

Funerals - Questions often asked

Why should I ask the church to conduct a funeral?

The church provides much more than just a venue to hold a funeral. The Minister will be able to support you with the practical arrangements but he will also be able to provide spiritual support. He will visit you before the funeral, and will offer to pray with you and visit you after the funeral. We believe that God is a loving God who cares for us all the time and we can feel particularly close to him in times of grief. At a church funeral the congregation will pray asking God's love, compassion and care for you and your family. We will commend your loved one to God's eternal care. We will enable you, your family and friends to hear the wonderful message of hope and resurrection that we have through faith in Jesus Christ who died and rose again and live for evermore.

Who can ask for the Minister's help?

Anyone may call on the services of the Minister.

When should I call the Minister?

Whenever you feel it may help. This may be during a long illness, when life is ending, or in the immediate aftermath of death. Very often the Minister only knows a death has taken place when the funeral director calls. However, the Minister is always happy to be called to support a family during illness or sadness, and around hospital stays. The NHS does not inform the Minister if someone within the parish is ill or in need of support. So please, if it feels appropriate, don't be afraid to call.



Do I need to be a member of the church to use the church building?

No. Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch Parish Church is for anyone who lives in the parish or has a family connection to the parish, and they may use the church for a funeral service.

How do I plan the funeral?

Occasionally people make their feelings known in advance, and it may be that there is already a written plan, such as hymns already chosen. The Minister can help and advise you and will visit you to talk about what you would like and your loved ones wishes.

Often it is not until after a loved one has died that the family begin to wonder what to do. In the first instance you should get in touch with your funeral director. If you would like to use the church tell your funeral director who will liaise with the Minister regarding when they and the church (and/or crematorium) are available. The funeral director will arrange for the Minister to phone you and arrange a convenient time to come and talk with you about the service.

When you meet the Minister he will ask you about important events in the life of your loved one - such as when and where they were born, which schools they attended, first jobs, their relationships, their interests, character, and so on. It is listening to you talk about your loved one that helps the Minister to picture

them, tell their story, and help you choose appropriate music, Bible readings, poems and prayers. People often find it helpful in their grieving to be prompted to recall events in the life of their loved one.

Many people find great comfort and support from their faith in God at difficult and challenging times in their lives. We will do all we can to support, care, and carry out your wishes. A church officer will attend the funeral in order to support you and your family and the funeral director.

Will the church charge a fee?

There is no fee for the services of the Minister. There is a small fee for the use of the church, the services of the organist and the church officer. (The funeral director will look after this for you).

Can I talk to the Minister about arrangements for my own funeral?

Many people like to know that arrangements are in place for their own funeral so as well as taking out a funeral plan with a Funeral Director they like to discuss their wishes with the Minister. If you would like to do this please [contact the Minister](#).

How can I find out more?

Our Minister will be happy to talk to you. For more information please [contact us](#).