographs may be present, the music and readings carefully chosen as favourites or to reflect the life and beliefs of the person who has died. The Crematorium or a special venue may be used, for example a community hall or perhaps the family home, with the room decorated in a particular, personal style.



Kingsdown Crematorium

Choosing a Celebrant

The death of a loved one is a tragic event - those left behind feel devastated and grief-stricken at their loss. There are a bewildering array of arrangements to be made and important decisions to take. This is where an empathetic, sympathetic and experienced Funeral Celebrant can help ...

"Just to thank you again for making a very difficult time much more bearable."

"... your friendly but professional approach ..."

"Thank you so much for the beautiful eulogy. You led a very moving and uplifting service. Your words will bring back many memories for (my Mother)."

"... thank you for helping us to say goodbye to Mummy. It was a lovely service made easier by your lovely words ..."

"My family all commented on the dignified manner in which you had conducted the service ... you have given us closure on his departure from this life."

"A brief note to thank you once again for all of your help, wisdom and guidance at the funeral of my Mother."

About Hugh

In recent times Hugh, a local family man, has worked as a Community Worker and, as a Lay Minister in the established Church, helped countless families get through the grief of bereavement and loss.

In his role as Celebrant he has conducted many ceremonies in Crematoria and at the Graveside. Hugh has recently completed his training with **green fuse**, the leading funeral celebrant training authority (www.greenfuse.co.uk). He started his celebrancy in December 2012 and has been in great demand since.

Hugh is eager that the people of Swindon and the surrounding area have the opportunity to provide their loved ones - whatever their ethnicity or age - with funerals to cherish, funerals that are relevant, memorable and heart-felt - and truly reflect the beliefs and wishes of the departed.



Hugh Milsom

Hugh Milsom - Funeral Celebrant

*"I am a **green fuse** trained Funeral Celebrant. I work with the family and friends to plan and conduct a funeral ceremony that faithfully reflects the beliefs and ideology of the deceased. Because of my training, my experience and my pastoral skills I am able to offer gentle advice about suitable words and music as well as provide support for any spiritual and/or religious aspects of the funeral should they be required."*

Hugh M.

