



**PLYMOUTH**  
CITY COUNCIL

# ARRANGING A BURIAL OR CREMATION

Efford and Weston Mill Cemeteries

# WE ARE HERE TO HELP

**A death in the family or of a friend is a difficult time and we know how hard it can be to organise a funeral.**

This leaflet gives you a guide to the services we offer here in Plymouth and explains some of the issues you will need to consider as well as ways in which you may want to remember your loved one.

## Talk to us first...

Our staff are very experienced and can help you consider what you need to think about – not just the funeral or cremation service – but the final place of rest and any memorials you may want.

While many people use funeral directors, we are more than happy to help and advise you when making arrangements and decisions.

Plymouth City Council has two main cemeteries Efford Cemetery in Efford Road and Weston Mill Cemetery in Ferndale Road. Both also have crematoria.

We also look after cemeteries at Longcause in Cherry Tree Lane, Plympton, and Ridge Cross in Ridge Road in Wembury. Both of these smaller cemeteries are available for full burials or for the burial of cremated remains.

There is also lots of useful information on our website at [www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk)



# MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

## **When someone dies, the Registrar of births, deaths and marriages must be informed.**

Other organisations may also have to be contacted, such as the Department of Work and Pensions and to make it easier, Plymouth's Registrar can do this on your behalf through its 'Tell Us Once' system.

Check if there is a will as this may have requests about the funeral arrangements. If you arrange a funeral, you are responsible for paying the bill so first check where the money will come from and if there will be enough.

## **Cremation**

Services can be carried out by a minister, priest or officiant, it is also possible for friends or family members to lead, if they wish. The coffin is displayed on a pedestal, and at the moment of committal, curtains are drawn slowly around it, unless otherwise requested.

A cremation service lasts approximately 20 minutes, although arrangements can be made for additional time if required. There is a waiting room where friends and family can gather ahead of the funeral cortege arriving.

An organist is available or families can choose from an extensive library of music. The facility to play CDs is also available.

There are no restrictions on the number of floral tributes which may be sent for any funeral. The flowers will be arranged in a special area near the chapel for viewing after the cremation service.

If the cremated remains are to be strewn in the Garden of Remembrance, the main floral tribute will be placed in the area of the final resting place.

All floral tributes will be removed five days after the service to ensure that a high standard is maintained in the display area.

## **Burial Services**

A service may be held in the cemetery chapel or at a graveside following a service elsewhere.

An organist is available or families can choose from an extensive library of music. The facility to play CDs is also available.

Floral tributes are placed on the grave following the service. Before a stone memorial is erected, a small wooden cross is placed on the grave temporarily.

New graves are prepared for two burials and are available for periods of 25, 50 or 100 years.

# FINAL RESTING PLACE

When arranging a funeral, one of the most difficult decisions to make is where the final resting place of the deceased should be. To make this easier, we can look after the remains for up to one month to give people more time to consider the choices available. Our staff are available to discuss options or to show families specific areas of the cemetery where cremated remains can be buried or scattered.

Council-run cemeteries and crematoria are, by law, not able to sell plots or memorials but may lease them.

## Burial plots

For cremated remains, plots are available for one or two caskets.



## Sanctum vaults

For cremated remains, vaults are available for one or two caskets.



## Vase blocks

A inscribed granite vase to place fresh or silk flowers at Weston Mill Garden of Remembrance.



## Wall plaques

Various plaques are available on the walls in the Remembrance Rooms and Gardens of Remembrance.

## Dedicated roses

Standard and bush roses planted in flower beds including a small plaque with a short dedication at the base.

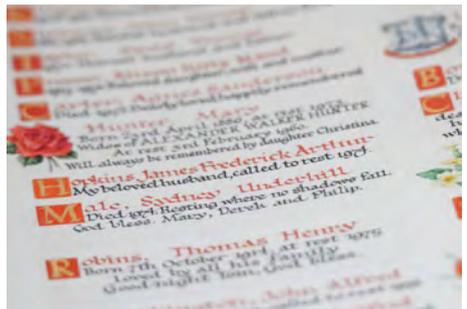


## Trees and benches

Available with a plaque bearing a short dedication.

## Book of Remembrance

Available in the Remembrance Room of our two main cemeteries. A permanent inscription of between two and eight lines is available.



For more information and costs visit [www.plymouth.gov.uk/deathandbereavement](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/deathandbereavement)

All the memorials are subject to availability. We reserve the right to vary or refuse a memorial dedication if it is considered unsuitable. The manager is happy to discuss any form of dedication that can be included in the grounds.

# ABOUT OUR CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIUM

## Efford and Weston Mill Cemetery and Crematorium

Efford chapel can seat 70 people and Weston Mill can seat 100, there is plenty of standing room in both chapels.

Facilities at both include:

- An organist or audio equipment to play favourite pieces of music
- Hearing loop
- larger print service/hymn books are available on request
- wheelchair access and a wheelchair is also available if required
- a speaker system to relay the service to the covered areas and the waiting room.

Both chapels are non-denominational and the cross can be removed on a temporary basis if required

Both have a Remembrance Room where the Book of Remembrance is displayed. The grounds also have columbaria – a colonnade where wall dedications are displayed.

There are also Gardens of Remembrance, an area for quiet reflection.

Efford is also home to the city's Blitz memorial.

Weston Mill is home to one of the largest sections of Commonwealth War Graves in the South West.



## The Baby Garden

This is a place of quiet reflection and remembrance for families who have lost very young, premature or stillborn babies.

As it is a communal area, we try to consider the needs and wishes of the many families who go there to remember their loved ones.

There is a patio with seating, where people can place small items such as toys and ornaments, as we appreciate some families find comfort in placing personal keepsakes in the garden.

Rose bushes and vase blocks are available and there is a dedicated Baby Book of Remembrance in which families may place an entry on request without charge. This is on display in the Book of Remembrance Room.

We provide guidance on what items can be left and ask that only garden or fresh cut flowers are placed on the grassed burial area. We carry out checks to ensure that ornaments and toys are not broken or damaged so that visitors cannot be hurt and maintenance duties can be carried out.

If an item is broken or could be unsafe, we remove them. Ornaments that are intact are stored behind the cemetery office for families to collect. All cemetery fees are waived for a burial in the Baby Garden.



## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Efford Cemetery  
Efford Road  
Plymouth PL3 6NG  
01752 306104

Weston Mill Cemetery  
Ferndale Road  
Plymouth PL2 2EP  
01752 304837

E cemeteries@plymouth.gov.uk

For enquiries about Ridge Cross and Longcause cemeteries please contact Efford Cemetery office.

## OFFICE HOURS

The offices at both cemeteries are open Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm except Bank Holidays.

Cemetery grounds are open every day of the year. The gardens, Book of Remembrance room and columbarium are open at the following times:

- April to September:  
Mondays to Fridays - 9am to 7pm  
Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays - 9am to 5pm.
- October to March:  
Mondays to Fridays - 9am to 4pm  
Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays - 9am to 4pm.

Cars are allowed into the grounds during week days 9am to 4pm and weekends 11am to 3pm.