

Making it Special

I want every funeral I conduct to feel just right – right for you and right for your loved one. I will take my cue from you in creating the atmosphere for the service.

Many people, like Melanie, want an uplifting occasion, a celebration of their loved one's life.

'You made it feel very special - personal, sad and humorous...the right cocktail mixture for a funeral. If you continue to provide the same support and comfort to the grieving as you did to Jean and I then you can't go wrong.'
Melanie

On the Day of the Service

I will make sure that everyone feels welcome, and understands that although it's not a religious service, all outlooks and beliefs are respected, and everyone's prayers and good wishes are welcomed and appreciated.

I will do all I can to make sure the service is memorable for all the right reasons.

About Me

I've completed training with the UK College of Celebrancy, and draw on skills and experience gained in my previous career in university adult education and community work, which brought me into contact with people from all walks of life.



I hold an MA in Creative Writing, Arts & Education from the University of Sussex, and am a member of the Fellowship of Professional Celebrants, the principal organisation which provides training and professional support to independent celebrants in the UK.

I also offer ceremonies for weddings, partnerships, baby namings and more – to find out more contact me on 07986 407187 or visit my website:
www.celebrantforyourceremony.com



Fellowship of
Professional Celebrants

River Jones Celebrant

Fully Personalised Funeral
and Memorial Services

'I would just like to say on behalf of all the family, what a wonderful service, and what great support you gave us all. We could not have asked for any more. You are a credit to your profession.' **Ted**

Whatever the circumstances,
I will do everything I can to
support you in giving your loved
one the best possible service.
At every stage, I will work
closely with you, and do all I
can to make this funeral exactly
as you and your family wish.

Taking Time to Listen

As your celebrant, my first step is usually to arrange a meeting with you - and anyone else you would like to be there - in your home or wherever you prefer at a time to suit you.

I will listen carefully to your ideas and wishes as well as any wishes your loved one may have expressed about their funeral. I can also offer you support, guidance and suggestions as we plan the service together.

Equally importantly, I will want to find out as much as I can about your loved one and their life, in preparation for writing the eulogy.

'I don't know how to thank you enough for the wonderful service you led for David... everything was exemplary from beginning to end, especially the time you took with us, learning about him.' Jill

Eulogy and Tributes

After our meeting I will write up all you have told me about your loved one. If need be I can gather more information from other relatives and friends.

I'll then send you a draft to check through. This gives you the opportunity to correct any mistakes, add anything further, and make sure it has the right feel. I am always happy to make any additions or changes you want, right up to the day before the service.

If you, or other family members and friends want to write your own tributes, I encourage you to do this - even if you're not sure whether you'll be able to read it yourself on the day. I can always read on your behalf if you wish.

Planning the Service

The main focus of the service is the eulogy and tributes, and the committal, with which I usually offer some words of thanksgiving and a non-religious blessing.

The service can also include music, readings, time for quiet reflection, and, if you wish, prayers or hymns from any tradition.

There is nothing you have to include, and we can discuss anything you want in the service.

Linda and her family made paper butterflies to put on their mother's coffin, and mourners wrote farewell messages on butterfly shaped notes.

'You did a fantastic service for mum and we have people still telling us it was the best service that they had ever been to.' Linda

Choosing Music and Readings

Most families choose three or four pieces of music. Occasionally I am asked to help with choosing music for a service, which I'm always glad to do. Live music can be arranged on request. Family members may want to give a reading, or choose something for me to read.

Equally I will be happy to take time to find an original reading especially for your loved one - perhaps relating to their work or interests, or quoting from a favourite author, or a book they loved in childhood.

'The extract from Brer Rabbit particularly lifted the mood and I liked the part about moving on, which was very much my Mum's philosophy on life.' Neil