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As a qualified Independent Funeral Celebrant and a member of the Institute of Funeral Celebrants, my role is to offer bereaved families a funeral ceremony that reflects the wishes, beliefs and values of their loved one and their family.

I always come to your home so that we can share a cup of tea, you can explain the photo on the mantelpiece and have an ordinary conversation about planning this extraordinary occasion.



There is such a lot of choice these days and my job is to guide you through the process. You can have a cardboard coffin, horse drawn hearse or even a motorcycle and sidecar. I am here to help you use all your creativity and intimate knowledge of the person who has died and come up with something that exactly matches them.

As part of the ceremony, you can sit in silence, just play music or chat amongst yourselves, have a memorial after the cremation or burial in a hall or a pub or even in your own home. You can ask friends and relatives to talk about the person's life then have a space where anyone can come up and tell a story or one of your loved ones dreadful jokes! You can definitely laugh! You can ask everyone to wear purple or Plymouth Argyle shirts. One family wore their dad's favourite football team's colours - blue and white.



You and your family and friends can tell me about the person's life and I can write the eulogy for you. I always give you a draft to check through and only print it out the evening before the ceremony so that you can add memories whenever they occur to you. I will then read it out for you on the day or you can read it yourself, or ask a relative or friend to do it for you.

As a former drama and music teacher, I can advise you about poems and music. They are the most emotive elements of a funeral. Just the right poem or beautiful piece of music can stay in the hearts and minds of those attending indefinitely.



Woodland burial plots are set amongst trees and wildflowers, and families can choose to bury or scatter the ashes of a loved one within the peaceful grounds with birdsong as the only background sounds. You can even plant bulbs, scatter rose petals and, in the autumn, plant a tree in their memory.

I am passionate about providing ceremonies that are personal and a true reflection of the deceased. I carefully collate the songs, sayings and details of the ceremony into a personal folder for the family to have as a lasting reflection of the day. As a final and lasting touch my handmade wildflower seeded bookmarks are passed to all the family and friends to plant so that year after year the flowers will blossom in memory of their loved one.

There appears to be a growing demand for individualised ceremonies and the feedback from families is excellent, expressing heartfelt thanks for a ceremony that provided the funeral that they believe their loved one would have wanted.

I also offer Memorial and Scattering of Ashes ceremonies and Pre-planned ceremonies for the well organised people who would like to plan their ceremony in advance.

Fees for the ceremonies can be found on my website - Fees page.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Sarah Chapman

