

## **Questions People Ask about Cremation:**

### **What circumstances would prevent a cremation taking place?**

The exception would be if it was the expressed wish of the deceased not to be cremated or the next of kin objecting to the cremation. The only other problem could be with the medical certificates and if the Coroner intervened.

### **Is cremation more expensive than burial?**

No. The funeral director's charges are much the same for both services, but remember with a burial there are additional costs for headstones and grave care. The only additional charge for cremation is when the death has not been referred to the Coroner, when fees to two doctors have to be paid for the necessary certificates.

### **How do I arrange a cremation?**

The responsibility for arranging a cremation usually rests with the nearest surviving relative or the Executor. As soon as possible after the death has occurred, a funeral director should be contacted and asked to arrange the cremation at a mutually agreeable date and time. From that point, the funeral director will do all that is necessary to satisfy the needs of the family and the legal regulations that govern cremations. The funeral director can also provide advice on how and where to register the death.

### **Do I have to use a funeral director?**

No. You may choose to organise and conduct a cremation without the assistance of a funeral director. We can advise and assist you through the whole proceedings including purchasing a coffin, paperwork and advice on conveying the coffin to the crematorium on the day of the service etc.

### **What religious ceremonies are available?**

If you are using a funeral director they will contact the parish priest or minister, unless an alternative is required, and the minister normally then contacts the family to discuss and agree the 'Order of Service'. The service is normally held in the crematorium's Chapel, however, the service may take place in your own church or chapel followed by a short committal service at the crematorium with family.

### **Can I choose my own organist or musician?**

Yes. The service can be made as personal as you wish. However, we include an organist at each service (except the 8am Reception time).

### **Must there be a religious service with a cremation?**

No. A civil ceremony can be conducted, or there can be no ceremony at all. A memorial service may be conducted separately from the cremation service.

### **What if I want a non-religious ceremony?**

The staff at the crematorium or funeral director can provide advice and contact details of alternative Officiators.

### **How can I make my contribution to the environment?**

Coffins and their fittings and furnishings tend to be made from materials suitable for the cremation process. However, there are alternative coffins available which create

even less impact on the environment. Please discuss your requirements with your funeral director, or the staff at the crematorium, particularly if you are not using a funeral director. Crematoria can use a lot of fossil fuel and electricity, and if all cremations are completed on the same day as the funeral service excessive energy is used. The crematorium abides by the 'Guiding Principles for Cremation' issued by The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. This means all cremations will be carried out within 48 hours of the funeral service. A copy of the guiding principles for Cremation is available on request. This results in a contribution to reducing the impact to our environment by better use of energy, which in turn minimises the emission of greenhouse gases. All metals remaining following cremation will be disposed of in the most suitable manner to reduce the impact on the environment. This will include the sensitive recycling of metals to avoid the use of non-renewable resources and comply with existing legislation.

Please note that soft metals, such as gold and silver, will melt into tiny globules and combine with the cremated remains. They cannot be returned separately. We recommend that precious metals in the form of jewellery are **not** cremated with the deceased but maybe added to the Cremation Ashes prior to interment.

### **Is there a choice of music at the service?**

Yes. If a particular piece of music is required, arrangements should be made with your funeral director or the crematorium. The crematorium is pleased to offer a service which does not require the need for tapes or CDs to be provided. We operate a digital music system which has a very comprehensive library. The library may be viewed online at: [www.wesleymusic.co.uk](http://www.wesleymusic.co.uk) . Simply click on 'music library lists', then 'Salisbury Crematorium' and finally 'General library'.

Should you not see your requests in our library, we will try to obtain them directly from Wesley Music. We must receive your requests no later than 48 hours in advance of the funeral service. Providing your requests are 'commercially' available, we should be able to obtain them for you. A resident Musical Co-ordinator operates the music system, as well as play the organ for any popular / classical music together with hymns. Please note that only two hymns may be sung in the allocated single service time unless an additional time has been pre-booked.

### **What happens at the crematorium on the day of the funeral?**

The mourners will normally gather close to the Chapel entrance a few minutes before the appointed time of the funeral service and greeted by a Crematorium Officer who also carefully checks the coffin nameplate before it enters into our care. The service normally lasts up to 25 minutes, unless extra time has been booked in advance. When the principal mourners are ready to proceed, the coffin is usually brought into the Chapel by bearers from the funeral director or the family. While the coffin is being placed on the catafalque, the mourners take their seats and the service proceeds. The Chapel has 125 seats with extra areas for standing along with screens which can be turned on in the foyer/waiting room. At the moment when the committal of the body takes place, the coffin will be slowly lowered from sight unless the family wish the coffin to remain in position until everyone has left the Chapel. Please indicate your requests with your funeral arranger. The mourners then proceed to the Colonnade to view the floral tributes before leaving the crematorium.

### **What happens to the coffin after the committal?**

A crematorium officer again carefully checks the name plate on the coffin before the cremation takes place. The coffin is usually placed into the cremator shortly after the service but on some occasions may be securely retained for a period no longer than 72 hours, in accordance with the Principle Guidelines issued to us by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management [www.iccm-uk.com](http://www.iccm-uk.com) It is then placed into the cremator in exactly the same condition as it was received. The body and the coffin are then cremated.

Any metals used in the construction of the coffin or medical implants are extracted from the cremated remains and sensitively recycled to reduce the impact on the environment. A copy of the crematorium's 'Recycling of Metals Policy' may be obtained on request.

### **Can relatives witness the committal of the coffin to the cremator?**

Yes, by arrangement with the Crematorium Manager. It is preferable to advise the funeral director of this requirement as early as possible when making the funeral arrangements.

### **How do I know I will get the right Cremation Ashes?**

Our crematorium officers/technicians identify each coffin with a card when it arrives into the receiving room. This card is then placed on the outside of the cremator as soon as the coffin is placed into it. The card stays there until the Cremation Ashes are removed and transferred to a cooling tray. The remains and the card are then moved to a preparation area where the remains are reduced to a fine consistency suitable for storage and eventual disposal. The card is then placed in the container containing the prepared Cremation Ashes.

Also, as each cremator only holds one coffin and the Cremation Ashes must be withdrawn before the cremator is used again, all Cremation Ashes are kept separate throughout the process. The only exceptions permitted to this rule are in the case of a mother and baby or twin children, when the next of kin requests that the two be cremated together.

### **When do I have to decide what to do with the Cremation Ashes?**

We will ask you to confirm what is to be done with the Cremation Ashes usually via the funeral director. This responsibility lies with the person who signs for the cremation to take place. To give families some time, we will hold the remains for up to one month at no charge if requested. If no instructions are received within this time, we will contact the funeral director requesting instructions by a given date. Should we not hear from you within a specified date the Cremation Ashes will then be scattered within the grounds of the crematorium. However, please do not feel you have to rush into a decision. We understand that families and friends need time to consider and, if you require longer, we can look after the remains for a further period of three months for a nominal fee or the funeral director can remove them for you and look after them until you come to a decision.

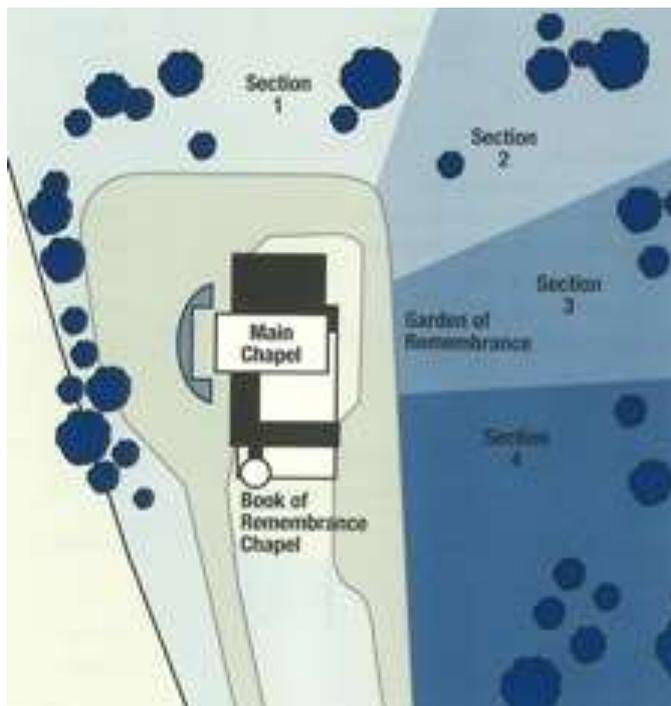
### **What other choices do I have?**

You may wish to take the remains from the crematorium for disposal elsewhere. If

so, the crematorium will prepare and transfer the cremated remains into a suitable container for transportation purposes. This may be by burial in a family grave, burial in a purchased cremated remains grave at a cemetery or churchyard, or by strewing the Cremation Ashes at another crematorium. Please note that any respective authorities must be informed of your wishes as a record must be kept regarding the final resting place of the deceased and a fee may be incurred. Cremation Ashes may also be strewn in some favourite spot subject to any local rules or regulations being observed.

*Cremation Ashes are very precious and Photo ID will be required when collecting them from the Crematorium Reception.*

Should you decide to leave them at rest at the crematorium, they may be strewn early in the morning exactly two weeks after the funeral service has taken place within the Gardens of Remembrance. The Gardens have designated areas set aside for strewing, these are Sections: 1, 2, 3 & 4 (please see the below map showing the Sections).



You may also instruct us, in writing, to strew the Cremation Ashes on your behalf or you may wish to be present at the strewing by contacting us to make an appointment. Please note that we are unable to inter Cremation Ashes within the Gardens of Remembrance here at Salisbury and commemorative plaques are **not** sited at specific strewing locations. Any of the above decisions may be complemented by an inscription in the Book of Remembrance or a dedicated leased memorial which we offer.

**What happens to Cremation Ashes that are strewn on the ground?**

They are normally distributed over a wide area of ground. The weather and biochemical reaction quickly break down the Cremation Ashes to form part of the earth.

**What are the Gardens of Remembrance at the Salisbury Crematorium?**

The Gardens of Remembrance contain areas within our grounds set aside for the disposal of Cremation Ashes. These areas have been dedicated for this purpose and individual memorials **cannot** be placed at the site of the strewing.

**If I want to find out more, and perhaps view the crematorium, what should I do?**

You can arrange to see the Manager at the crematorium office by appointment, and staff are available during office hours (8:30am – 4:30pm Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays) to assist you with any advice or information on any matter relating to cremation. It is also possible to arrange a conducted tour of the chapel and grounds.