

"I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- from St Paul's letter to the Romans 8.38 - 9

Coping with loss

St Peter's clergy, lay ministers and pastoral assistants are always available to speak to in the event of the loss of a friend or loved one. If you are reading this and are recently bereaved, please know that St Peter's is here for you, even if just for a chat in church or over a cup of tea. If a friend or loved one has recently died and you would like to talk things through please do get in touch via frsimon@stpeterdebeauvoir.org.uk.

Planning a funeral at St Peter's

Anybody who has lived in the parish of De Beauvoir Town is entitled to a funeral at St Peter's regardless of faith or belief. A funeral at St Peter's takes place according to the funeral liturgy of the Church of England. Funerals are an important part of the process of grieving the loss of a loved one and commanding the soul of the person who has died into the arms of our loving Saviour.

Funerals in church ordinarily take place in the context of Holy Communion or the Mass, as we celebrate our unity even now with the living and departed in the gift of the heavenly banquet we share when we receive the bread and wine of the Eucharist. They include music, readings, and tributes to the person who has died. It's also possible to have a shorter funeral service without Communion that also includes music, readings, and tributes.

Funerals can also take place at the crematorium or graveside itself. Funerals at the crematorium are shorter services but also include music, readings, and tributes based around the life of the person who has died.

Getting in touch

If you would like to arrange or plan a funeral at St Peter's please get in touch via frsimon@stpeterdebeauvoir.org.uk. A member of the clergy or a lay minister will be able to help plan and shape the service so that it best serves to honour the life of the person who has died, enable friends and loved ones to share memories and console one another, and to commend the person on the next stage of their journey towards the God who loves and created them.

Overleaf, two examples order of service, which include those elements which are necessary elements of the funeral liturgy alongside other optional elements are provided to help you as you to begin to plan the funeral service.

Table of Fees for Adult Funerals and Memorial Services (2026)

- Funeral Service at St Peter's followed by burial or cremation £733
- Funeral Service at St Peter's without burial or cremation £696
- Funeral Service at a crematorium £244
- Memorial Service at St Peter's £781

These fees include the provision of a pianist and/or organist. If the service is to be livestreamed or audio-video recorded an additional fee of £120 to enable the provision of music applies. Funerals for those aged under 18 are provided at no cost.

Optional help with service booklets for services at St Peter's:

Typesetting £62 per hour,

Printing A5 booklet (£0.05 per side / £0.10 per side for black & white / colour),

Printing A4 booklet (£0.10 per side / £0.20 per side for black & white / colour).

Optional additional music rehearsals at St Peter's: between £25 and £75.

Example One: Funeral Service in Church

The following example is an outline of a funeral in Church in the context of Holy Communion or the Mass and last around an hour. The text in bold indicate parts of the service which must be included. The remainder of the text indicates where there are different options or what may or may not be included.

Entrance Music	Nimrod by Edward Elgar
Greeting	
Prayer	
Hymn	Amazing Grace
Tribute	read by a family member
Poem	read by a friend
Bible Reading	from the book of Wisdom 3.1-9
Gospel Reading	from the Gospel of St John 6.37-40
Reflection	by the Vicar
Peace	
Hymn	Thine be the Glory
Prayer of the Eucharist	
Lord's Prayer	
Holy Communion	
Commendation	
Dismissal	
Hymn or piece of music	It's Time to Say Goodbye - Andrew Bocelli and Sarah Brightman

Example Two: Funeral Service at the Crematorium

The following example is an outline of a funeral in a crematorium, lasting around 25 minutes. The text in bold indicate parts of the service which must be included. The remainder of the text indicates where there are different options or what may or may not be included.

Entrance Music	Love is all Around - Wet Wet Wet
Greeting	
Prayer	
Hymn	Abide With Me
Tribute	read by a family member
Poem	read by a friend
Bible Reading	from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8.31 - 39
Gospel Reading	from the Gospel of St John 11.17-27
Reflection	by the minister leading the service
Commendation	
Hymn or piece of music	Pie Jesu - Katherine Jenkins
Committal	
Prayers	
Dismissal	
Hymn or piece of music	Farewell to Stromness - Peter Maxwell Davies

Examples of Hymns

The following is a list of popular hymns at funerals. You might like to find the lyrics via a Google search or listen to different recordings on YouTube.

- Abide with Me
- Amazing Grace
- Blessed Assurance
- How Great Thou Art
- Jerusalem
- Love Divine All Loves Excelling
- Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace
- Morning Has Broken
- The Day Thou Gavest Lord has Ended
- The Lord's my Shepherd
- Thine Be The Glory

Examples of Bible Readings

Wisdom 3.1 - 9

The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them. In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die, their going looked like a disaster, their leaving us, like annihilation; but they are in peace. If they experienced punishment as we see it, their hope was rich with immortality; slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be. God has put them to the test and proved them worthy to be with him; he has tested them like gold in a furnace, and accepted them as a holocaust. When the time comes for his visitation they will shine out; as sparks run through the stubble, so will they. They shall judge nations, rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their king for ever. They who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy await those he has chosen.

Romans 8.31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Revelation 21.1-7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

Examples of Gospel Readings

Matthew 11.25 - 30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Every- thing has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

John 6.37 - 40

Jesus said to the crowd: 'All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I shall not turn him away; because I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of the one who sent me. Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day. Yes, it is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day.'

John 11.17-27

On arriving at Bethany, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother,' said Jesus to her, 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'