

ADAM WRIGHT

Independent Celebrant



Welcome

My name is Adam, I am a Professional, Independent Celebrant and I create ceremonies in Staffordshire, Derbyshire, the West Midlands, and surrounding areas. You may have the questions on your mind, **what exactly is a Celebrant**, what do they do and how can they help me and my family?

A Celebrant is the main host of a funeral or a celebration of life, and it is their role to write and officiate the service. One of the great things about funeral Celebrants is they can offer the freedom to weave into the ceremony, everything you need to pay homage to your loved one. An independent funeral Celebrant will strive to accommodate any wish, and this can include religious elements, a prayer, or a hymn if it feels appropriate for the person that has died.

With the open, inclusive approach of a Celebrant led funeral, more people are opting to commemorate a close relative through this approach, and as these ceremonies are beginning to be more widely known, for many they are emerging as the preferred choice.

A Celebration of Life

In times of grief, compassion and a soothing presence can provide solace and support to families and friends. With great sensitivity and respect, I will create a meaningful and dignified farewell ceremony, that honours your loved one and shares their amazing life story and legacy.

I will help you navigate the challenging process of saying goodbye by providing a heartfelt tribute that will resonate with the essence of a life well lived, handled with the utmost care and professionalism.

Reach out to me now on the number or email below, or through your Funeral Director and we can discuss how to make your ceremony special and comforting for family and friends. Together, we'll ensure that your cherished memories remain forever.

Sincerely, Adam



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What a *Celebrant* led funeral is all about

A Celebrant led funeral is about crafting a ceremony that helps bereaved families cope with their loss. It should be a moment for the gathering of close relatives and friends to achieve some sort of closure with the life of the deceased.

Each person should have the opportunity to have their legacy celebrated and treasured in the presence of the people who were most important in their lives. It pays tribute to their talents, character, gifts, actions, and other things that make up who they are.

Although death will always carry a level of grief, it should also come as a cathartic celebration that cherishes the memory of the person who has passed away.

A funeral shouldn't add more sadness to the already heavy burden of grief that families carry but allow them to celebrate their own connection and memories. Since it's human nature to hold on to things, people, and special experiences, it's best to treasure a person's life in an uplifting way.

Death is no doubt a profound experience that significantly affects those left behind, and that's why it only makes sense to create a meaningful ceremony by celebrating the things that are relevant and important to the departed as well as to the loved ones left.

Celebrating the true meaning of life

Celebrant led funerals commemorate the true meaning of life by transforming an otherwise traditional ceremony into something that resonates more deeply with everyone involved. The result is an event that captures what it means to be human — to love, to help, and to give meaning to other people's lives, among others.

Although standard funeral services are often associated with sadness, a Celebrant led funeral can transform such sorrow into something that establishes a more sincere emotional connection.

This transformation doesn't just happen during the service itself but starts in the preparation for the service. Working closely with a Celebrant to plan the funeral can often bring forth happy memories and stories otherwise forgotten and facilitates a much more enriching way of dealing with loss so families and loved ones can better remember the life of their relative.



What happens when I meet my funeral *Celebrant* ?

Your Funeral Director will engage with your chosen Celebrant, who will then arrange a meeting with the family (and possibly friends or a solicitor).

This meeting is for you to get to know your funeral Celebrant and build a connection; after all, they are going to play an important role in an incredibly precious day... it's crucial that you feel at ease with them.

The funeral Celebrant will give you an open floor to share your feelings and memories about your loved ones. Funeral planning is undeniably a difficult process, but they will do everything they can to help you evoke happy, heartfelt stories; ones you may have even forgotten. During this conversation, they will gain a deep understanding and awareness of the type of person the deceased was. They will use this knowledge to carefully craft a service that does their life justice.

Many feel that this is a huge part of the grieving process, and it facilitates a more enriching way to come to terms with loss. It is all about taking the time to remember the departed and work together to build a final farewell that celebrates the many different layers of their unique personality and life.

Where can *Celebrant* funerals take place ?

The beauty of a Celebrant led funeral is that it creates a ceremony centred entirely around your own or the deceased persons beliefs and desires. There are no rules and no blueprints to follow; this means that a Celebrant funeral can take place wherever you like.

Funeral Celebrants are usually secular but can weave in religious elements if appropriate, further widening the scope of where your funeral can take place. While a traditional funeral may be held in a crematorium or cemetery, there is no limit when it comes to a Celebrant led funeral as there are no legal requirements tying you to any one location.

This means you can celebrate your loved one's life in a space that feels meaningful and a true representation of the wonderful life they lived.

How long does a funeral *Ceremony* last ?

A funeral service should be as unique as the person it commemorates, which means there really is no right or wrong answer on the appropriate length. A burial ceremony tends to be longer than a cremation (which averages at around 40 minutes), but it will always come down to the wishes of the family, any religious traditions, budget and any special wishes or instructions already prepared.



Can I personalise a *Celebrant* led funeral service ?

Yes! Some wonderful ways in which your Celebrant speech and service can be personalised to make the funeral service even more meaningful include:

- A themed ceremony (such as through their favourite colour)
- Sharing a slideshow of their life
- Their favourite piece of poetry or one that means something to the family
- Creating a guest book for signatures and personal tributes
- Readings from a guest
- Lighting a candle for the deceased
- Playing their favourite music
- A loved one singing a meaningful song
- Planting a tree in their memory
- Holding a symbolic ceremony

Your funeral Celebrant will suggest different ways to pay respect to your loved ones, accommodating all needs and wishes to provide the utmost support during your difficult time of grief.

Can I add religious *Content* into the service ?

Yes; the aim of this type of funeral is to deliver a ceremony that is perfectly tailored around your individual wishes and needs. That means you can add spiritual or faith-based content into your Celebrant-led funeral or keep it secular. Your Celebrant will help and guide your choices, working with you through an open dialogue, so that you can provide any input or direction as to what is important for you and your family.

It is worth noting that not all venues will allow certain out of the ordinary activities; for example, if you want your funeral Celebrant to host a symbolic ceremony involving candles, it is important that you check with the location owners first.

How about *Singing* hymns?

Absolutely! Even for those who want to have a service void of religion, singing hymns and songs or saying prayers can be an incredibly therapeutic addition to the celebration. Your Celebrant will do everything they can to accommodate all your wishes.



What *Questions* should you ask ?

Whether you choose your funeral Celebrant yourself, or your Funeral Director recommends one, you will always have the opportunity to arrange an initial conversation either over the phone, video or face-to-face. This is your time to find out anything you want and need to know about your potential Celebrant before making your decision.

Some questions you might want to consider are:

- **When we discuss the service, where will we meet?**

Usually at your home or a central point close by. If meeting in person is not possible, then a zoom call between the family and Celebrant is quite usual.

- **What is your process for the day of the funeral?**

- Most Celebrants will be at the venue well in advance to speak to members of staff, whether this is at a crematorium or burial site. They are there to guide you through the process alongside the Funeral Director and they will ensure that everything is ready and that all involved are fully aware of the timescale and order of the day.
- Family and friends will be asked to arrive around 10-15 minutes before the start of the ceremony. If weather permits, they will gather outside and wait for the hearse to arrive. This gives mourners the chance to see their loved ones and emotionally prepare themselves before the ceremony begins.

- **Will you help with eulogies and tributes?**

- With the information provided at the meeting the Celebrant will write a unique personal eulogy and ceremony and will also assist with family tributes. It is always better for the Celebrant to collate the family tributes with the eulogy to avoid repetition and make sure the life story is well presented.

- **Are there any extra charges we should be aware of?**

- If the Funeral Director has recommended your Celebrant the charge will be detailed in their total cost structure, if you contact a Celebrant directly, they will quote a fee and any travelling expenses (if the location is outside their nominated area) but there will not be any additional charges, unless further services are required such as music preparation or photographic or video tributes.

I hope these questions and answers will be of help, and of course I would be available and happy to answer any additional concerns that may arise to ease any stress in the lead up to the day of the funeral.



How much does a funeral *Celebrant* cost ?

Both religious and non-religious Celebrants will charge a fee.

This fee will range, but as a general rule you can expect a cost of between £220 to £350; this cost will be impacted by the distance the Celebrant has to travel and the scale of the ceremony.

Most Celebrants work within a radius and will make a small charge for mileage outside of that radius. If the distance is great and overnight accommodation is required, this can be discussed directly with the Celebrant at the meeting.

If you want the Celebrant to create the visual tributes or any specific music edits for you, providing they have the knowledge, they will charge an additional fee, but this will be discussed and agreed at the meeting

Do *Celebrants* have a set script ?

Do Celebrants have a set script? No – and that is what is so special about them!

A funeral service should be as unique as the person it commemorates; for that reason, Celebrants do not use a set script. They will always write your service script from scratch to truly reflect the life of your loved one and to pay them the full respect they deserve.

The Celebrant will use their skills and experience to write the best script possible, one that is truly sensitive to your needs and requests.

They will take mourners on a journey through the life of the deceased, into their sadness and grief and then back out on the other side. They will cover all the themes and moments discussed with the family prior to the funeral, celebrating and reflecting on everything that made the departed so deeply loved.

The sheer uniqueness of the service is why Celebrants do not have a set script.

How is a *Celebrant* ceremony organised ?

There is no set formula, but as a general guideline, you may expect:

- An introduction, with information about the wake and any charitable donations shared.
- A middle section, consisting of the eulogy & visual tribute with music, as well as any guest or family readings that have been arranged.
- A committal may then be preceded by a moment for quiet reflection. This is often accompanied by music, a poem or silence. This is seen as the heart of the ceremony.
- Final words to summarise the ceremony and close on a note of hope.



However, as there are no rules when it comes to a Celebrant-led funeral – and no set script for the Celebrant, you can alter, mix and totally transform this in whatever way feels befitting your loved one and their life story.

Saying goodbye to a loved one is an incredibly personal and meaningful event. It is important that you are able to commemorate their life in a way that feels right; a way that honours their life and legacy.

For those looking for a more personalised approach – and one that may not include any references to a specific faith – a Celebrant-led funeral offers a special alternative.

With a funeral Celebrant, you can expect a ceremony centred around real life perspective. You will also be given the opportunity to bring your own – or the deceased person's – principles and values to the forefront of the funeral.

Despite Celebrant-led funerals offering an abundance of benefits, they are less well known than a traditional funeral (although their popularity is growing). That's why I hope this guide will help your decision making and ease the pressure and uncertainty of what can often be a challenging time for any family.

'Remember Me'

by Iris Hesselden

Look for me when the tide is high
And the gulls are wheeling overhead
When the autumn wind sweeps the cloudy sky
And one by one the leaves are shed.
Look for me when the trees are bare
And the stars are bright in the frosty sky
When the morning mist hangs on the air
And shorter darker days pass by.
I am there, where the river flows
And salmon leap to a silver moon
Where the insects hum and the tall grass grows
And sunlight warms the afternoon.
I am there in the busy street
I take you hand in the city square
In the marketplace where the people meet
In your quiet room – I am there.
I am the love you cannot see
And all I ask is – look for me.

