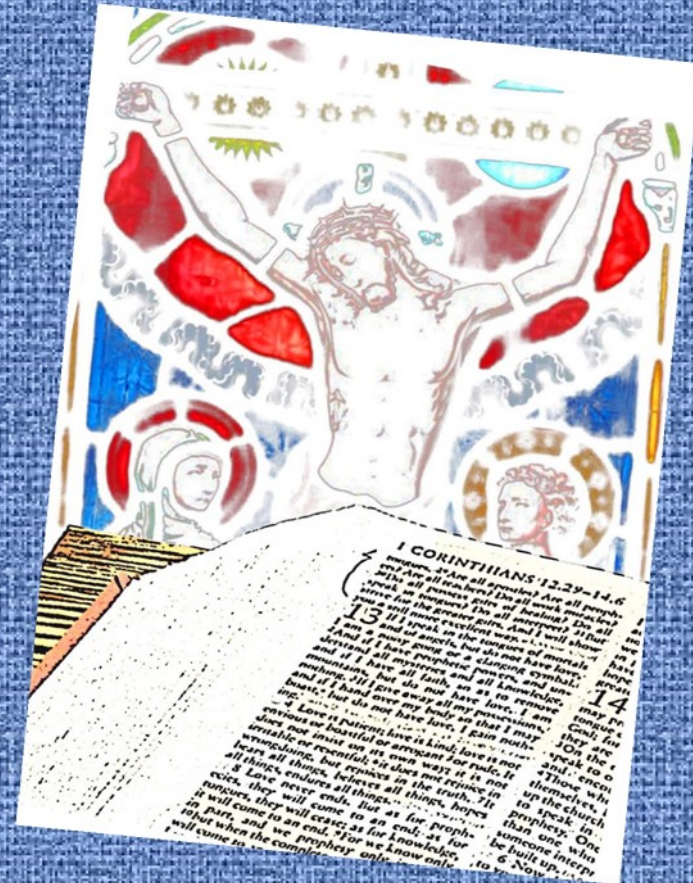


# The Funeral Guide



## St Mary the Virgin Whickham

## **Poems and Prayers continued.**

### **Remember**

Remember me when I am gone away, Gone far away into the silent land;  
When you can go no more hold me by the hand, Nor I half turn to go yet  
turning stay. Remember me when no more day by day You tell me of our  
future that you planned: Only remember me; you understand It will be late  
to counsel then or pray. Yet if you should forget me for a while And after-  
wards remember, do not grieve: For if the darkness and corruption leave A  
vestige of the thoughts that once I had, Better by far you should forget and  
smile Than that you should remember and be sad.

*Christina Rossetti*

### **Turn Again To Life**

If I should die and leave you here a while, be not like others sore undone,  
who keep long vigil by the silent dust. For my sake turn again to life and  
smile, nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do something to comfort  
other hearts than thine. Complete these dear unfinished tasks of mine and I  
perchance may therein comfort you.

*Mary Lee Hall*

### **Dorothy's Poem**

Surely not all those years have passed?  
It must be time has gone too fast.  
Only yesterday I walked ten miles  
climbed great hills and vaulted stiles.  
Last week I rode at a glorious pace  
with the wind in my hair and sun in my face  
A year ago I ran down the wing  
and heard the cheer as the ball went in.  
I'm not the crone with the faded hair  
with the limping feet and the half-blind stare.  
I'm still the girl who swung on the gate  
and said to the world 'I'm coming, just wait.'  
Dorothy Rippon

## Can you offer any words of comfort?

Below are a small selection of poems and prayers that others have found helpful.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you comforted your disciples when you  
were going to die:  
now set our troubled hearts at rest  
and banish our fears.  
You are the way to the Father:  
help us to follow you.  
You are the truth: bring us to know you.  
You are the life: give us that life,  
to live with you now and for ever.  
Amen.

Most merciful God,  
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,  
surround the family of *N* with your love,  
that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,  
but have confidence in your goodness  
and strength to meet the days to come.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

O God, who brought us to birth,  
and in whose arms we die,  
in our grief and shock contain and  
comfort us;  
embrace us with your love,  
give us hope in our confusion  
and grace to let go into new life;  
through Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## We understand and care!

If you are reading this, it may be because someone you love has died, or you may be considering developing a 'Funeral Plan' or you just need information.

A funeral is used to mark the end of a person's life here on earth. Family and friends come together to express grief, give thanks for the life lived and commend the person into God's keeping.

Funerals can be small, quiet ceremonies or large occasions; in every situation we will try to meet your expectations.

As people we live life knowing that one day we will die.

As Christians we know also that God loves us deeply. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ his son, we are given new life and a promised place with him in paradise. Love never ends. In knowing this there is much comfort and hope. However, at a life's end families and friends feel grief and sometimes deep despair. Most people die after a long fulfilled life; others sadly die prematurely or tragically. Whatever the circumstance we want to assure you of our understanding and care. The family and ministers of St Mary's have long experience in helping and supporting families through bereavement, and also in accompanying people preparing for death.

## How do I arrange a funeral?

If you are the next of kin, it will usually fall to you to arrange the funeral. Usually your chosen Funeral Director will visit and note your preference for either:

- A funeral service in St Mary's Church followed by cremation or burial; or
- A funeral service within the chapel of a crematorium; or more rarely a service in a cemetery chapel before burial.

The Funeral Director, knowing your wishes, will liaise with the church and agree the place, date and time of the service. The church wardens will then contact you, and arrange for a minister, to come and speak to you about your loved one, the service and your needs.

We always recommend a service in church, as it is a special and holy place at the heart of the community. However, we will always respect your choice and in all situations will provide the very best of care.

**Who will take the funeral?**

Ordained priests, deacons and licensed readers. A reader is someone specially selected and trained in theology; they are licensed by the Bishop of Durham and work under the supervision of the Rector.

The service can be what you want and need it to be. There are a variety of ways for you, your family and friends to become involved in the planning and leading of the funeral. From selecting music and readings to speaking on behalf of the deceased. Your bereavement minister will give you every help in planning the funeral.

**Can you help with the reception?**

Yes. We have good facilities in the nearby St Mary’s Centre and are able to put you in contact with local caterers. Please speak to the Parish Office, 0191 488 1553; and they will discuss costs with you.

**Do you offer aftercare?**

Yes. We are here to serve people in our community and will help wherever possible. One of the ways we offer care is through prayer. The name of the deceased is added to our prayer list and is prayed for over a three week period. We also have a ‘prayer chain’ if greater support is needed; and remember you can always contact the parish office. In addition to this:

- there is a special service in November in which we remember all who have died in the year, you and your family will be invited to join us; and
- you can have the name of the deceased entered into our memorial book, free of charge. (see page 7 or visit the church website on [www.stmaryswhickham.com/weddings-baptisms-and-funerals/](http://www.stmaryswhickham.com/weddings-baptisms-and-funerals/))

**Can I leave a legacy to St Mary’s Church?**

Yes. We would encourage all members of the congregation, and others having goodwill for the parish to leave legacies for the church of St Mary’s. Legacies should be made in a way which balances the interests and aspirations of donors on the one hand with the ever changing needs of the parish on the other. If you’re considering making a bequest please have a word with the churchwardens or contact the parish office.

**I’m finding it hard to cope. Who can help me?**

Grieving is a natural process and is different for each person. Sometimes people feel they need extra support in addition to that given by family, church and doctors. The following organisations may be able to help.

**Cruse Bereavement Care** is committed to breaking the stigma around grief and ensuring that everyone, no matter how old or young, can access the highest quality support following a bereavement. Not only does Cruse provide a day time telephone helpline, their trained volunteers provide support and practical advice through branches across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**0808 808 1677**

**[www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)**

**YoungMinds.** Are you worried about how bereavement is affecting your child? YoungMinds offers help and support. They've put together information about bereavement, especially for parents and carers, with lots of links to organisations who can help. They're also there to listen. If you want to talk to someone in confidence about your worries, you can contact the YoungMinds parent’s helpline for free.

**0808 802 5544;**

**[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)**

**Samaritans:** You can contact the Samaritans any time for confidential support for a wide range of reasons, including loss and bereavement.

**116 123**

**[www.samritans.org/](http://www.samritans.org/)**

**What are Churchyard Rules?**

Churchyards are different to cemeteries in both ownership and in ‘terms of conditions’ of use. Many people are not aware of this distinction. We are happy to receive applications for burial/interments where the applicants agree to abide by the ‘churchyard rules’ of the Diocese of Durham.

The rules concern the size, shape and type of stone, along with the inscription and lettering to be used. They specifically prohibit the use of kerbs, railings, chippings or chains, pictures, portraits, photographs and bird baths. We believe it is important that you are aware of these conditions from the outset so you are not disappointed later. Ministers of the church will discuss things in more detail during the bereavement visit. Should you require further clarification or information please ring the parish office.

**Who owns the grave?**

The fee for burial/interment in the churchyard does not constitute the purchasing of land. The land is owned by the Church. Similarly any memorial stone erected by the family remains their property and responsibility.

**Can other be buried in an existing grave?**

Yes, as long as there is family agreement, sufficient space and it is safe to do so. The same fees will apply.

**Can the collection to be given to a charity?**

We recognise the need to care and support families through bereavement. Often requests are received for collections in church to be made to appropriate charities. We are therefore happy to halve the offerings received on our collection plate at a funeral, and send 50% to a nominated charity on behalf of the family, in memory of the deceased. This represents the giving of family, friends and the church.

Ministers, when visiting bereaved family members, will ask them if they intend to nominate a charity. Our policy will be explained and a form left, requesting details of any charity they wish to support. This form must be sent to our Parish Office with-in 28 days of the date of the funeral. The Parish Office will arrange for the money to be sent on. A letter will be sent to the next of kin confirming the transaction. We will ask the charity concerned to write and thank the family. *(Please note should no request be made within 28 days of the funeral, all donations will remain in the ownership of St Mary’s church.)*

**What are your Fees?**

Please see enclosed leaflet or contact the parish office for our current fees.



## Can you help me choose the readings, hymns and music?

The following represents a selection of appropriate readings:

**Mark 10.13-16:** Let the little children come to me

**Mark 15.33-39; 16.1-6:** He has risen, he is not here

**John 14.1-6:** In my Father's house are many rooms

**1 Corinthians 13.1-end :** The great Love of God

**1 John 3.1-3:** We shall be like him

**Revelation 21.22-end; 22.3b-5:** The Lord God will be their light

Hymns are personal, the following are the most popular ones:

Abide with me	Be thou my vision
Amazing Grace	Be still for the presence of the Lord
Before the ending of the day	Christ the Lord is risen today
Dear Lord and Father of mankind	Great is thy faithfulness
Guide me O thou great Redeemer	How great thou art
How sweet the name of Jesus	In heavenly love abiding
Jerusalem	Love Divine, all Love excelling
Make me a channel of your peace	Morning has broken
Praise my soul the king of heaven	O God our help in ages past
O Jesus I have promised	The day thou gavest Lord
The Lord's my shepherd	The old rugged cross
Thine be the glory	When I survey the wondrous cross

In church, music before and after the service is played by the organist. Specific music can be requested; similarly if you wish, recorded music may be played if you provide the tracks.

## How do we enter a name in the Memorial Book?

Simply complete the below form, detach it and send it to:

**The Parish Manager**

**St Mary's Centre**

**Church Chare, Whickham**

**Newcastle upon Tyne**

**NE16 4SH**

The name of your loved one will be entered in the Memorial Book of the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. The book is kept in a glass display case situated in the memorial chapel of the church. It is available for viewing before or after services, or at other times by arrangement with the Parish Manager.

Name of Deceased:	
Date of Death:	
Address of Applicant:	
Post Code:	
Telephone No.	
Relationship to Deceased:	

**We would like to know more. Who can we contact?**

**Parish Office:** 0191 488 1553, [stmaryswhickham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmaryswhickham@hotmail.co.uk)

**St Mary's website:** [www.stmaryswhickham.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswhickham.org.uk)

**Church of England website:** [www.churchofengland.org.uk](http://www.churchofengland.org.uk)