

A celebration of life...and a time to say “Goodbye”

After the initial news of the death of someone you knew and loved, there are some important things that need to be done.

These are two of the more immediate things:

1. Register the death. There is some helpful guidance on this on the government's births, marriages, and deaths advice page.

<https://www.gov.uk/register-a-death>

2. Meet a Funeral Director. We work closely with local funeral directors. Many Dorset funeral directors can be found through this website

<https://www.funeraldirector.co.uk>

The Funeral Director will talk to you about what kind of funeral you would like. One of the first questions they'll ask is whether you'd like a burial or a cremation. You might like to discuss this with other family members if you're not sure what the preference was of the person who died.

You'll then be asked where you would like the service to be held. If you would like a Burial or Burial of Ashes at St Nicholas' there are Statutory Fees set annually by Parliament that apply to all C of E churchyards.

Further details are available here:

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/parochial-fees-a4_26.pdf

The PCC of St Nicholas has a specific policy concerning burial within the churchyard. In summary, if you live in the parish or if you die in the parish or if you are a regular worshipper at St Nicholas, you may be buried in the yard. However, it is essential that you consult the full policy which is available as a downloadable document from this site.

The Funeral Director will ask about various details, including:

- Whether the funeral should be civil, humanist or religious. Remember you don't have to be religious or a churchgoer to have a Church of England funeral – it is open to all.

- Whether there is a particular minister or celebrant you have in mind to take the funeral.
- What sort of coffin you would like.
- How you would like the coffin to be transported to the service.
- Whether you would like flowers.
- They might ask whether you have any thoughts on music or other special ideas to reflect the life of the person you knew.

If you choose to have a Church of England funeral, someone from the church will visit you to listen to the story of the person you knew, and will go through all the details of the funeral service itself.

Reception venues in Studland

Studland Village Hall www.studlandvillagehall.co.uk

Old Harry Bar www.oldharrybar.co.uk

Shell Bay Restaurant shellbay.net

Knoll House Hotel www.knollhouse.co.uk

Studland Bay House www.studlandbayhouse.co.uk