

Funerals and Thanksgiving Services – St Michael's Church

“St Michael's Church, its Rector and its church community have been helping people mark the end of life for generations – and continues to do so in the 21st Century.”

A Church of England funeral is available to everyone, giving support before, during and after the service, for as long as it is needed.

Everyone living in Aynho is entitled to be buried in the churchyard if they so wish along with each person, temporarily here, or passing through, who dies in the village.



Some individuals prepare for their own funeral and make planned arrangements already shared with their nearest family members and sometimes with our Rector. Others leave it to their families to decide the arrangements after the individual has died.

In whatever situation you find yourself in please don't hesitate to contact **the Rectory office** at office@astwickvalebenefice.org

The Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/here-everyone/flexibility> has very helpful advice concerning the flexible arrangements you may wish to be made for the funeral service and for the burial or cremation.

The funeral service, for example, can be held at the Crematorium in Banbury but still be taken by the Rector.

Cremation, before or after, a funeral service in the Church is also easily arranged.

Whilst the funeral service itself can be adapted to suit your loved one in a most personal way with tributes, hymns or songs and readings or poems which you can choose.

The help and services of a local funeral director will usually be needed; they all have experiences of funeral services and burials at St Michael's Church.

Burials in the churchyard since 2020 are on the south side of the Church – the initial row being along the new path leading from the south door. (The burial ground east of the Church is now full)



Ashes from the cremated remains can be buried in the churchyard – presently being located on the left edge of the wide gravel path leading from the Preaching Cross back up to the double main gate.



Thanksgiving Services or Memorial Services – to celebrate the life of your loved – are also welcomed at St Michael's Church and often provide a really fitting opportunity to remember a special person without the sadness of the loss and departure associated with the funeral itself.

For more information please email the **Rectory office** at office@astwickvalebenefice.org