

Albany Funerals

TRADITIONAL, MODERN, AND SIMPLE FUNERALS



INDEPENDENT

FORWARD THINKING - AFFORDABLE

AWARD WINNING



ABOUT US

Over the last decade we have created a place to come that feels like home, where you can take all the time you need and where you won't be forced into making choices that are not your own. It is our privilege to help people celebrate the life of family and friends in a way which honours them and helps those attending who are grieving.

We will take care of every aspect of the funeral in a personal and ethical way, helping you to arrange an occasion that you and your loved one would want.

Our support doesn't end then; we host friendly meet-ups throughout the year and charity fundraising events which many people attend.

Albany Funerals is an independent funeral business committed to caring for and supporting families when they need it the most. We are passionate that families and individuals going through the hardest of times have a funeral that is personal and affordable.

Please don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions or need our support, on 01622 746688 or 01233 650746.

WHY CHOOSE ALBANY?

We have grown significantly in the last few years as more and more families across Kent recommend how we work to others. Our recommendation in the Good Funeral Guide and recent national awards are testament to the quality, integrity and compassion we bring to every family, demonstrated in the kind recommendations and 'thank you's' which we receive.

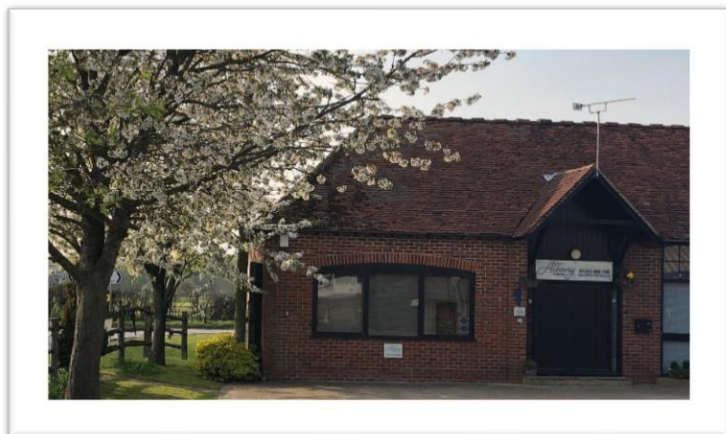
There is such a thing as a 'good' funeral and celebration of someone's life, but sadly too few people experience it. Thankfully today we aren't limited in our choices by having to use our nearest Funeral Director. At a time when it's extremely hard to think clearly, our expertise is in helping you to understand all the options available to you, so that the funeral is the very best it can be.

ALBANY MAIDSTONE



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ALBANY ASHFORD



1, New Street Farm, Chilmington Green Road, Great Chart,
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REGISTERING THE DEATH

All deaths should be registered within 5 working days if possible. Since the Coronavirus Act of 2020, the process has changed and the GP surgery or Bereavement team of the hospital will forward the certificate of cause of death to the Registrar with contact details for the next of kin. The next of kin will then be contacted by the Registrar who will carry out the registration over the phone. The requested death certificates will then be sent by post and the 'Green form' necessary for the funeral to take place will be emailed to us directly.

If the death has been referred to the coroner and the funeral is a cremation, the equivalent form will be sent by the coroner to your funeral director.

If you have any issues, you can contact the Registrar by phone on 03000 41 51 51, or we can help you.

The people who can register a death are:

- a relative of the deceased
- a person who was present at the death
- an administrator from the hospital where the person died
- a person arranging the funeral with the funeral director.

Is there a fee?

The registration service is free of charge. However, death certificates cost £11 each and will be issued on the day of registration, so it is worth deciding how many you will need in advance.

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT WHEN ARRANGING A FUNERAL

Most families that come to us have never arranged a funeral before and it can seem an overwhelming task at the worst time. We have compiled a few things to think about to help you start deciding what kind of service would suit you best. This can be done in advance - providing a starting point for family conversations, or of course at the time you are affected by a death.

Service details

What type of funeral would you prefer? Burial, natural burial, cremation, direct cremation? (see page on types of funerals for more details)

Would you prefer something traditional or a less formal service?

Would you prefer a religious or non-religious service? Or perhaps a mixture of the two? We can arrange for a minister or a celebrant (someone who can create a person-centred ceremony) for you, or of course you could use your own

Do you have a venue in mind? Church, crematorium or would you prefer another venue? We can help to find a suitable venue or you can hold small ceremonies at our own premises.

Do you know how many people are likely to attend the service?

When would you like the funeral to take place? Sometimes there are dates in the family to avoid. The usual required time for arranging a funeral is around 10 days to 2 weeks.

Would you like to publish the funeral details in an obituary notice in a newspaper?

Do any close relatives or friends want to be involved in the funeral arrangements? Would any of them like to participate in the service in any way? eulogy, readings, poems, music...

Are there any pieces of music that are meaningful to you? Most services have a piece of music to enter to, perhaps a hymn or two, or a piece for reflection in the middle and a last piece to exit, but there is no set

rule. We are here to guide you through all of this so don't worry if you don't know.

If you are singing hymns - would you like to have an organist to play the music? At the crematorium you could also have recorded organ music (with or without singing) at no extra cost.

Would you like any photos displayed at the funeral? Some crematoria also now provide facilities for visual tribute slides.

Would you like a condolence book? We can organise personalised ones.

Would you like printed order of service booklets for the funeral? We can get them printed for you with photos of your choice. The booklets make good keepsakes and can also be sent to those who can't attend.

Would you like help organising flowers for the funeral? We work closely with local florists who we trust.

Would you like friends and family to send flowers or would you prefer them to donate to a charity of your choice?

Would you prefer us to come to your home to make arrangements? We can do this.

Care of the person who has died

Do you want to choose some clothes to dress the person who has died? We can provide a cotton gown or shroud if you would prefer.

Do any family members want to help with washing and dressing the person who has died?

Do you want to come and see the person who has died in our chapel of rest? We can arrange this with you by appointment.

Do you want to have the person who has died brought home or into church before the funeral?

TYPES OF FUNERALS

CREMATIONS

Traditional service

We can help you choose a suitable Crematorium and advise you on ways to personalise the ceremony there. For example, you can opt for an extended service which gives you a bit more time

You can also opt to display visual tribute slides, play recorded or live music, and hold dove or balloon releases after the service etc.

You can choose whether you would prefer to meet the funeral cortege at the crematorium, follow the cortege in your own cars, or be part of the funeral cortege in a limousine.

We can put you in contact with a local minister if you would like religious content, or with a celebrant should you prefer the service to be non-religious. Most celebrants will agree to include hymns and prayers in the service too.

Some families opt for the main funeral service to take place in a Church, making their way to the crematorium for the committal part only. The committal can take place before or after the Church and can be adapted together with the Minister to suit your needs.

This can allow a bit more time for a lengthier service, although the cost will be slightly higher than a service held solely at the crematorium.

Direct cremation

In recent years people's attitudes towards funerals have begun to change. Although most of us opt for a cremation when the time comes, not everybody feels comfortable at the crematorium; this is why we offer the option of a non-attended cremation, followed by a ceremony which can be held afterwards, with or without the ashes present. This not only reduces the cost, but also opens up more choice of venues, giving families more freedom and time to plan something truly personal. Moreover, people often find it much easier to hold a celebration without the presence of a coffin. If you would like to know more, we would be very happy to explore choices with you to help you plan a meaningful ceremony.

Simple ceremony at our premises

We can also offer ceremonies for a smaller group of people (20 or under). This is perfect for families wanting a more intimate ceremony. The cremation then takes place the next day unattended. The chapel or room can be set up formally or informally and the coffin can be present or not. The price includes all our fees, cremation fees, a simple veneer coffin, and celebrant fees. This is also much more affordable than a simple service at the crematorium.

Bespoke venues

A funeral service doesn't have to be held in a church or crematorium. If you would like something a little different –we can assist you in planning a totally bespoke ceremony, liaising with all types of local venues. If this is followed by an unattended cremation the next day, we can usually manage to keep the costs very similar to those for a service at the crematorium.

BURIALS

We can organise a burial in a churchyard, cemetery or natural burial ground on request. The service can take place in a church or other venue before or after the burial. This usually costs a little more than a traditional cremation.

FUNERAL MYTHS

Myth – I really should buy a funeral plan

We are bombarded with adverts urging us to buy funeral plans and they can make us feel we are not doing the right thing for our family if we don't have one. The truth is that the most important thing is to discuss with each other what kind of funeral we would prefer, not pay large sums of money up front into a scheme which exists to benefit the plan providers. If you want to make provision for a funeral, choose a secure way of saving or investing your money which will give your family more freedom and much better value for than a funeral plan.

Myth – you have to use your nearest funeral director

Thankfully today we aren't limited in our choices by simply having to go to the nearest Funeral Director. The most important thing is to find someone who has values and a way of working that will help you to arrange the funeral that is right for your situation. As with anything you require, make sure you go somewhere recommended and trustworthy.

Myth – a funeral is just a necessary step – not a helpful one

There is such a thing as a 'good funeral' and celebration of someone's life. Sadly, too few people experience it. When a funeral is personal and authentic and specific needs or requests are included, it can be a very helpful step in the difficult grieving process.

Myth – a funeral has to be in a church or crematorium

It can be if you want it to, but more and more we are helping families to choose a location that is right for them. We have held funerals outdoors, in hotels and pubs and in village halls. These can be a great choice if you want more space and time for the event, or to have something specific aimed towards celebrating their life.

For those who do not want a religious service, you can find many alternative venues. One funeral we provided last year was held on an outside decking area of a beautiful country pub that was special for the lady who had died, a location that made a big difference for those who attended.

Myth – there has to be a funeral

These days more and more people are taking complete control of their funerals - and some, like David Bowie, decide that they do not want a funeral at all! One of the services that we offer is a 'Direct Cremation' - which means that there is no funeral at the crematorium, but the ashes are returned to the family in an urn or casket.

This then enables families to have their own get together in a way that suits them and costs much less too. A more structured event could also be held anywhere, as there is no coffin. Often people find it easier to remember someone's life without the presence of the coffin.

Myth – funeral directors are all strange

We've heard this many times! Yes, there are some funeral directors that look like the Addams Family, but most of us are normal people who are following their desire to help those who are grieving.

Many of us here have experienced our own loss which inspires us to serve others who are grieving because we know how important it is. We have built a great team of compassionate and dedicated individuals who simply care about helping those who have lost someone.

PARTNERSHIP WITH



What is MuchLoved?

The MuchLoved Charitable Trust is the pioneering bereavement charity founded by Jonathan Davies in 1998 following the death of his brother and shortly afterwards his mother. Finding very limited online resources to help with his own grief, Jonathan was inspired to design a web-based tribute service for others.

The charity was then established to transform online memorialisation for bereaved people. It is now the leading Tribute website service, hosting sites for over 300,000 users which have raised over £35 million for good causes.

On-line tribute page



This is your own special memorial website in tribute to your loved one, where you can share memories, thoughts and stories with family and friends as well as light candles, add music, photos and videos.

You can collect fundraising donations for a special charity or project in their name, organise events, celebrate anniversaries – and much more.

It is a completely free service, however please note that there is a small fee on any donations to cover the processing and card costs (as a charity service this is much lower than on other sites). We can set the page up for you and send you login details – it's quick and easy and free to use.

Add a funeral notice

It's easy to add a funeral notice to your Tribute and provide guests with everything they need.

✓ *LOCATION, DATE AND TIME*

Let your guests know the important details of the service and the wake or gathering after the funeral.

✓ *A GOOGLE MAP*

An optional, printable, map feature for guests, as well as travel directions to the funeral.

✓ *SPECIFIC REQUESTS*

Let your guests know about any particular wishes for the day, such as what to wear or gifts of flowers.

✓ *FUNERAL DONATIONS*

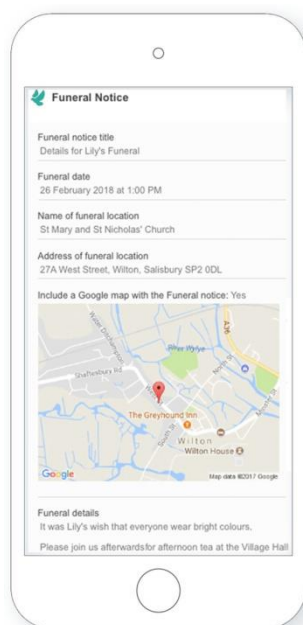
Collect donations for your chosen charity or charities and specify any requests, such as in lieu of flowers.

✓ *SOCIAL NETWORKS*

Optional social network links to help you share arrangements and special wishes with everyone.

✓ *ABSENT FRIENDS*

As an online facility, those not attending the service can still leave messages of condolence, share memories and donate.



GOOD FUNERAL GUIDE RECOMMENDATION



“Jo and her team will arrange exactly the funeral you want. Albany are unique in the area in being perfectly able to provide either a completely traditional funeral, or a totally bespoke one. If it’s a traditional funeral that you want, you can be reassured that the turnout is as smart as it gets. And if you want a very personal, individual event then Jo will be able to offer you as many suggestions as you feel comfortable with. You’ll never be overwhelmed though, she’s exceptionally good at listening to people and understanding what they need from her.

Whatever type of funeral you want, it will probably be conducted by Matthew, or possibly Tim Holloway. Jo herself tends only to conduct the more modern funerals. Angela also conducts funerals. You’ll get to know whoever is conducting your funeral well before the day. If you want their bearers to carry the coffin, they only choose ones who look nice (you can choose your own, of course).

If you want a less formal funeral, Jo will talk you through the options and, of course, everyone will dress accordingly.”

What’s important?

“Jo is very much aware that people’s expectations of a funeral are changing. She recognises that there is a growing demand for funerals which reflect the personality and values of the person who died. She recognises that no two funerals are the same, so she is aware of the vital importance of listening very carefully to you and making sure the funeral you arrange is exactly as you want it. What makes her especially well qualified to do this is her intelligence and her humanity.”



Did we do a good job?

If so... please leave us a review - wherever
it's easier for you

On Google - Google **Albany Funerals**
(either **Maidstone** or **Ashford**)
- click on the name and type review

On Yell.com - Type in Albany Funerals and chose
either the **Maidstone** or **Ashford** branch - then 'write
review'

On Facebook - go to Albany Funerals and then into
Reviews - choose to recommend and type review

Good Funeral Guide - Search **Albany Funerals** in the
Recommended Funeral Directors and click on **review**
tab (www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk)

Thank you!

This really helps us stand out.

Albany

Funerals



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