

Haycombe Cemetery & Crematorium



Baby & Child Memorial and Funeral Information

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Please accept our sincere condolences for your loss. Organising a funeral or choosing a grave or memorial for a baby or child are tasks nobody should have to consider. Bereavement Services can guide you at this difficult time.

We hope to give you an overview in this brochure, but staff are happy to go into more detail, and discuss your circumstances either in-person, by phone or e-mail. Please call us to make an appointment if that would be of help.

Included are options for memorials, services, facilities, and areas specifically for babies and children.

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The Butterfly Section



Options for Ashes and Memorials

(prices change each year and application forms are available from the Main Office)

The Butterfly Section is an area set aside just for babies and young children. Whether you have opted for burial or cremation, there are places to lay your little one to rest, or have their name displayed in this special garden.

There is a picnic bench so that families can visit and spend time close to their little one, under the shade of the shimmering silver birch trees. At the foot of the trees is a conservation area, where wildlife enjoy the habitat. It seems fitting that the babies should be close to nature. Adjoining the areas for burial is a quiet corner for ashes and memorials.



If you have chosen cremation, you may have some ashes that you would like to lay to rest. Even if ashes aren't staying here, you might consider having a memorial to your little one. We have a few ways in which you can pay tribute to your baby or child in this way.

Baby Vase Blocks are individual memorials, available for those who prefer to have their own private plot. With a backdrop of the conservation area, these high-quality granite stones provide a space just for your child. Ashes can be interred in the ground beneath if required. The memorial plaque is formed from polished black granite, featuring gold lettering, with artwork and motifs also an option. A gold-coloured flower vase is provided for each memorial, so there is always somewhere to leave floral tributes.



Baby Vase Block



The Butterfly Shrubbery is a round, barked bed with planting in the centre. Ashes can be interred into the ground within the bed. They won't have a specific spot as this is a communal bed where ashes are close to each other. A metallic silver **Shrubbery Plaque** is optional, and a way to mark where the ashes lie. The inscription and graphics can be chosen to personalise it as you wish.

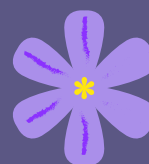


Example Plaque

The Forest Friends Frieze is a colourful scene of animals and flowers. Perspex butterflies in pink, blue or yellow, featuring your child's name and a choice of wording can be placed on the frieze. The bright little butterflies dance in the meadow with the Forest Friends and greet those who pass by the Butterfly Section.



The Butterfly Tower resides in the heart of the Butterfly Section burial area. Red granite plaques with an inscription of your choice can be added to this memorial tower. There are vases for placing flowers below.



Keepsakes - a way to hold them close to you

We keep a selection of beautiful little keepsake urns, which are suitable for storing a small amount of ashes, a lock of hair or other tiny items. Some products can also be engraved. We are happy to show you the range in the Main Office, just inside the main gates.

If you have opted for cremation you might like to consider a truly special item of jewellery, crafted with a tiny amount of your little one's ashes.

We carry the Ashes into Glass range, which are beautiful, quality items for men and women, in various options of colours and settings, including charm beads, and rings. Many items of jewellery can be engraved with a name or message. There are several display pieces in the Main Office, and we can help you place an order for your bespoke piece.



Full Burial

Babies and children up to around two years old can be buried in the Butterfly Section. We don't allow any adult remains to be buried here. We find it comforting to think that the babies are all together.

Each baby has their own individual grave with no cost to the parents. We encourage parents to meet with one of our compassionate and friendly members of staff to be shown the area and talk through what to expect. Parents can then purchase a memorial for the grave later if they wish.

A short, respectful service is usually given at the graveside, or in the Hilltop Chapel by request. A temporary grave marker bearing the name and grave number will be provided.

Graves are also available elsewhere in the cemetery, and these will be offered for older children, or those with specific religious preferences. Family graves can be purchased in various areas of the cemetery, so that parents can join their child when the time comes. Some of these may be subject to a charge.

The government's Child Funeral Fund may be able to help with costs for those who are eligible. We can guide you with this. Further information can be found on page 10.



Cremation

Cremation is an option available to families, and this can be with or without a funeral service.

If you have lost a baby in hospital that was under 24 weeks gestation you will be given the choice to have them included in a shared cremation with other babies. This is done periodically with a short, dignified, non-religious service and is witnessed by staff members.

Children and babies of all ages can also have an individual cremation. These funerals are usually held at the start of the day. Ashes can be collected and taken home or laid to rest here at Haycombe.

Please be aware that despite every effort being made to recover ashes following a cremation, on very rare occasions (particularly with early pregnancy loss) there may be no recoverable ashes.



Holding a funeral

It is entirely optional whether you decide to have a funeral service or not. It may be that you would rather have an intimate gathering with family, or just the parents, or you may prefer not to be present at all. It's whatever feels right to you. If there is to be a burial, the short, dignified service is usually held at the graveside.

If you have lost a baby or child in hospital, the chaplaincy team will be offered to support you to create a short service appropriate to your baby. You are also welcome to enlist your own Minister or celebrant if you prefer.

We have two beautiful chapels here at Haycombe, both of which have been modernised and refurbished in the last few years. Seating can be adapted to meet accessibility needs, large-print hymn books can be provided on request, and a hearing loop is in place.

The **Valley Chapel** is used for cremation services and offers a stunning view over the surrounding countryside.

The **Hilltop Chapel** is a more traditional setting while providing an airy, calming space. It can be used for burial or cremation services and can accommodate a greater capacity of mourners.



Valley Chapel



Hilltop Chapel

The **Obitus media system** is installed in both chapels, allowing families to select any pieces of music they wish, and the screens can display photographs or video if required. Live and on-demand web-casting is also an option in either chapel, offering loved ones the chance to attend and pay their respects even if they can't make it in person.

The costs involved

Money should not be a concern when faced with heartbreak, and thankfully in this case, it doesn't have to be. The basic funeral costs for babies and children are either covered or waived in the majority of circumstances. Children are considered to be anyone up to and including 17 years of age.

There are different organisations that may be involved when a baby or child dies. If a baby has been under the care of a hospital, the hospital will usually have a contract that covers the basic aspects of a funeral, and will enlist a dedicated funeral director to care for the baby and make the necessary arrangements. Even if such a contract is not in place, many funeral directors will kindly waive their fees, or use the Child Funeral Fund to claim them back.

We provide individual graves for babies or children at no charge. Cremations themselves are not charged for. There may be exceptions, and charges may apply depending on the chosen time of a funeral, or location (in the case of burials). Please note that memorial costs are not covered, although contributions may be sought through funding for those who are eligible.

The Child Funeral Fund (CFF) was established by the government to alleviate the distress caused by the financial pressures of affording a funeral. A claim can be made by the Council or funeral director for a variety of costs if not already covered. These are still basic but may expand the options available for burial or cremation.

To be eligible for CFF claims the child would need to be no older than 17 years of age. Babies would need to have had a gestational age of 24 weeks or over, or to have drawn breath. Other criteria apply. For more information please speak to a member of staff or see: www.gov.uk/child-funeral-cost

For costs incurred for the funeral that are not otherwise covered you may like to look into eligibility to make a claim from the Child Funeral Charity:
www.childfuneralcharity.org.uk

If you would like further information regarding burial, cremation, or memorials we are happy to help. Please contact the staff of Bereavement Services at Haycombe Cemetery.



The Sands Garden

We are sorry that you are experiencing the loss of a child. Support is available from the charity Sands:
<https://bath.sands.org.uk/>

Haycombe is home to the Sands baby memorial garden. It is open for all to benefit from and is a perfect place for quiet reflection. It can be found in the West (far right) of the cemetery.