

Questions asked ... *about Burial*

There are many questions people have about burials
and this leaflet provides the essential details



THE SEARSON FAMILY
FUNERAL SERVICE

*'We don't just arrange funerals, we create
meaningful days'™*

www.thesearsonfamily.co.uk

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HOW POPULAR IS BURIAL?

While burial is often perceived as the traditional funeral, Cremation has seen a significant rise in popularity. Burials are declining due to space constraints and changing trends. Today, only about 5% of the funerals we conduct are burials.

CAN ANYONE BE BURIED?

Yes ... although there will be various restrictions that may govern where and how much it will cost. Most religions permit burial; in the Muslim and Jewish communities, burial has deep roots where Sikhs and Hindus typically opt for cremation.

IS A CHURCHYARD THE SAME AS A CEMETERY:

A Churchyard is part of the church grounds, and were always intended for the funerals of local parishioners. Cemeteries are typically municipal, often managed by the local authority, though some private cemeteries do exist. However, today, burial in a Churchyard is frequently limited due to available space; most are very old and haven't been used for many years.

ARE BURIAL SPACES FREELY AVAILABLE?

Most Cemeteries have been around for many years, and when burial was more commonplace, they started to fill up very quickly. Few new cemeteries today are being established, and existing ones are beginning to reach, or even exceed their capacity, with some even restricting new burials. In many cemeteries, burial is permitted only in existing graves, and the option to select a specific grave space, or pre-purchase in advance is usually not available.

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CAN I USE ANY CEMETERY?

Until recently, you could apply for a burial in any cemetery; however, the associated charges would double if you were not a resident of the area where the burial was intended to take place. Today, many cemeteries, due to limitations on available space, are only allowing burial of local residents and no longer offer an option for non-residents. This is just a proactive step to prioritise the local community, for whom the cemeteries were always intended.

IF I BUY THE GRAVE, IS IT MINE?

It's a common misconception that buying a grave makes it your property. In reality, there are usually two charges related to a burial: the Grave Digging and the Exclusive Rights of Burial. The Exclusive Rights of Burial is a lease that gives you control over who is buried in the grave for a specified period, typically 25 to 30 years. Once this period expires, you'll need to renew the lease to maintain your rights to the grave. The land is leased; you control who enters the grave, but the grave still belongs to the local authority.

CAN I HAVE A MEMORIAL?

In a Cemetery, Memorials are only permitted to be erected on graves that have had the Exclusive Rights of Burial paid for. For a Churchyard, permission for a Memorial will need to be granted by the Incumbent of the associated church. Common or Unpurchased Graves do not permit a Memorial. It's important to note that any burial ground will have comprehensive regulations regarding the type of stone used, its size, design and even the inscription. Additional costs will also be incurred for the Memorial, Permits, Application, and periodic maintenance.

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CAN FAMILY LOWER THE COFFIN?

Every Cemetery and Churchyard will have its own regulations and restrictions relating to family carrying and lowering the coffin. In the Portsmouth and Havant areas, the local authorities have a strict stance on family members lowering the coffin into the grave, and this, unfortunately, is out of our control. Even though there are no formal policies in place, should you feel strongly on this point, you can raise any restriction with the local authority directly. However, we can provide professional bearers for you.

CAN WE BURY CREMATED REMAINS?

Yes ... Most cemeteries these days are being proactive in encouraging the burial of Cremated Remains. More and more cemeteries are converting limited available space for this purpose, and a variety of memorial options will also be available.

IS BURIAL MORE EXPENSIVE THAN CREMATION?

Yes ... the cost of burial will far exceed that of Cremation, and with available spaces limited, the price will undoubtedly increase. Unpurchased graves can be much more financially viable, but this will limit your options and not prevent the grave from being used for an unrelated future burial.

WHAT IS A NATURAL BURIAL?

Natural Burial is a more sustainable means of laying a loved one to rest. The Southdowns Natural Burial Site is very popular, for those wishing for a resting place amongst the beauty and tranquillity of nature, the woodland affords perfect peace in naturally sustained surroundings. For more details, you can visit their website: www.sustainability-centre.org