

## Funeral services during the Covid-19 emergency

Most unfortunately, we are now severely restricted by external instructions (see [national guidance](#) ) on what we can for funerals in church. We cannot use the church building at all, so the service has to take place by the graveside. Furthermore, numbers attending are strictly limited to a maximum of 30 and is further restricted to members of the immediate family; spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way.

We appreciate that this is likely to add the distress of anyone who is already mourning the loss of a loved one. The person taking the funeral will do their best to provide support, but again, for the moment this has to be via the telephone or a computer link. We would encourage the family to prepare their tributes as they would do normally and post them online if they can. We will also do what we can to hold services in church for a thanksgiving for the life of your loved one whenever the restrictions have lifted, if, as relatives, you would like this. Every November on the third Sunday in the month, we hold a memorial service to remember all those who have died in the last year, whose services we have been involved with, and we plan to run this again; hopefully in church!

There are also other resources to provide support for those who are prevented from attending funeral services. They include:

- a prayer card
- a sympathy card to send to those who can't go a funeral
- a simple reflection that people can use alone at home either at the time of the funeral or at another time.
- [Light A Candle](#)- a way to remember someone with a virtual candle online.

These can be downloaded at this link; <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/clergy-funeral-and-bereavement-resources> . The person taking the funeral will help you with these as best they can.