

Independent Family Funeral Directors

M. Sillifant & Sons

Martin Sillifant

Successor of the late H. Bidgood & Bernard Sillifant

Established 1906



Complete Funeral Service

Day and Night Services - Chapel of Rest - Last Offices - Embalming
Cremation and Burial - Funerals locally, nationally and overseas

Telephone 01392 – 272688

24 Hour Service

19-20 Holloway Street, St Leonard's, Exeter. EX2 4JD

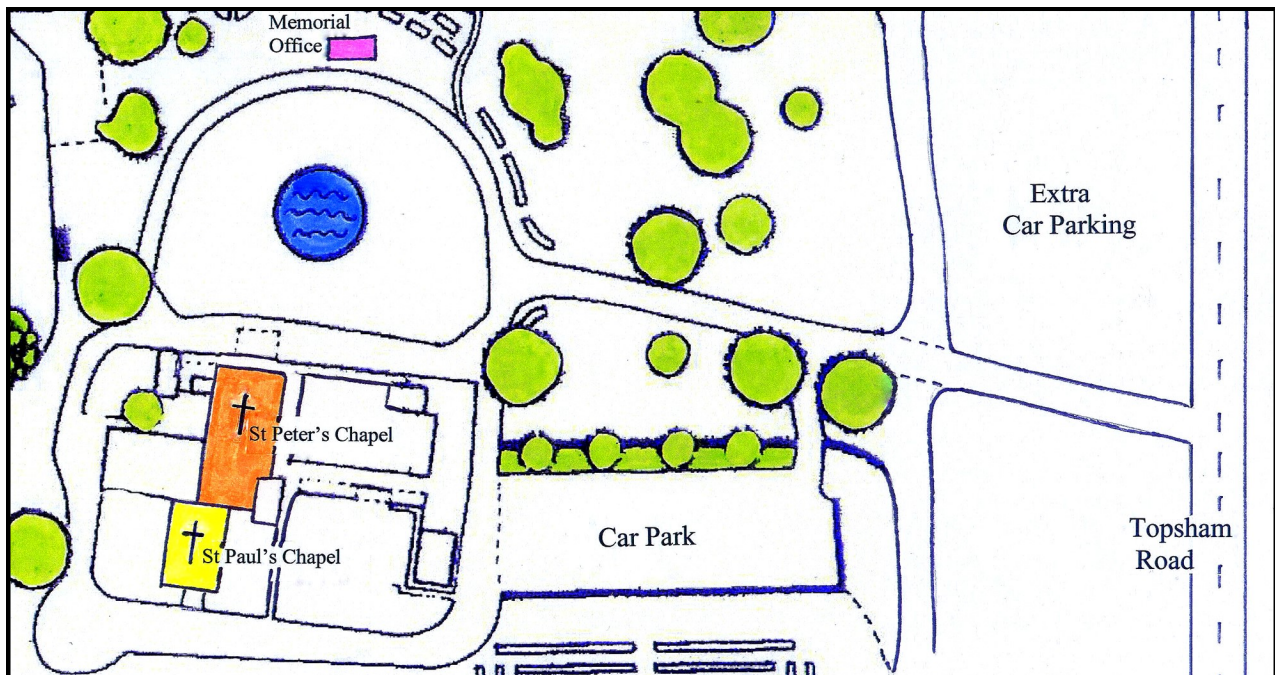
Email:- info@sillifantandsons.co.uk

Website:- www.sillifantandsons.co.uk

Office hours Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm

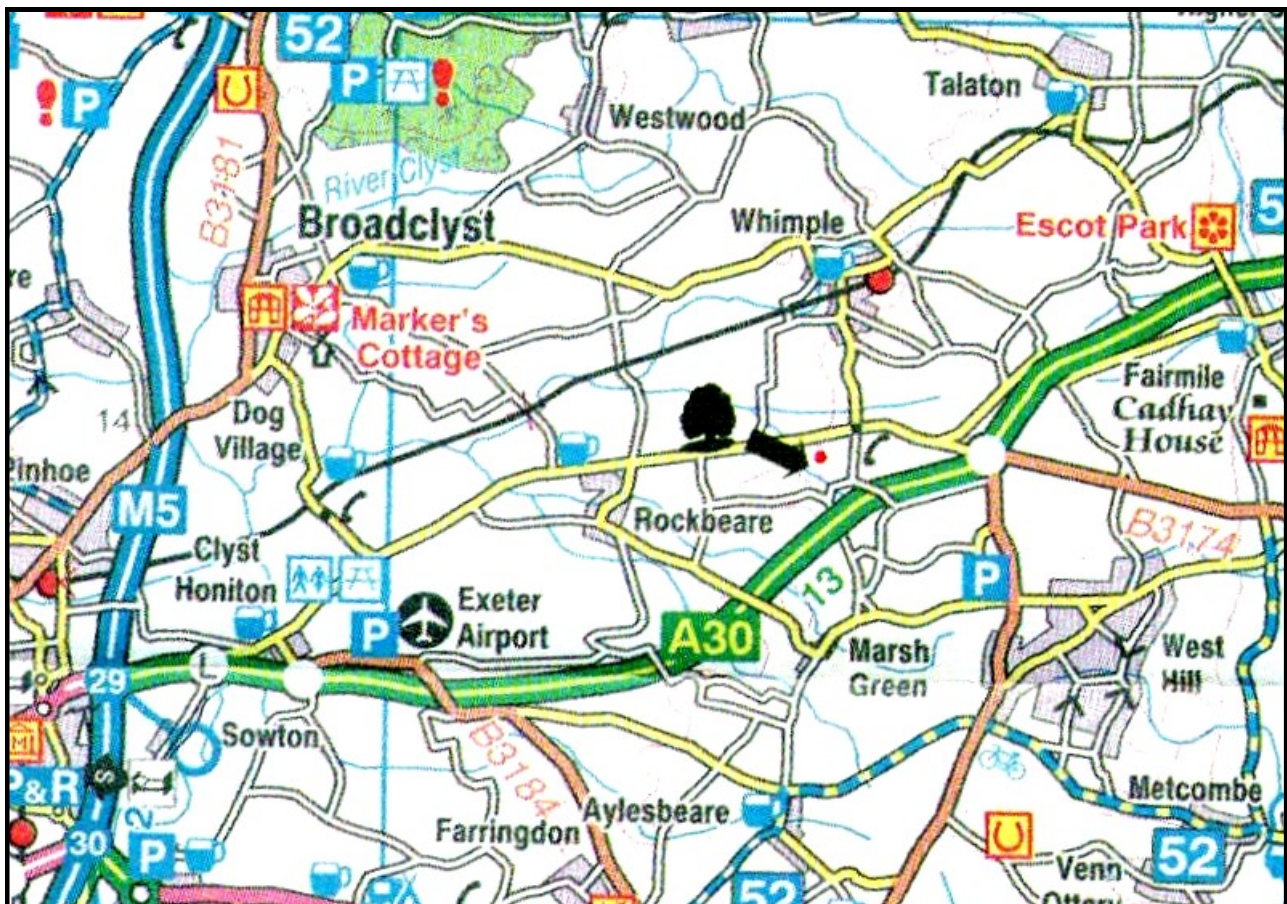
Exeter & Devon Crematorium

Topsham Road, Exeter. EX2 6EU



East Devon Crematorium

London Road, Strete Raleigh, Whimple, Exeter. EX5 2PT



Notes

Crematorium Music

Wesley Music (wesleymedia.co.uk) 01536 314914

The Crematoriums will only play music supplied by Wesley.
Not everything on YouTube is available, please check Wesley Website.

M. Sillifant & Son

This Funeral Directors business was established in 1906 by Harry Bidgood, who maintained it until 1948. It was then bought by the Sillifant family who have, in accordance with Mr. Bidgood's request, continued to run the business as an independent family concern.

Following on from Bernard Sillifant, Martin and Sarah, Marc, Nicola and Samantha the 3rd and 4th generations of the family to carry on the business, are a family team with over 50 years experience within the funeral profession.

The premises, which consist of Office, Chapels of Rest, Garages and Workshops, are situated near the City Centre, and provide an informal environment in which to discuss and finalise any funeral arrangements. Should anyone prefer these discussions to take place in the privacy of their own home, we are only too pleased to accommodate their wishes. We endeavour, under all circumstances, to provide full and correct information about all the services that are available to you. Our aims are to listen to you, treat you with respect and courtesy in an effort to meet your personal needs, and ensure that you are completely satisfied with the quality of service that we are able to provide. Our offices and Chapels of Rest are available Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm by appointment. Evening and weekend appointments must be made in office hours. Our professional advice is freely available on any problems which may confront you. These include questions concerning fees, costings, distance funerals, (both home and overseas), legal requirements, documentation, differing religious practices, non religious ceremonies, transport, press announcements, printing, catering, floral tributes, recording and forwarding of donations, assistance with funeral costs and any other personal concerns or requirements that you may have.

CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY IS OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES

Once funeral arrangements have been finalised,
a full written estimate will be provided for your retention.

WHAT TO DO WHEN DEATH OCCURS

If the death occurs at home, telephone the deceased's G.P. before contacting your Funeral Director, who will then be able to advise you on what steps to take.

HELP WITH FUNERAL COSTS

The following information should be treated as a general guidance.

Under certain circumstances the person responsible for making the funeral arrangements may be eligible for a grant from the Department of Social Security (Form SF200). This will generally apply should there be insufficient funds available to cover the cost of a private funeral, and either you or your partner are in receipt of one of the major D.S.S benefits.

There is also a Bereavement Support Payment (Form BSP1) if you or your spouse/civil partner were under the state pension age, and your spouse/civil partner had paid enough National Insurance contributions.

Other payments are Widowed Parents Allowance, Bereavement Allowance and Budgeting Loan (Form SF500).

PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE

Some people wish to make their own funeral arrangements in advance, easing the burden on those they leave behind. For this reason we maintain confidential files with all the relevant particulars for future reference. We are also able to offer an alternative to the above by providing a pre-paid funeral plan, payable in a single sum, or in monthly instalments. This effectively guarantees that the funeral arrangements made will be carried out in the future as specified by you.

At time of need any out of office hours work incurs extra charges, and there may be extra fees to pay towards disbursements (third party fees).

Making such arrangements may relieve both financial and emotional burdens.

FUNERALGUIDE

Online obituary. www.funeralguide.co.uk

BEREAVEMENT CARE

Bereavement can be a very traumatic experience, and there may be times when you feel in need of help or support. This is not uncommon, and CRUSE offers support by volunteers who are trained and experienced in bereavement care.

National Helpline 020 83327227 Exeter Branch 01392 272406

REGISTRATION OF DEATH

The death will need to be registered in the Registrar's Office for the area in which the death has occurred, or by declaration in any Registrar's office in England or Wales. **By appointment.**

The following information and documents are required:-

Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (issued by Hospital, or G.P. if death occurs at home)

Full name of the deceased - Date and place of birth – Occupation

Date of birth of surviving partner (if applicable) –

Maiden name (if applicable)

Husbands full name & last known occupation (if applicable)

Type of Funeral arranged (Burial or Cremation)

Optional:-

Medical Card of deceased, Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate, Bus pass, Blue Disabled Badge, Passport, Driving License, National Insurance Number (The Registrar will inform State Pension DWP direct with N.I. number.)

THE REGISTRAR WILL ISSUE YOU WITH:

- *A green certificate for Burial or Cremation. This must be delivered to the Funeral Director as soon as possible prior to the Funeral taking place.
- *An original copy of the entry of death (death certificate). A fee is payable for each certificate required from £11.00 each, for Banks, Post Office, Private Pensions, Life Insurance, Premium Bonds, Stocks & Shares etc.

H. M. CORONER

There are various reasons why a death may have to be reported to the Coroner by a Doctor or by the Police. The Coroner's duty is to establish the cause of death when a doctor is unable to issue a death certificate. Procedures for registering the death differ when the Coroner becomes involved. Should this be the case, we are able to offer additional advice and information as necessary.

OFFICES OF REGISTRATION WITHIN THIS AREA

Exeter

Larkbeare House, Topsham Road, Exeter. EX2 4NG

Tel 0345 1551002

Honiton & East Devon

East Devon Business Centre, Heath Park Way, Heath Park,
Honiton. EX14 1SF

Town Hall, St Andrew's Road, Exmouth. EX8 1AW

Tel. 0345 1551002

West Devon

Town Council Offices, Fore Street, Okehampton. EX20 1AA

West Devon Council Offices. Kilworthy Park, Tavistock. PL19 0BZ

Tel. 0345 1551002

Tiverton & Mid Devon

Old Heathcoat School Community Centre, 81 King Street, Tiverton, EX16 5JJ

Tel. 0345 1551002

North Devon

Civic Centre, North Walk, Barnstaple. EX31 1ED

Tel. 0345 1551002

Torridge

Caddsdow Business Support Centre.

Farm Road, Bideford. EX39 3DX

Tel. 0345 1551002

Teignbridge

Old Forde House. Brunel Rd, Newton Abbott. TQ12 4XX

Tel. 0345 1551002

South Hams

Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes. TQ9 5NE

Tel. 0345 1551002

Plymouth

Lockyer Street, Plymouth. PL1 2QD

Tel. 01752 268331

Torbay

Torquay Library. Lymington Road, Torquay TQ1 3DT

Tel. 01803 207130

Paignton Library. Great Western Road, Paignton TQ4 5AG

Brixham Library. Market Street, Brixham TQ5 8EU

**PHONE THE MAIN OFFICE NUMBER FOR THE
DISTRICT TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

Useful Postcodes

Alphington Parish Church	EX2 8TS
Blessed Sacrament RC Church	EX1 2QJ
Broadclyst Parish Church	EX5 3EL
Clyst St George Parish Church	EX3 0RE
Clyst St Mary Church	EX5 1AB
Countess Wear Parish Church	EX2 6LG
St David's Parish Church	EX4 4HR
Exeter Cathedral	EX1 1HS
Exwick Parish Church	EX4 2AA
Heavitree Parish Church	EX2 5EH
Heavitree United Reformed Church	EX1 2QJ
Ide Parish Church	EX2 9RE
St James' Parish Church	EX4 7AH
Church of Latter Day Saints	EX2 4UD
St Lawrence's Church	EX1 3EH
St Leonard's Parish Church	EX2 4NG
St Mark's Parish Church	EX4 7HU
St Matthew's Parish Church	EX1 2LJ
St Mary Steps Church	EX1 1BA
The Mint Methodist Church	EX4 3AT
Mount Dinham Church	EX4 4EE
Pinhoe Parish Church	EX4 9JG
Pinhoe Road Baptist Church	EX4 7HR
Sacred Heart RC Church	EX1 1EB
Salvation Army Temple	EX2 4AY
Sidwell Street Methodist Church	EX4 6PH
Shillingford St. George	EX2 9QN
South St. Baptist Church	EX1 1EB
Southernhay United Reformed Church	EX1 1QD
St Thomas Baptist Church	EX4 1LZ
St Thomas Methodist Church	EX4 1JE
St Thomas Parish Church	EX4 1HR
Tedburn St Mary Parish Church	EX6 6EN
Topsham Parish Church	EX3 0HL
Topsham RC Church	EX3 0EE
Whipton Parish Church	EX1 3JG
Higher Cemetery, Heavitree.	EX1 2PX
Exwick Road Cemetery	EX4 2BT
Topsham Cemetery	EX3 0BW

Local Venues for Receptions

British Legion Club. Legion Way, Alphington. EX2 8TF	Tel 01392 434642
Buckerell Lodge Hotel. Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4SQ	Tel 0844 8559112
The Cat & Fiddle. Sidmouth Road, Clyst St. Mary EX5 1DP	Tel 01392 873317
Countess Wear Hotel. Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 6HE	Tel 0871 5278386
The Cowick Barton. Cowick Lane, Exeter. EX2 9NF	Tel 01392-491117
Devon Hotel. Exeter By-Pass, Matford, Exeter EX2 8XU	Tel 01392-259268
Escot House. Ottery St Mary. EX11 1LU	Tel 01404 822188
Exeter Golf & Country Club. Countess Wear, Exeter EX2 7AE	Tel 01392-874139
Exminster Golf Club. Exminster Hill, Exminster. EX6 8GA	Tel 01392 833838
Gipsy Hill Hotel, Gipsy Hill Lane, Pinhoe, Exeter. EX1 3RN	Tel 01392-465252
The Globe. Fore Street, Topsham. EX3 0HR	Tel 01392-873471
The Grange Court Hotel. London Road, Rockbeare. EX5 2FP	Tel 01404 758010
The Heart of Oak. Main Road, Pinhoe, Exeter. EX4 8HS	Tel 01392 467329
Heavitree Conservative Club. Church St. Heavitree, Exeter EX2 5EH	Tel 01392-671784
Heavitree Social Club. East Wonford Hill, Exeter EX1 3BS	Tel 01392-273020
The Jack In The Green Inn. Rockbeare. EX5 2EE	Tel 01404-822240
The Jubilee Club. 4 Main Road, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8HS	Tel 01392-467148
The Ley Arms. Kenn EX6 7UW	Tel 01392-832341
The Lord Haldon Hotel. Dunchideock EX6 7YF	Tel 01392-832483
The Lord Nelson Inn. High Street, Topsham. EX3 0DU	Tel 01392-660374
The Mill on the Exe. Bonhay Road, Exeter. EX4 3AB	Tel 01392-214464
Polsloe & Priory Conservative Club. Elmside House, Exeter EX4 6LR	Tel 01392-272035
The Oddfellows. 60 New North Road, Exeter. EX4 4EP	Tel 01392-209050
Reed Hall. Streatham Drive, Exeter EX4 4QR	Tel 01392-215566
The Rougemont Hotel. Queen St. Exeter EX4 3SP	Tel 01392-312273
Sandy Park. Sandy Park Way, Exeter EX2 7NN	Tel 01392-427427
Southgate Hotel. Southernhay East, Exeter EX1 1QF	Tel 01392-412812
St Thomas Cricket Club. Grace Road, Exeter EX2 8PU	Tel 01392-277492
The Stowey Arms. Exminster EX6 8AT	Tel 01392-824216
The Swans Nest. Station Road, Exminster EX6 8DZ	Tel 01392-832371
The Tally Ho Inn. Countess Wear Road. Exeter EX2 6LG	Tel 01392-271794
The Thatched House, Exwick Road, Exeter EX4 2BQ	Tel 01392-272920
Toby Inn (Exeter Arms). Rydon Lane, Exeter. EX2 7HL	Tel 01392-435353
Wipton & Pinhoe Labour Club. Vaughan Road, Exeter. EX1 3JT	Tel 01392 468800
The White Ensign Club. Trinity House, South Street, Exeter EX1 1ED	Tel 01392-436673
White Hart Hotel. 66 South Street, Exeter EX1 1EE	Tel 01392-279897
Woodbury Park Hotel & Golf Club. Woodbury EX5 1JJ	Tel 01395 234735

These venues cater for receptions after funerals but are not necessarily recommended by ourselves.

Caterers

Fresha. 23 Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter. EX2 7LW	Tel. 01392-447701
The Oddfellows. 60 New North Road, Exeter. EX4 4EP	Tel 01392-209050

Useful Telephone Numbers

Exeter & Devon Crematorium	EX2 6EU	01392 496333
Exeter & Devon Crematorium Memorial Office		01392 255631
East Devon Crematorium	EX5 2PT	01404 823017
Taunton Crematorium		01823 284811
Torquay Crematorium		01803 327768
Exeter City Council Bereavement Office		01392 265370
Department of Social Security	(www.direct.gov.uk)	0800 7310469
Citizens Advice Bureau		01392 201210
Exeter Probate Sub-Registry		0117 3664960
R.D.& E. Hospital Wonford (Patient Affairs Officer)		01392 402349
Coroners Officers		01392 225696
Police (Middlemoor & Heavitree Road, Exeter)		08452 777444
Express & Echo/Western Morning News		08444 060263
Wesley Music	(wesleymedia.co.uk)	01536 314914
Death Notification Service		0330 0450213
Funeral Guide	support@funeralguide.co.uk	
WAVE Wheelchair Taxi		01392 252525

Florists

Blooms	141 Pinhoe Road, Exeter	01392 410858
Dunstans	1 North Street, Heavitree, Exeter	01392 274133
Jane's	5 Wardrew Road, St Thomas, Exeter	01392 215875
St Leonard's Florist	47 Magdalen Road, Exeter	01392 219880
Trugs	18 South Street, Exeter	01392 422522

Stonemasons

Williams & Triggs.	Pinhoe Road, Exeter	01392 273259
Fine Memorials.	Heavitree Road , Exeter	01392 250084

Footprints

Footprints in the sand
One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.
This bothered me because I noticed
that during the low periods of my life,
when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.
So I said to the Lord,
“You promised me Lord, that if I followed you,
you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life
there have only been one set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most,
you have not been there for me?”
The Lord replied, “The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints in the sand,
is when I carried you.”

Mary Stevenson.

Do not stand at my grave and weep.

Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you wake in the morning hush, I am the swift, uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight. I am the soft starlight at night.
Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep.
Do not stand at my grave and cry. I am not there, I did not die!

Mary Frye

Death is nothing at all

Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away in the next room. I am I and you are you
Whatever we were to each other, that we still are.
Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way you always used.
Put no difference in your tone,
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effort, without the ghost of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was. There is unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight ?
I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner.
All is well.

Canon Henry Scott Holland

She is Gone.

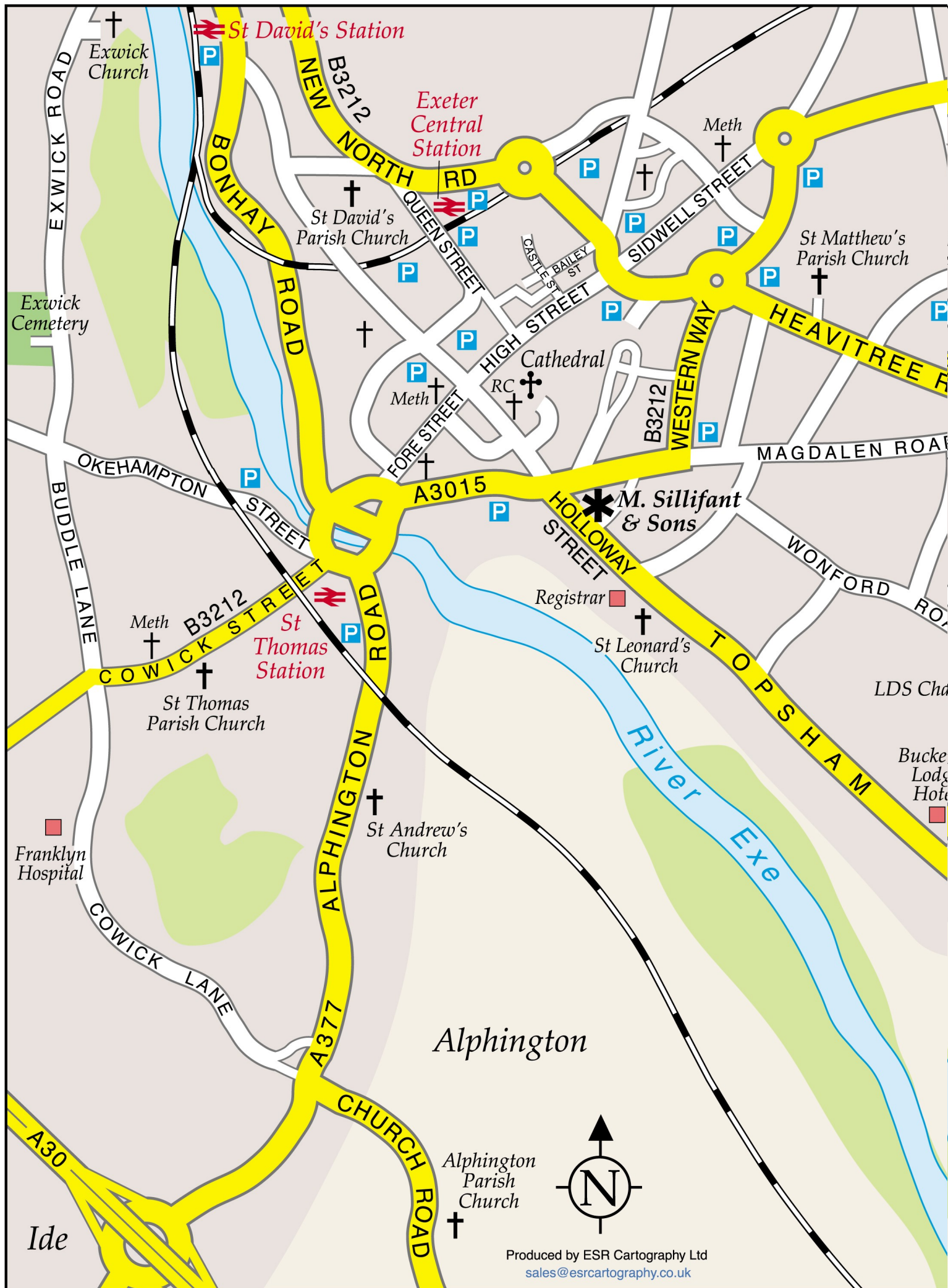
You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember her and only that she's gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she'd want: smile, open your eyes love and go on.

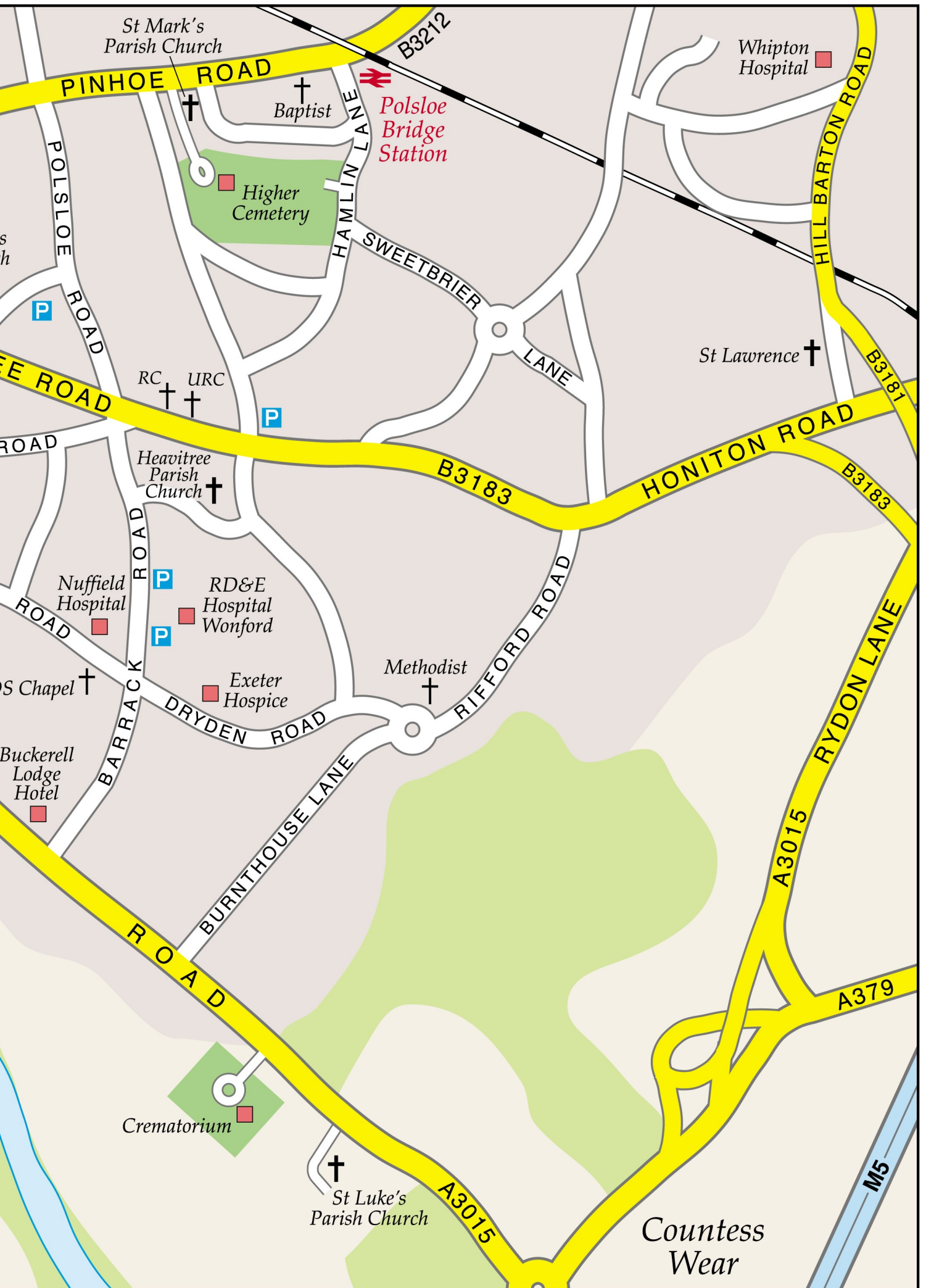
David Harkins

A Ship Sails

A ship sails and I stand watching till she fades on the horizon
and someone at my side says She is gone
Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all.
She is just as large now as when I last saw her.
Her diminished size and total loss from my sight is in me, not in her.
And just at the moment when someone at my side says she is gone there are
others who are watching her coming over their horizon and other voices take
up a glad shout There she comes!
That is what dying is. An horizon and just the limit of our sight.
Lift us up, Oh Lord, that we may see further

Bishop Brent





What to do after someone dies

Part 1: Overview

When someone dies there are 3 things you must do in the first few days:

Get a medical certificate - you will get this from a doctor (GP or at a hospital) and you need one to register the death.

Register the death within 5 days of the death - you will then get the documents you need for the funeral.

Arrange the funeral - you can use a Funeral Director or do it yourself.

Sorting out the person's affairs, eg. selling their property, can be done later.

Part 2: Register the death

If the death has been reported to a Coroner you cannot register the death until the Coroner gives permission.

Who can register the death, the documents you'll need and documents you will get depend on the circumstances of the death.

You can go to any register office but it's best to use the one in the area where the person died - otherwise the process can take longer.

Registering the death will take about 40 minutes - you need to make an appointment.

Who can register the death

You can register the death if you are:

A relative

Someone present at the death

An administrator from the hospital

The person making arrangements with the Funeral Directors

What you need to do

Take the medical certificate showing the cause of death (signed by a doctor) with you.

If available (but do not worry if not), also take the person's:

Birth certificate; Marriage or civil partnership certificate
NHS medical card

You will need to tell the Registrar:

The person's full name at the time of death

Any names previously used, eg. maiden name

The person's date and place of birth

Their last address

Their occupation

The full name, date of birth and occupation of a surviving or late spouse or civil partner

Whether they were getting a State Pension or any other Benefits

Documents you will get

When you register a death you will get:

A Certificate for Burial or Cremation (the 'green form') this gives permission for burial or an application for cremation.

A Certificate of Registration of Death (form BD8) - you may need to fill this out and return it if the person was getting a State Pension or benefits (the form will come with a pre-paid envelope so you know where to send it).

You can buy death certificates, these will be needed for sorting out a person's affairs.

Part 3: When a death is reported to a Coroner

A doctor may report the death to a Coroner if:

The cause of death is unknown.

The death was violent or unnatural.

The death was sudden and unexplained.

The person who died was not visited by a medical practitioner during their final illness.

The medical certificate is not available.

The person who died was not seen by the doctor who signed the medical certificate within 14 days before death or after they died.

The death occurred during an operation or before the person came out of anaesthetic.

The medical certificate suggests the death may have been caused by an industrial disease or industrial poisoning.

The Coroner may decide that the cause of death is clear.

In this case:

The doctor signs a medical certificate.

You take the medical certificate to the Registrar.

The Coroner issues a certificate to the Registrar stating a post-mortem isn't needed.

Post-mortems

To find out how the person died, the Coroner may decide a post-mortem is needed. This can be done either in a hospital or mortuary.

You cannot object to a Coroner's post-mortem, but if you have asked the Coroner must tell you (and the person's GP) when and where the examination will take place.

After the post-mortem:

The Coroner will release the body for a funeral once they have completed the post-mortem examinations and no further examinations are needed.

If the body is released with no inquest, the Coroner will send a form ('Pink Form - form 100B') to the Registrar stating the cause of death.

If the body is to be cremated, the Coroner will also send a 'Certificate of Coroner - Form Cremation 6'.

If the Coroner decides to hold an inquest

A Coroner must hold an inquest if the cause of death is still unknown, or if the person:

Possibly died a violent or unnatural death

Died in prison or police custody

You cannot register the death until after the inquest.

The Coroner is responsible for sending the relevant paperwork to the Registrar.

The death cannot be registered until after the inquest, but the Coroner can give you a certificate to prove the person is dead.

When the inquest is over the Coroner will tell the Registrar what to put in the register.

Part 4: Arrange the funeral

The funeral can usually only take place after the death has been registered.

Funeral Directors

Most people use a Funeral Director.

You should choose a Funeral Director who is a member of either:

National Association of Funeral Directors

Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors

Both organisations have codes of practice and have to give you a price list when asked.

Arranging the funeral yourself

To arrange a funeral yourself, contact your local Cemetery or Crematorium.

Funeral costs

Funeral costs can include:

Funeral Director fees

Items the Funeral Director pays for on your behalf called 'disbursements' (third party fees)

eg. ministers fees, burial fees, crematorium fees, doctors fees, flowers, a newspaper announcement.

Often Funeral Directors list all these costs in their quote.

Paying for a funeral

The funeral can be paid:

By you or other family members or friends

From a financial scheme the person had

eg. a pre-paid funeral plan or insurance policy

From money from the person's estate (eg. savings), getting access to this is called applying for a 'grant of representation' (sometimes called 'applying for probate')

If you have difficulty paying for the funeral and you are on qualifying benefits you can apply for a Funeral Payment from the DWP. Form SF 200.

Moving a body out of England or Wales

You need to get permission from a Coroner to move a body for a funeral abroad. Apply at least 4 days before you want the body to be moved.

Find a local Coroner using the Coroners' Society of England and Wales website.

Part 5: Tell Us Once and organisations you need to contact

You will need to report the death to various organisations and government departments.

Most local councils run a service called Tell Us Once (at the Registrar)

They will contact different government services for you.

The Registrar will explain your options for using Tell Us Once. These are:

Online.

By phone, the Registrar will give you the phone number.

In person with the Registrar.

If you don't use Tell Us Once, you may need to contact the following organisations.

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC)

You may have to send different forms to HMRC depending on the person's circumstances (eg income, pensions, benefits, whether there is a surviving spouse or partner).

HMRC's bereavement tool will help you work out which forms to fill out and where to send them - fill in a questionnaire and it will tell you how to sort out tax and benefit affairs.

National Insurance (NI) Contributions Office

You may need to contact the NI Contributions Office to cancel the deceased's NI payments if they were:

Self-employed.

Making voluntary payments, eg. to make up for a gap in their NI record.

HMRC will automatically stop collecting NI if you tell them of the death.

Child Benefit Office

If you, your spouse or partner are claiming Child Benefit, you will need to contact the Child Benefit Office if

Your child or a child you are responsible for dies

Your spouse or partner dies and you are now the sole parent

Both of the child's parents have died and you are now their main carer

You need to contact the Child Benefit Office within 8 weeks of the death.

Tax Credit Office

If you, your spouse or partner are claiming tax credits, you will need to contact the tax credit office if:

A child you are responsible for dies.

Your spouse or partner dies.

You need to contact the tax credit office within 1 month of the death.

DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency)

You must contact DVLA to:

Return any driving licence and cancel the car tax of the deceased.

Tell them the registration numbers of any vehicles that belonged to the deceased.

Returning a Passport

If the person had a passport, you should cancel it to prevent it being used illegally. You can hand it into your nearest passport office.

The Local Council

Contact the local council to cancel things like Council Tax and resident parking permits. Councils also offer bereavement services.

Student Loans Company

Send the death certificate or Coroner's report to the Student Loans Company to get a student loan cancelled.

Student Loans Company Limited
100 Bothwell Street
Glasgow
G2 7JD

Banks and other financial organisations

You may need to close down (or change the details of) the person's bank accounts or financial schemes.

For instance, you may have to contact their bank, mortgage provider, insurance companies and pension provider.

Part 6: Death abroad

If the person died abroad, the British Consulate in that country can give advice about registering the death.

You must register a death with the local authorities in the country where the person died.

In many countries you will also have the option to register the death with the UK authorities.

Bringing the body home

To bring the body home you need:

A certified English translation of the death certificate

Permission from a Coroner (or equivalent) in the country where the person died to remove the body

The British Consulate can help to arrange this.

Bringing ashes home

When leaving a country with human ashes you will normally need to show the death certificate and the certificate of cremation.

Each country has its own rules about departing with human ashes and there may be additional requirements. Contact the country's British Consulate, Embassy or High Commission for advice. You will need to fill in a standard customs form when you arrive home.

Contact your airline to find out whether you can carry the ashes as hand luggage or as checked-in luggage.

Contacting a Register office in England and Wales

You need to take the death certificate to the register office in the area the funeral is taking place.

As the death has already been registered in the country the person died in, the Registrar will give you a 'Certificate of No Liability to Register'. You should give this to the Funeral Director so the funeral can go ahead.

When a Coroner is involved

If the person is to be cremated, you need a certificate from the Coroner (form Cremation 6).

Whether the person is to be buried or cremated, a Coroner will be involved if the cause of death abroad is unknown, or if it was sudden, violent or unnatural.

You can find out more on the Foreign & Commonwealth Office website.

Crossing The Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

Alfred Tennyson, 1889.

Celtic Blessing

May the roads rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rains fall soft upon fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.



