



# *Funeral Guide*

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
205 Old Main Street, South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
*The Reverend Andrea Suess Taylor, Rector*

The people of St. David's Episcopal Church hope that these guidelines help you plan a funeral service that comforts you and your family in your time of loss.

## **Good News:**

Everyone deserves to have a dignified burial service, and St. David's Church will provide a funeral for anyone. Neither the family members nor the deceased have to be members of St. David's, Episcopalians or baptized Christians.

We use Burial services provided in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer or another Anglican prayer books and choose prayers and hymns that your family agrees to hear, say and sing. A funeral is held in the church with or without Holy Communion. St. David's has a seating capacity of 200.

The priest will coordinate the date and time of the funeral with the director of the funeral home chosen by the family. The family makes arrangements for a burial plot through the funeral home or St. David's Church Office.

The family may plan a reception in Nelson Hall following the funeral service. There is a rental fee for the hall and the family will need to provide their own catering.

## **What to do when someone dies:**

### **FIRST - Contact the priest near to, or immediately after the death.**

It is helpful and important to contact the parish priest when a loved one is near death or as soon as possible after the death, so s/he may pastorally assist the family in responding to the death of the loved one, in making decisions, and in preparing for the funeral service. The Rector of St. David's is expected to officiate at all worship services in the church. Should the family desire alternate clergy, the Rector and family together may invite another clergy person to serve.

### **SECOND - Make arrangements with the funeral home.**

A commitment of the time and place of the service may only be given to the funeral home after confirming with the Rector of St. David's Church.

The following decisions are made by the family or friends of the deceased:

- selection of a casket or urn,
- arrangements for interment or cremation.

- preparing and placing an obituary in requested newspapers
- Funeral homes also offer a variety of other services.
- Funeral directors may offer to pay the church on your behalf. If you choose this, please notify the Rector, so that we may confirm with them the proper payment. We prefer to handle fees directly with the family.

### **THIRD - Plan the funeral service with the priest.**

***The Liturgy*** - A funeral service recalls the joy of Easter and the hope of sharing in resurrected life with Christ. The order of service follows the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the customs and traditions of the Episcopal Church. Our Administrative Assistant will prepare a bulletin for the service so that the congregation may easily participate.

***Eulogies*** Remembrances of the deceased may be offered at the very beginning of the service by one or two close friends or family members. Please have a written text and plan no more than 5 minutes in length. Further personal remembrances are encouraged during the reception.

***Scripture Lessons and Readers:*** Lessons from our Holy Scriptures are read at funeral services. You may choose two or three in consultation with the priest. These readings are read by a friend, family member, or member of St. David's. If there is Communion, the Gospel lesson, will be read by the priest.

***Music:*** Music at funerals must be sacred in nature. Hymns are normally drawn from the 1982 Hymnal, Lift Every Voice or Wonder, Love and Praise. Hymns not found in these hymnals may on occasion be used if the music can be secured and copyright permission is granted. Music from tapes or compact discs is not allowed. The Music Director at St. David's will play the organ at all funerals unless the Music Director and Rector give permission for another musician to play. Please, do not invite any person to play a musical instrument or sing at the funeral service without getting permission from the Music Director and Rector. There is an additional fee for rehearsal time with extra musicians.

***Altar:*** The liturgical color for funerals is white. White is the color of great feasts of the church and reflects the joy of the resurrection. The hangings on the altar, the lectern and pulpit, the pall covering the casket or urn, and the priest's vestments are all white. The paschal candle, which is lit at Easter, baptisms and funerals, is placed near the body or ashes to symbolize the presence of the resurrected Christ and the victory of light over darkness.

***Altar Flowers:*** One arrangement of live flowers at the altar may be placed for the celebration of the life of the deceased. Family or friends may coordinate flowers from the Altar Guild through the Church Office. Additional flowers will be placed at the entrance of the church. No flower coverings are placed on the casket during the church service. No artificial or dried flowers are permitted in St. David's Episcopal Church.

***Holy Communion:*** In the Episcopal Church, the Holy Eucharist -- also called the Mass, Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper -- is frequently celebrated as part of funeral or memorial services. The Holy Eucharist is our central Sacrament celebrating Christ's death and resurrection. A celebration of the Holy Eucharist as part of a funeral or memorial service reminds us that we share with Christ in his death and resurrection, and also in the heavenly banquet with the deceased and all saints who have gone before. All people are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.

***The Body:*** The body of the deceased is always treated with dignity and respect. When the casket is present for a funeral, it is closed prior to the service and covered with a white cloth called a pall. The pall reminds us of our white garment of baptism and reminds us that we are all equal in the sight of God. The cross and clergy lead the casket into the church. At the conclusion of the service, prayers of commendation are offered around the casket and the clergy leads the casket out with the family following.

***Cremation:*** This is an acceptable and dignified way of treating the deceased's body. In a sense, cremation merely hastens the natural process of returning a body to ashes and dust. When the ashes are present in an urn, they are treated the same way as a body in a casket. They may be processed in and out of the church or they may be placed on a table before the service begins and covered with a small pall. The ashes may be interred before or after the funeral service or at a later date. A funeral service without a body present is properly called a Memorial Service.

***Guest Book:*** The family is responsible for providing a guest book.

***Reception in Nelson Hall:*** A reception may be arranged following the service. The family and friends must provide their own catering, and pay an additional fee to rent the hall.

***Suggested Caterers:***

Treat's Catering 25 Scarsdale Rd., Dennis, MA 02638 (508) 385-1540

Piccadilly Caterers 1105 Route 28, S. Yarmouth, MA 02664 (508)394-0887

**St. David's Funeral Fee Schedule**

Updated Aug. 2022

Funeral Service:	\$600.00	<i>(includes Organist, Sexton and office expenses)</i>
Clergy Honorarium:	\$250.00	<i>(supports Discretionary Fund for poor and homeless)</i>
Extra Musicians:		to be determined by Music Director
Altar Flowers:	\$75.00	
Nelson Hall Reception:	\$200.00	
Parking Police:	\$220.00	<i>(this fee may apply should we need police support)</i>

**St. David's Memorial Churchyard**

Burial Space:	\$200.00
Brass Marker:	\$175.00
Interment:	\$125.00

*Please write one check payable to St. David's Episcopal Church.*

In case of financial hardship, please contact the Rector in advance of the service.