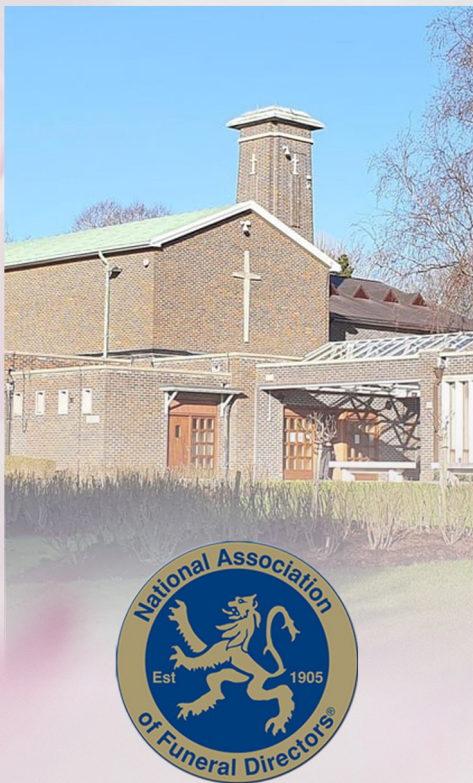


Questions asked ... *about Cremation*

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



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Questions asked ... *about Cremation*



HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE CREMATED?

Since 1968, when cremations first exceeded burials, cremation has increased considerably. Current figures suggest that around 74% of all funerals are cremations.

DO ANY RELIGIOUS GROUPS FORBID CREMATION?

Most current Christian denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, allow cremation, as do Sikhs, Hindus, Parsees and Buddhists. It is, however, forbidden by the Orthodox Christian faiths, Orthodox Jews and Muslims.

IS CREMATION MORE EXPENSIVE THAN BURIAL?

No. Generally, the cost of a grave is much higher than the cremation fee, although the funeral charges are similar for both services. Burial costs can increase significantly when a Grave and Memorial are purchased.

CAN I WITNESS THE COFFIN BEING PLACED IN THE CREMATOR?

Yes. Some crematoriums have a Viewing Area where you can witness the committal. Others may have a room equipped with CCTV, enabling all in the room to clearly see the committal, whilst other crematoria may allow a supervised group into the crematory to witness the committal. The crematorium must be informed that you wish to witness the committal when the cremation is booked, so that staff can be told who will then make the necessary preparations on the day.

Questions asked ... *about Cremation*



IS THE COFFIN CREMATED WITH THE BODY?

Yes. The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) guiding principles state that the container and the body shall be placed in the cremator, and cremation shall commence.

The coffin or container with the body inside shall not be opened or otherwise disturbed, other than in exceptional circumstances, and then only with the express permission and in the presence of the applicant for cremation (usually the executor or next of kin).

IS THE COFFIN CREMATED THE SAME DAY?

The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) guiding principles state that the container and the body shall be placed in a cremator and cremation commenced no later than 72 hours after the service of committal. Retention of coffins should only be carried out where a secure and hygienic storage facility is available.

Where cremation cannot be carried out on the same day, the applicant will be notified. This means that, under normal circumstances, the cremation is usually carried out shortly after the service, and indeed on the same day.

HOW LONG DOES THE CREMATION TAKE?

The cremation process itself usually takes between 60-90 minutes, depending on the size and type of coffin.

Questions asked ... *about Cremation*



HOW ARE ASHES KEPT SEPARATE?

A cremator can only accept one coffin at a time, and all the ashes are removed before the subsequent cremation. An Identity Card is used throughout the process, including final disposal of ashes, thereby ensuring correct identification.

WHAT HAPPENS TO ANY METALS?

In the past, all crematoria removed metal, such as orthopaedic implants and screws used in the construction of the coffin, and disposed of it by burying it on the crematorium grounds.

In recent years, the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) introduced a scheme under which the Applicant for Cremation can consent to the metal being recycled. Approximately 50% of UK crematoria are members of the recycling scheme. The surplus produced by the scheme, after transport, sorting and smelting costs have been deducted, is donated to charities nominated by member crematoria.

Precious metals, such as jewellery left on the deceased, will melt during cremation, combine with the ash, and become granular, making them unrecognisable. Some is lost in the cremator, and some will be in the ashes. A proportion is found in the containers where other metals are kept whilst awaiting recycling. The Institute strongly advise that jewellery is not left on the deceased but is retained by the relatives as it is more valuable to them.

Further information about Cremation can be sourced by visiting the ICCM website: **www.iccm-uk.com**