

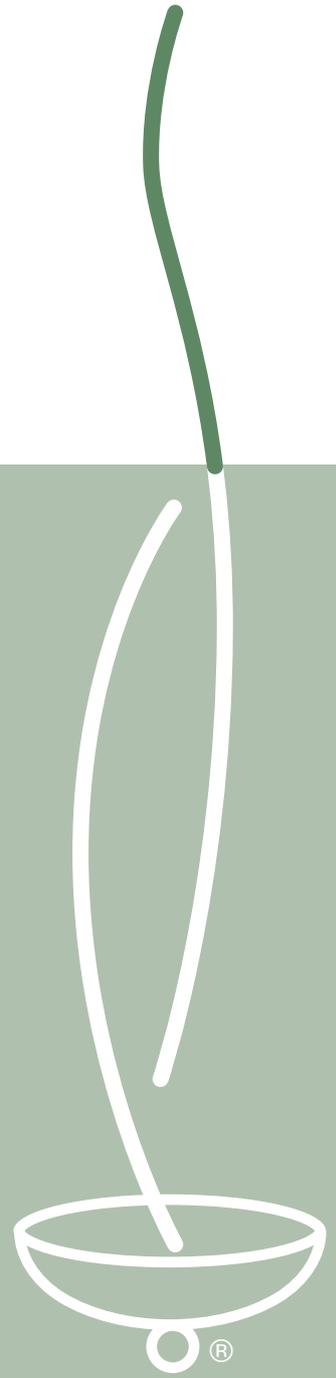
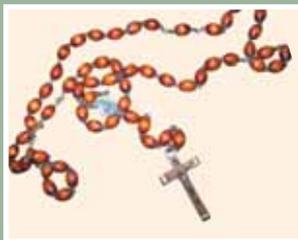
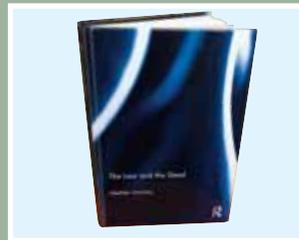
THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF  
THE CREMATION SOCIETY OF GREACN

# PHAROS

## INTERNATIONAL



THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
MAGAZINE FOR  
MEMBERS  
OF THE  
DEATH-CARE  
COMMUNITY



WINTER 2017

VOLUME 83

ISSUE NUMBER 4

FOUNDED 1934

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WINTER 2017

## INTERNATIONAL



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Pharos  
1  
Winter  
2017

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# Dear Reader

It is with sadness that I have to report that two of the Cremation Society's Council Members will be retiring from their duties in November. Stephen White and Malcolm Stronach have served on the Council for many years and their knowledge and advice will be greatly missed.

Winter is on its way, the nights grow darker and colder and the end of 2017 looms closer on the horizon. It is with sadness that I have to report that two of the Cremation Society's Council Members will be retiring from their duties in November. Stephen White and Malcolm Stronach have served on the Council for many years and their knowledge and advice will be greatly missed.

But I would also like to welcome two new Council Members Dr Heather Conway and Mrs Ruth Kehoe who will be "stepping into their shoes". There is a short article on all four on pages 4 and 5.

This edition of *Pharos*, as usual, includes our international statistics and I want to say a big thank you to all of our overseas friends who contribute and to my personal assistant Sue Jackson for all her work on collating the information.

This year's UK Crematoria Survey has had a little "facelift" and I do hope that you like the new format. Many thanks to Julie Forrest for her efforts on the compilation of this information.

I am delighted to announce that in 2018 our CBCE joint event with the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities will be at the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead from 11th to 13th June so please ensure that the dates are in your diary. More details on page 31.

Another date for your diary is March 21st 2018 when a one day Bereavement Services seminar will take place at Hillscourt, Rose Hill, Rednal, Birmingham. This will be a joint event in conjunction with the Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries, the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities and the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management.

On a more serious matter, it was confirmed in the House of Lords that the Government intends to implement reforms to the death certification process no later than April 2019. The government consulted on its proposals which addressed consequential reforms to cremation regulation and will be publishing its response to that consultation shortly.

Finally, I would love to wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

"Nadolig Llawen"



Miriam Deacon

EDITOR

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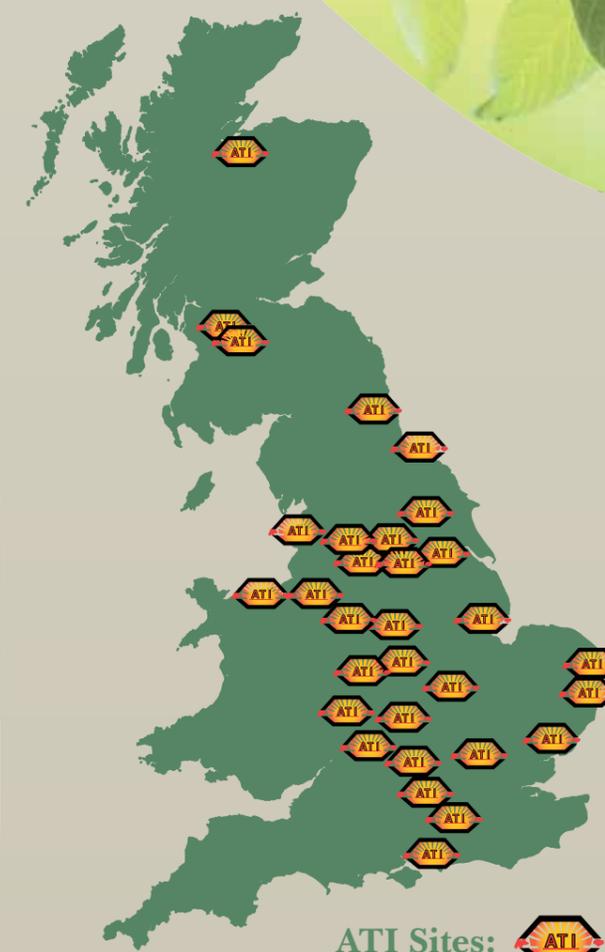
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# Cremation Society Council Members

## We say goodbye to...



### Stephen White

MSc (Wales), Dip Crim (Cantab) 1965 (Criminology), BA (Oxon) 1964 (Jurisprudence)

Stephen White has served the Society's Council since 1997 when he was a senior lecturer at Cardiff Law School. Always a very active member, he has given enormously/tirelessly to the Society's work. With his specialist interests in burial and cremation law he has regularly enlivened and informed Council debate and policy-making. I appreciated his research into the origins of cremation in modern Britain, with articles on the origin of 'The Ashes', the Price Trial, the Society's founding members, the earliest Hindu cremations in the UK and the Cremation Act 1902. His analysis of the 'Radius Clause' of that Act became of critical importance in the debates over Houndwood Crematorium.

Stephen has a wonderful eye for detail. He searches for all angles of an issue, and advised both the Society and the Anglo Asian Friendship Society on the legality of open air pyre cremation. Following the Environmental Protection Act 1990, ethical and environmental issues have become increasingly important in the cremation process. I particularly admired his detailed examinations of the body parts issue (following the Alder Hey and Bristol Children's' Hospital cases), his analysis of Lady Butler-Sloss's Shipman inquiry and his evidence to Thomas Luce's coroners inquiry. He wrestled with the

definition of Resomation® and sought ways – unsuccessfully – to persuade the Ministry of Justice to draft Regulations for it. He represented the Society on the Board of Kent Crematorium Ltd from 2006 until 2010.

He has been a great colleague, even on the rare moments when we disagreed. He has recommended excellent medico-legal conference speakers, and is always ready with a question for platform speakers. He has given regular conference papers, published later in *Pharos International*. He argued successfully for the system of CBCE bursaries, to encourage younger specialists in the field. Over the last nine years, he has worked tirelessly as a co-author of *Cremation in modern Scotland: history, architecture and law* (Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2017) and, as he retires from the Council, we await his *History of, and Law Relating to, the Churchyards of the Church in Wales*.

(Revd Dr Peter Jupp)

### Malcolm Stronach BA

The Society was very fortunate in its appointment of Malcolm Stronach to the Council in 2011. Malcolm qualified as a chartered accountant in 1966 and subsequently worked in senior commercial roles in a series of companies based in the



North East, including Formica; Bowater; Vickers; Dunlop Angus; Commercial Plastics (when it was a Unilever subsidiary and later a Forbo Group subsidiary) and later Irish Group, Barlo. After retiring, Malcolm supported local companies in the North East, but has latterly concentrated his efforts in the charities sector. He is Trustee and Treasurer of the Derwenthaugh Boat Station, a charity which trains young people, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds, in boating skills.

For the past six years the Society has benefitted enormously not only from Malcolm's wealth of experience in finance and the charity sector, but also from his insightful leadership of the Society's financial strategy and investment management. On a personal note, the Council will miss Malcolm's willingness to challenge accepted thinking, his acumen, commitment, directness and good humour. The Society owes him an enormous debt.

(Professor Hilary Grainger)

## ...and welcome



### Dr Heather Conway LLB, PhD

Dr Heather Conway is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Queen's University Belfast. Her research focuses on the substantive laws surrounding the treatment of the dead, the fate of corpses and who has decision-making powers over human remains. Her areas of interest include the resolution of family disputes surrounding funerals, exhumation and commemoration, and their underlying reasons; the legal status of funeral instructions; and the legal and financial issues posed by pre-paid funeral plans. Heather is the author of *The Law and the Dead* (Routledge, 2016).

### Ruth Kehoe FCA, DChA, BSc (Econ) Hons

Ruth is a Chartered Accountant with 26 years' experience, 15 of which have been spent specialising in the charity sector. During this time Ruth has worked both in public practice, as a charity specialist accountant, auditor and advisor, and as a Finance Director in charities themselves. Ruth has developed a strong affinity with and commitment to the sector and is looking forward to using this in her new role with the Cremation Society. Outside of work, her interests include dance, travel, reading and spending time with her family.



Of course, Stephen and Malcolm will be greatly missed, but the Society owes a huge thank you to Heather and Ruth for agreeing to take up the mantle. Their expertise and experience will only further increase the knowledge and future of the society in its position of independence within the industry.

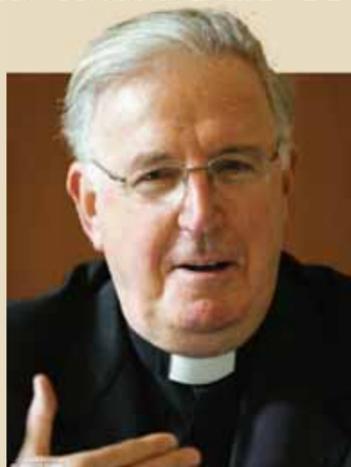
## Obituary:

### Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

Cremation Society Honorary Vice President from 2002-2017

Cormac Murphy-O'Connor was born into a large Catholic Irish family in Reading in 1932, of whom three brothers were to become Catholic priests. With their father a doctor they would have been very aware and involved in issues surrounding death and funerals over the years.

Cardinal Cormac was given the funeral of a prince of the Church, but also a much loved priest in September 2017. He was buried in Westminster Cathedral, where he had been the tenth Archbishop from 2000-2009. To mark this his grave is



in the pavement at the foot of the tenth station of the cross, across from the Chapel of St Patrick, to recall his Irish roots.

When he became Bishop of Arundel and Brighton (1977-2000) he took as his episcopal motto the title of one of the documents of the Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium etc Spes* (Joy and Hope), words which summed up his character and his vocation as a Catholic priest. He was proud to host the Anglican Archbishop of

Canterbury, Frederick Donald Coggan, on his historic visit to Pope Paul VI in 1977. Later as Bishop he continued that

work with other Christians as Co-Chairman of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), being awarded the Lambeth Doctorate in Divinity by the Archbishop George Carey in recognition of his work for Christian unity.

His position in Westminster made him effectively Head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and President of our Bishops' Conference, where he drew his brother bishops together to serve our people, and the nation. It was for this reason that he became the first Roman Catholic prelate to preach before the Sovereign at Sandringham in January 2002.

There were difficult moments, too, which cannot be ignored, and where he was honest about his failures and mistakes. He faced up to these with dignity and humility.

As one of his students and then as a priest, I have fond memories of Cormac, as he was known. Just a few years ago we were together in Rome and celebrated mass in his

titular church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva, near the Pantheon, where he was Cardinal Priest. As we walked out suddenly the bells of every church in the city rang out, announcing the election of the new Pope, the white smoke! Everyone rejoiced, but none more than Cormac who found out later that the new Pope was Francis, the man who was made Cardinal with him in 2001, who had sat next to him so often, and who Cormac felt was just the right man for our times. ■

Mgr Kevin McGinnell

Luton – October 2017

Representing the Cremation Society at the Memorial Mass on the 4th October were Harvey Thomas CBE and his wife Marlies, along with other dignitaries including Princess Anne and the Duke of Kent.



### Tapper Funeral Service unveils plans for £4m private crematorium (Dorset)

Tapper Funeral Service has unveiled its plans for the opening of Harbour View Crematorium in autumn this year.

This will be the first crematorium to open in Dorset for more than 30 years and only the fourth crematorium in the county.

Steven Tapper, joint Managing Director said: 'The structure of the building itself is of vernacular architecture design and influence, and has been taken from Nine Barrow Down in the Purbeck Hills. We also took time to

research and visit inspiring crematoria in Paris as well as Stockholm's Woodland Cemetery.'

The 70-acre site will present a unique offering by housing all facilities required to conduct a funeral, as well as offering a refreshment space and kitchen.

**About my Area**  
22nd June 2017

*Artist's impression*



### An end to 'conveyor belt' funeral services as much-needed crematorium is given the green light (Swindon)

A new crematorium is to be built south of Swindon after planners gave their blessing.

Wiltshire Council's Northern Area Planning Committee agreed unanimously to grant permission to the Westerleigh Group for its scheme at Upper Studley Farm. The news was welcomed by funeral directors in the area. The eight hectare site, close to junction 16 of the M4, had the support of Lydiard Tregoz Parish Council and comes 15 years after Royal Wootton Bassett identified a need for a crematorium.

Swindon Advertiser  
14th July 2017

### Plans lodged for a new crematorium facility on former Bannockburn Hospital site (Stirling)

The Westerleigh Group is proposing to create the facility, a landscaped garden including a garden of remembrance, and areas for the scattering and interment of cremated remains.

The main building will feature a chapel with seating for up to 98 people and potential standing room for a further 100. There will be parking for 86 cars, plus 30 overspill.

Access to the site would be via a new junction from the A9 Falkirk Road, including a right turn lane with space to accommodate cortèges without disrupting the flow of traffic on the route.

Information issued by Westerleigh said: 'At the moment, the expected 1,000 cremations per year would be held predominantly at Falkirk, which is too far for the bereaved to travel, and the fees that are charged for non-residents of Falkirk are some of the highest in the UK.'

Daily Record  
31st August 2017

### Crematorium plan is given the go-ahead by planning chiefs (Fladbury, Worcestershire)

An ambitious plan to build a crematorium in Fladbury to serve Pershore and the Vale of Evesham has been given the go-ahead by Council chiefs.

Wychavon District Council gave consent for the new crematorium by a majority of 12 votes to two.

The Westerleigh Group will begin construction later this year with the hope of opening the crematorium as early as autumn 2018. The crematorium will ease pressures on crematoria in Worcester and Redditch.

Evesham Observer  
6th August 2017

### Developers 'will be back' with another crematorium application for greenbelt land near the Waseley Hills (Rugby, Worcestershire)

The developers behind the controversial application for a crematorium on greenbelt land has said that Bromsgrove District Council's handling of the proposal could have been better.

We reported in last week's paper that the appeal by H2Land Ltd had been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

In response to the decision a spokesperson for the developers said: 'Unfortunately, the appeal was dismissed

on a technicality relating to the ecological surveys being out of date, with all the planning decisions taking longer than they should have.

'We will be making a new application, which will include the updated ecology surveys and anticipate the Council will wish to avoid further significant taxpayer costs in this process and approve the application.'

Bromsgrove Standard  
22nd August 2017

### Crematorium will 'bus mourners in' if site floods (Watermead, Aylesbury Vale)

Despite planning permission for a new crematorium in Watermead being quashed in March, the developer is back.

They've proposed a solution to the issue of where people park when the site floods – get mourners to park in the town centre and they'll provide a bus service to and from the site. They've also offered to pay parking fees.

One local resident said: 'Parking in public car parks and "ferrying" into the crematorium is not a suitable resolution to the problems that were instigated by Judge Lindblom when he quashed the planning application. The developer's flood management plan states that the flooding occurs slowly. Well, when we had floods in 2014 it occurred overnight and Watermead Piazza was under three feet of water; and it lasted for three weeks.'

Mix96.co.uk  
21st July 2017

### Retford set to get two crematoria after rival bids are both approved (Nottinghamshire)

Last week applications for two sites at Babworth and at Barnby Moor, were approved by Bassetlaw District Council's Planning Committee, and work is set to begin on one within weeks.

Steve Bucknell, Development Director at the Westerleigh Group, who are behind the bid, said: 'Westerleigh will move on site and start construction as soon as the relevant planning conditions have been discharged in the coming weeks.'

Memoria, who have been planning to build a crematorium in Bassetlaw for years, has approval for a site off Old London Road, Barnby Moor.

A spokesperson for the company said: 'We are delighted to have received planning consent for this much needed public service facility. As soon as we receive our decision notice, we will be in a position to move things forward.'

Bassetlaw District Council confirmed the applications have been approved, but declined to comment further.

Nottingham Post  
26th July 2017

# UK Crematoria Survey 2017



Once again the Society has surveyed all the crematoria in the UK to obtain the latest information about fees, and to learn more about existing practices and facilities.

The Society is extremely grateful for the information provided by crematoria and hopes it will be of interest in providing a picture of a continuing evolving cremation movement.

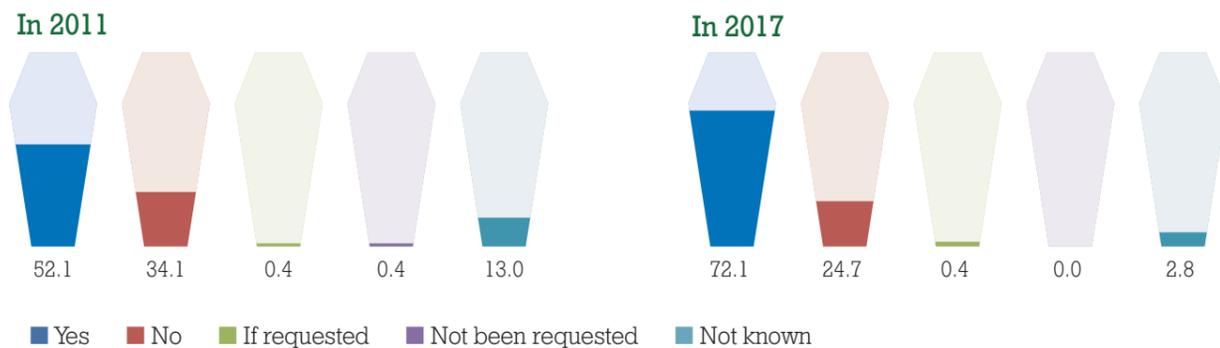
The latest situation is compared with the situation as it was in 2007, and for comparative purposes, where a subject was not covered in 2007 the earliest date for which information is available is shown.

However, where no returns have been received the answers to the questions must be regarded as 'unknown' for the purposes of these stats, and this will have caused some anomalies in the graphs when comparing them with those of previous years.

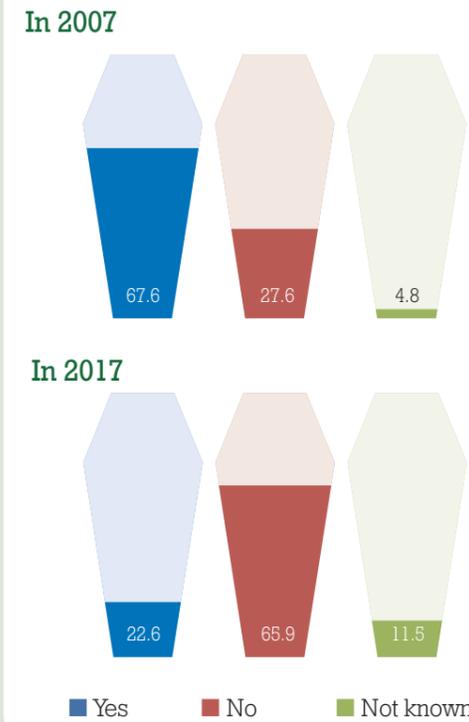
## Crematoria booking slots Duration of service in minutes / Percentage of crematoria



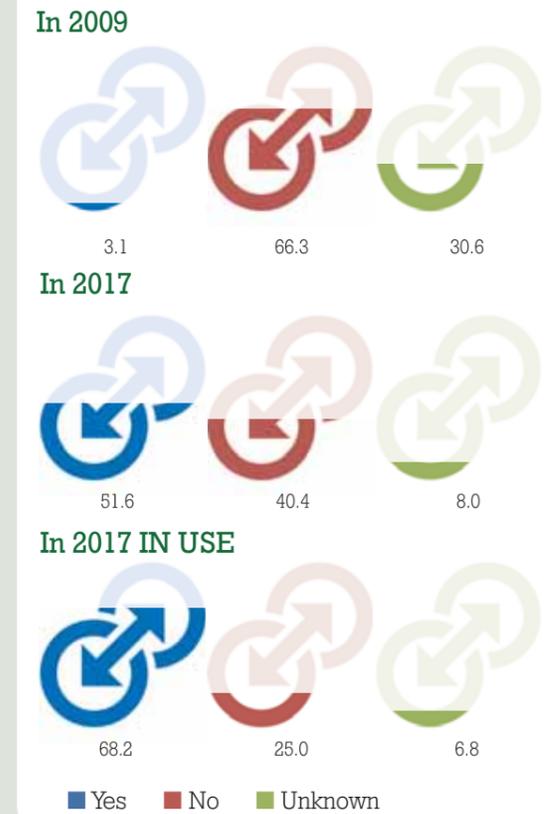
## Crematoria allowing removal of coffin lid during service Percentage of crematoria



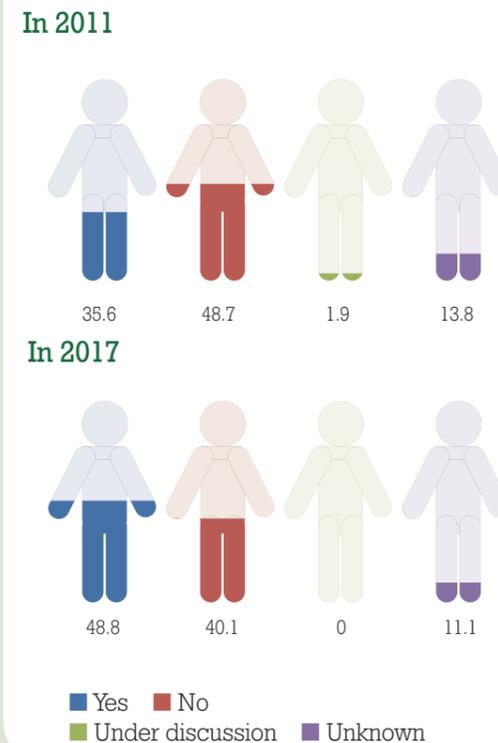
## Crematoria having declined a large coffin Percentage of crematoria



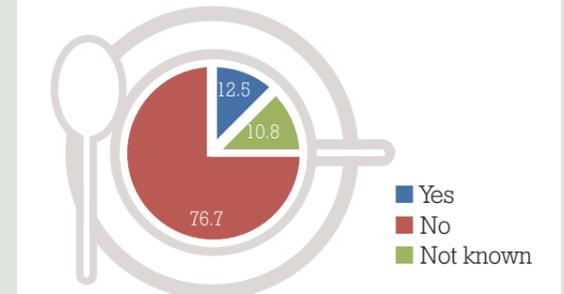
## Crematoria with heat exchangers Percentage of crematoria



## Crematoria holding over bodies Percentage of crematoria



## Crematoria with tea rooms in 2017 Percentage of crematoria



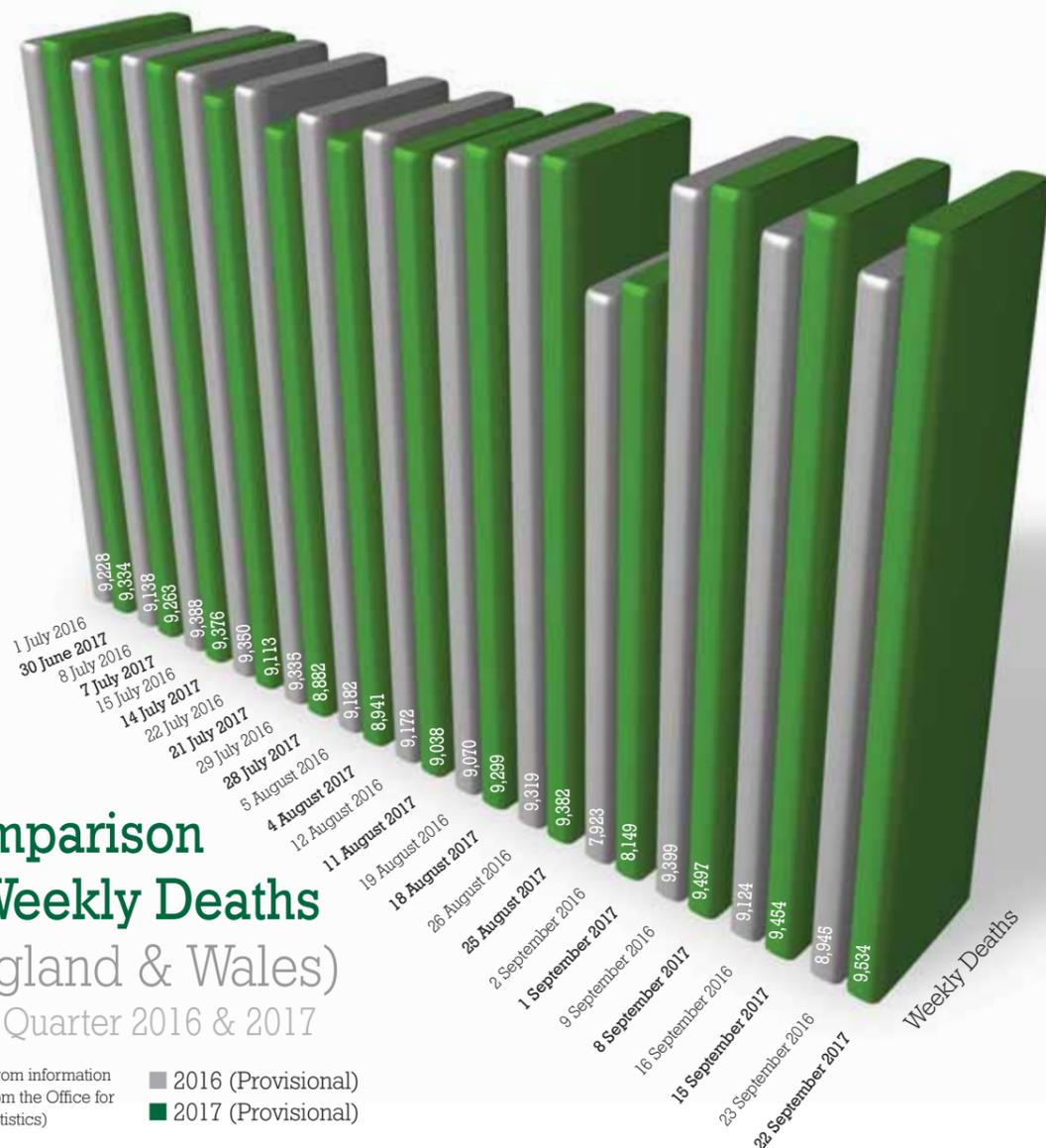
## Crematoria with tea rooms with an alcohol licence in 2017 Percentage of crematoria



## Comparison of Weekly Deaths (England & Wales) Third Quarter 2016 & 2017

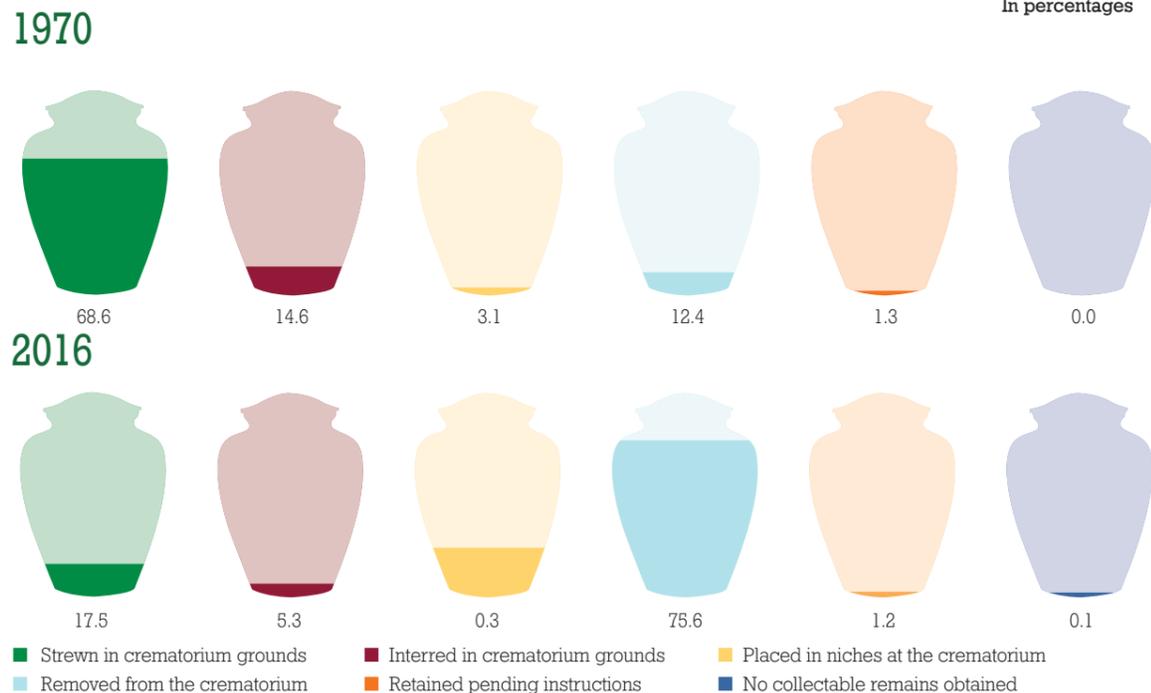
(Prepared from information available from the Office for National Statistics)

■ 2016 (Provisional)  
■ 2017 (Provisional)



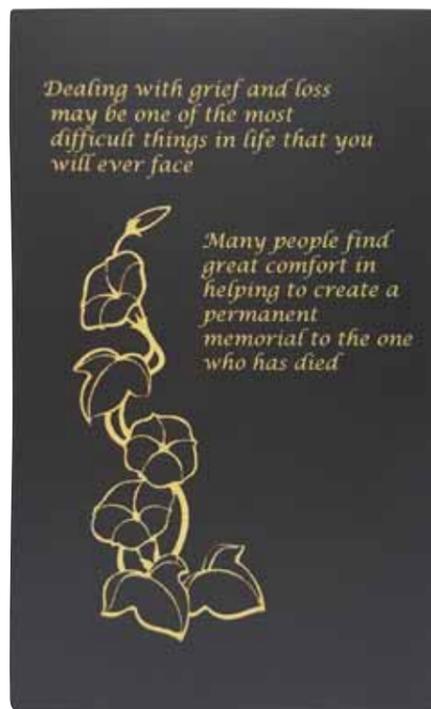
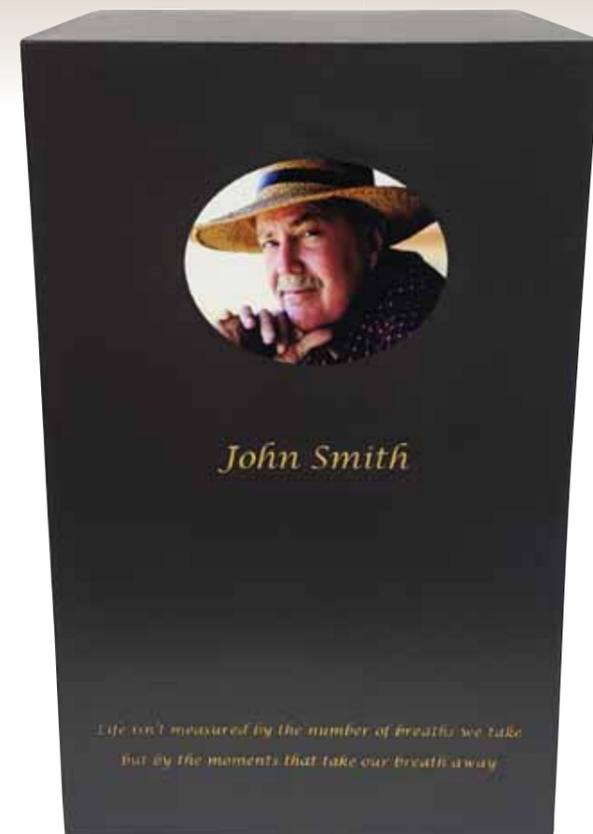
## Disposition of Cremated Remains in Great Britain

In percentages



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# Grief Across Communities



By Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, FRCP, FRCGP FMedSci  
Co-chair, Living and Dying Well

As a Parliamentarian and somebody now involved in the National Mental Capacity Act rollout, I thought I would like to use this opportunity to update you about some of the legal issues around death and dying, and the impact that it has for individuals and across the communities that you may be dealing with, partly because some aspects that are poorly understood.

Legislation doesn't just set regulations, it sends social messages. Clear social messages from legislation have happened over seatbelts in cars, smoking in public places and so on. It's just the same with all other pieces of legislation. Even tax law sends messages – sometimes rather negative messages – but it sends messages.

I am going to talk about the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and your obligations under it as providers of services, and then a little about some of things around end-of-life, some of the myths that go around end-of-life and particularly around so-called 'assisted dying'.

In The National Mental Capacity Forum, we are talking to people across all sectors, particularly with people with impaired capacity. This is a societal change and we are trying to build a societal movement. It's important to remember that everyone providing services, and that includes all of you, is subject to obligations under the Act, just as do banks, building societies, post offices, utilities and so on. This isn't just around health and social care.

## The five principles of the MCA

Could you raise your hand if you can tell me the five principles of the Mental Capacity Act? OK, no hands going up! I'm going to teach you in one minute. Everybody raise your left hand.

Here goes – one finger at a time:

1. Your little finger – you presume somebody has capacity for that decision at that time.
2. Your ring finger – people must not be treated as unable to make a decision unless all practical steps to help have been taken without success; people may need support

in language, or in the way things are explained to them. For example, someone with language difficulties might not understand the written word, but would understand a diagram or picture. We all need support at times.

3. The third (middle finger) – we can all make unwise decisions if we have capacity for that decision. Those of you that have a wedding ring on that ring finger might think that that was an unwise decision, but I believe you probably had capacity at the time that you took the decision to get married!
4. Your forefinger represents 'Best Interests' decisions (with your thumb make a pincer movement). When people *lack* capacity, the power is in your hand. That pincer movement is the strongest movement in your hand – that's like the power when you have to take a decision on behalf of somebody else, and it has to be in *their* best interests, not in yours.
5. And, of course, you can't keep people under your thumb – of the possible options, the decision you take must be the one that is the less restrictive of their rights and freedoms.

All that is really important because lots of conditions impair capacity, some permanently such as brain injury and some temporarily. Even acute grief can impair capacity for some decisions to some extent.

## Assessing capacity in practice and detecting vulnerability:

You can do a very quick assessment of capacity to get some idea as to whether the person can make *that* decision at *that* time, or whether they have an impairment and you need to be thinking 'do you have an obligation in the best interests' principle.

How do you detect vulnerability?

This is the Chinese symbol for listening. It is expressive because it points out that you don't just listen with your ear; you listen with who you are, with your eyes, with your undivided attention and you listen from the heart.





The Chinese symbol for 'listen'

Everybody knows if they are talking to somebody who is not giving their undivided attention, they are not really listening. And, actually, most listening is not with your eyes, it's with all those other senses, particularly that 'gut feeling', that sense of who you are as a person and from your heart.

### Capacity is time and decision specific

Capacity must be assessed for *that* decision at *that* time; there is no blanket formula. So, the MCA lays out four steps:

1. First, does the person have a disorder of the mind or brain? And if they do, is that disorder interfering with their ability to make a decision. Somebody who has a brain tumour or following a massive head injury, may have impaired capacity for some decisions; sometimes their social skills cover it up initially. But you need to think whether the disorder is impairing their ability to make a decision, and you must adjust the way you give information to support them as much as possible to make their own decision.
2. Second, can they understand the information you are giving to them? And can they retain it as long as needed? With some mental conditions, people can understand the information, but it flits through like a jet plane through their brain; they don't retain it and can't use it usefully.
3. Third, the most important step that people often miss out is to see if the person can weigh that information up in making a decision? Can they balance that in terms of the pros and cons to make the decision? Can they consider the implications for self and for others?
4. Fourth, can they communicate their decision? And, of course, where language difficulties, expressive communication disorders, etc. exists, such communication can really be quite difficult. You may need to take time to check it out, go over it, and check things out again. It is quite useful to go back and check back after a time if

Capacity must be assessed for *that* decision at *that* time; there is no blanket formula.

you have any doubt, because if you get a very different response, that may reinforce your hunch that there is 'something not quite right here'.

In the National Mental Capacity Forum that I chair, we have been trying to hear the voice of the person. We've been hearing from people with learning difficulties, head injuries, dementia, psychiatric conditions and so on, about the difficulties they encounter in society; their sense that they are not listened to, not recognised and not adequately supported in making all kinds of decisions that they have to make in everyday life.

A situation that focusses on you in particular, is reducing risk and preventing exploitation – particularly reducing risk. That often relates to financial risk for people when buying and paying out for goods or services. The whole banking and building society sectors have been taking this very seriously and working at guidance for their staff on 'the vulnerable customer'.

Resources relating to the MCA are on the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) website; the pages for the National Mental Capacity Forum have links and resources that you can dip into and use. There is a little video of me doing the 'five-finger' example of the principles of the MCA. We have tried to tailor it for different groups, such as the police, etc. who often encounter people with impaired capacity. There's a leaflet about next-of-kin as there is a misunderstanding amongst the public generally about what next-of-kin is and what it means.

So, the National Mental Capacity Forum is trying to set the tone in society that everybody matters. And to acknowledge that everyone has to make decisions that are right for them, for those around them and for those who are dependent upon them and interdependent with them.

The elephant in the room is money; as much today as it ever was. One of the problems when it comes to arranging funerals is that people's capacity is often impaired by grief and all kinds of psychological mechanisms that may mean that they feel they want to emotionally compensate for the death. For example, if they've had a row and never had a chance to make amends – all kinds of feelings can make them feel that they need to compensate.

And, of course, grief itself can distort thinking. One of the problems that arises is that people are unrealistic about the costs a funeral can incur; they often think they will get a funeral grant to pay for everything, when actually they may not even be eligible for a grant and it certainly won't pay for everything. And so they can run up huge debts because they are taking bad decisions at the time.

Where that becomes important for you in the funeral business is that if you ignored that they had impaired capacity in making that decision, you could be deemed culpable for them having run up those debts. There hasn't been a legal case yet, but I think it's only a matter of time until there's a case where someone has run up huge debts in the misguided belief that either they would get everything paid for, or that the costs would be different. Some of the things that people commit to with a funeral seem crazy, because there is no way that they can afford it all however much fund-raising they do. But I recognise there's a problem too because you are in business; you've got to sell your services; you need to have an income, and so there's a tension in that contractor relationship.

### Children

Another difficulty, of course, is around children; I was really heartened to see that you've got a display about children and dealing with children who are bereaved, because children are very often left out; it may well be that the funeral director is the person who triggers awareness of the child's needs. I've been really impressed with some funeral directors who have very good leaflets and information for any children in the family, but the topic of children needs to be raised proactively.

I think the Royal Family must be commended for the way that they have raised awareness about grief and bereavement by speaking openly about it. I'm sure Prince Harry and Prince William, with Kate's support, have done more for bereaved young people than all the bereavement services in the whole of the UK put together. He has taken the taboo away, opened the conversation and said it is respectable to be bereaved, troubled and in turmoil – it's fine and it's normal – not a sign of weakness. I think they have been absolutely astounding in what they've done.

It's worth remembering that whilst in health care we have patients, we also have families who are actually secondary patients in the system; whatever we do lives on in their memory.

You are all aware that the way that a funeral is conducted is actually emblazoned on the memory of the family – particularly, of course, if something goes wrong. That is the *one* thing they will remember. But they will also remember the tiniest acts of kindness, the tiniest acts of respect will be really important to them.

Children have all kinds of questions. They are often not

given the option of whether they want to go to the funeral or not; they are often not given the option of whether they want to see the body or not; they may have wanted to be present at the death and been excluded; the school may have been unaware of what was happening.

So please check that the school knows, that clubs that the child goes to know, and ask what the children want, whether they have they been involved and make provision for the children to come to the funeral if they want to. I would love it if crematoria had a play room so children could go in and out and feel comfortable. I went to a funeral recently where there were some little ones running around for a bit; it felt really normal, but their parents got really embarrassed,

picked the little ones up and took them out, but then there was nowhere for them to go. If they could have just gone and played for a bit and then come back in, it would have all felt much more normal.

Children have questions that adults don't know how to answer; again, it can be helpful if you can help them open up the conversation, because you are used to talking about death and bereavement. That's your business – you have got the words and the phrases; you know how to talk about death.

Parents may not understand that grieving children behave quite differently to grieving adults, so they will run around and be noisy and then they will be sobbing, and then 10 minutes later they will be being naughty. Their emotions swing all over the place in their grief; this is quite different to the way adults behave, but the parents need to understand it.

Grandparents, for some children, are the most stable people in their lives. So even if it's a really elderly person who has died, just ask the question, 'Are there children affected by this death?' In our current world of chaotic families, that grandparent may have been the one stable point. Some children who have many 'uncles' who come and go; the siblings may have different fathers, but if grandmother has been the one stable point, then the loss of grandmother may mean that they've actually lost their main reference point in life, and the one person that they can talk to.

### Memories

Cicely Saunders who founded the modern hospice movement said that the way a person dies lives on in the memory of those left behind. Just so true. It doesn't matter ▶



Cicely Saunders who founded the modern hospice movement said that the way a person dies lives on in the memory of those left behind. Just so true.

how good the care has been for weeks or months, when something goes wrong, that's what people remember; it's emblazoned on their memory.

I have had conversations with elderly people who recount the death of a parent or sibling decades previously. They have carried this memory with them – often of a bad experience – for their whole life and it has subliminally distorted all of their thinking.

Let's consider how we all make decisions. Our emotions and our feelings are the main influence. Irrespective of however much objective information you have, it's feelings, emotions and memories that all influence the way any of us decide what we are going to do or don't do.

In my hospice we ran a bereavement group for children; they often drew their feelings and experiences. Children have their feelings, but don't know how to express them. Only about half of schools have staff with training in bereavement support for children. School can be particularly difficult for bereaved children; they get shunned, bullied, feel left out, are not included socially and they get told all kinds of terrible things by other children. I came across one family where the child had been told by kids in the playground that his father had HIV – he didn't; he was dying of cancer – but they were taunting this child and suggesting that his father had had all kinds of sexual experiences that they shouldn't even have been talking about. It was just straight nastiness, but unbelievably damaging to the bereaved child.

it doesn't mean that the last dose of drug killed a person. They die of the underlying condition.

When morphine is given, it is given with the intention of relieving pain. Doctors know that if somebody is very sensitive to opioids it might lower their breathing rate; that's a known complication of using morphine. So to avoid slowing the rate of breathing, the dose is carefully titrated against the pain.

That is quite different to what [Dr Harold] Shipman did. He injected a large dose of diamorphine intravenously into people who didn't need pain relief, and we don't know what else he did; perhaps he suffocated them as well, because his crimes went largely undetected, he committed suicide without revealing what he did.

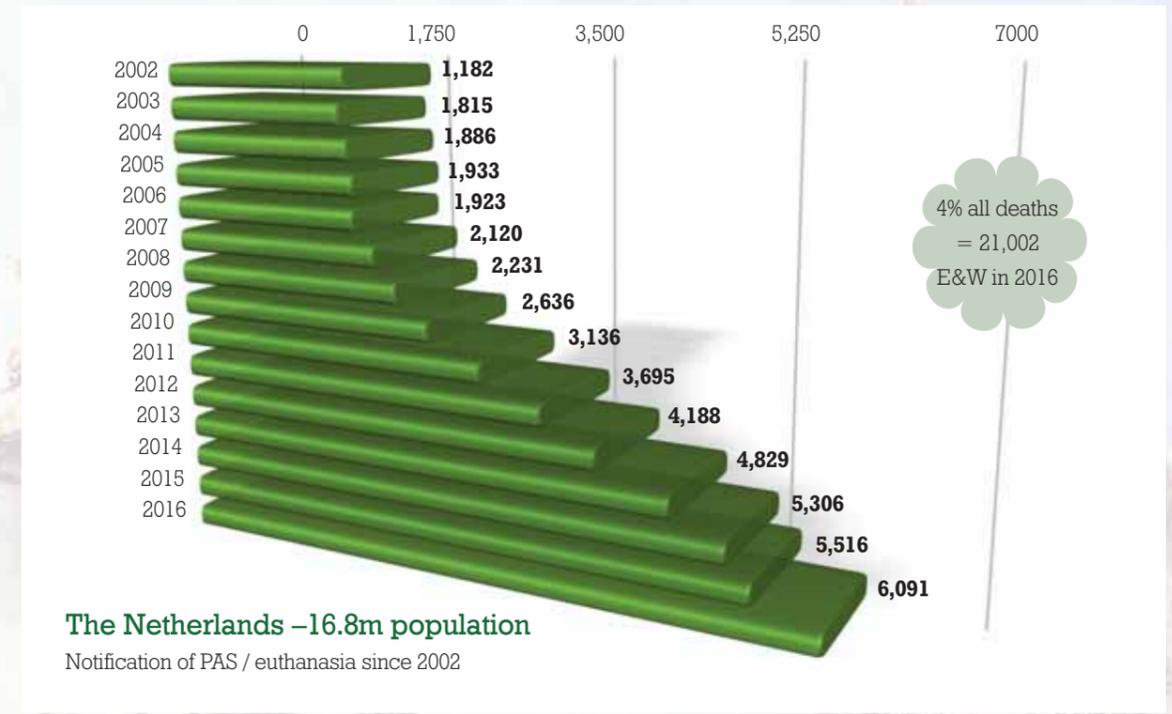
Let me also explain why if someone is taken off a ventilator, this is not 'killing them'. They would have died of their disease earlier, but they are taken off the ventilator either because they are refusing the treatment or because it has become futile. They have been kept alive by the ventilator artificially, and they die of their disease. All care must still be given if a person refuses treatment and there is very good guidance about how to take someone off a ventilator to keep them symptom-controlled. The guidance has now been audited and the preliminary results from that audit show that it is very effective at ensuring a peaceful dignified death – not choking, not breathless, nothing.

That is completely different to 'assisted dying', where a lethal dose of drugs is supplied or administered to deliberately foreshorten life. The person dies of the lethal dose of drugs, not their underlying disease.

And what is 'assisted dying'? There are two forms: assisted suicide and euthanasia. In assisted suicide, the person takes a massive overdose of barbiturates, probably around 50 tablets of a barbiturate dissolved in a tumbler of water; it's a huge fixed dose that would never be used therapeutically. The Dutch tried to use morphine, but actually found that patients woke up again and it didn't work for euthanasia, so they abandoned it. In euthanasia, such as is practiced in The Netherlands, the person is injected with a short-acting anaesthetic agent to induce coma. Sometimes a curare-like drug is added to completely paralyse them – they can't move a muscle, so they die of asphyxia. These

are drugs used in the state execution of prisoners in The USA.

Sometimes I am challenged over my resistance to this in medical practice. The proposals for 'assisted dying' are unsafe because there is no factual certainty on which to base a decision, because impaired decision making goes



undetected and because doctors cannot ensure a request for death is totally voluntary.

Let's look at factual accuracy first. As some of you may be aware, diagnostic errors are not uncommon; at post-mortem 5% of people are found to have died from a condition different to the one for which they were receiving treatment. As for prognosis, we cannot predict how long somebody is going to live. My classic prognostic error was in 1991 when I and three other senior doctors thought a gentleman was only going to live for about three months at most; he is still alive today and living well. I was in contact with him last week.

Then there is mental capacity. Capacity can be really difficult to assess; in about a third of people with a neurological disease, impaired capacity is missed. Serious clinical depression is also often missed, yet it underpins a desire for death.

And then, importantly, how can a doctor judge there is no coercion? We don't know what goes on behind closed doors. The reasons most people seek assisted suicide or euthanasia are social, not medical reasons. Sadly, over the years I have learnt that not all families are loving families. Whilst most parents love their children, not all children love their parents; elder abuse, financial and other coercive pressures

are going undetected across society.

One of the other problems is that ending your life can become normalised.

In jurisdictions that have gone down this road, the official data shows incremental increases in numbers year on year. Oregon only allows assisted suicide, not euthanasia and their trend is for increasing numbers, as it is in The Netherlands, where now one in 26 of all deaths from all causes are from euthanasia (that includes trauma and everything else). These are huge numbers – something has changed in society.

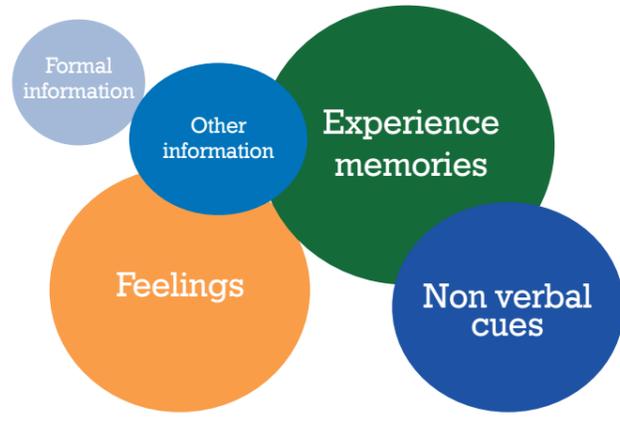
Here in Parliament 'assisted dying' was firmly rejected by the House of Commons in September 2015 – by 330 votes to 118 on a free vote.

### Our legacy

Let us always remember that for people who are bereaved, the memory lingers on. Everything we do will be remembered at the traumatic time of loss and grief. It is our legacy.

It's down to every individual to support people who are bereaved, because the way that people die lives on in the memory of those left behind. Thank you. ▶

### How we make decisions



### Did the last injection kill?

There's a dangerous myth, perpetrated by the media, that morphine kills. Let me explain this fallacy and why end-of-life decisions are not the same as life-ending actions.

When someone is dying, there will always be a last dose of drug, just as there has always been a last cup of tea, but



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# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## Stephen White – Cremation Society Council Member

Thank you for that stimulating talk. I would like to ask a question about the Mental Capacity Act. What exactly would the legal consequences be if a funeral director had failed to detect that a customer lacked the capacity to make the specific decision about the cost to be incurred for a funeral and incurred costs that they were quite unable to pay?

## Baroness Finlay

Well, a short answer is, I don't know because nobody has brought a case yet. But I think it may only be a matter of time. I think though, apart from looking at what would happen if a case was brought, probably it would simply be that the funeral director's costs would not be paid – they would just be written off. I doubt there would be more than that, but I do think you have a moral duty in society to try to make sure that people don't opt for things that they clearly can't afford. I co-chaired Dying Matters through the National Council for Palliative Care, which has now merged with

Hospice UK. In Dying Matters we are trying to help people talk about writing a will and planning their funeral (buying a funeral in advance). Anecdotally, I bought my uncle's funeral some years before he died; he was delighted each time the cost of funerals went up, looking at how much money we'd saved. But the thing that was really important, for us as a family, was that when he died it was easy because we didn't have any of the decisions crowded out by emotion. We had already chosen a coffin, decided about cars and so on, and I am sure we would have spent a lot more on extras if we hadn't already calmly decided. Importantly (a) it helped us to talk openly with him about his death and what he wanted and didn't want, and (b) it meant that we could get on with missing him and talking about him and grieving, rather than being caught up with discussions within the family about funeral plans.

## Anne Barber, Trustee – Child Funeral Charity

I was really interested following on from Stephen's question. We come across an awful lot of families who have lost a

child or baby who are then thinking they need to have horses and carriages, particularly in this area, and I just wondered, going back to what Helene Marshall was saying about what's happening in Scotland with the education side of things, whether there was any possible intervention before they start making those choices, in terms of information for families, that it need not have to cost a huge amount of money?

## Baroness Finlay

I think sadly parents are never prepared for the death. There are sudden deaths – the child who runs out onto the road, etc. – when grief is compounded if the parent feels guilty about the child's death. Fewer children now die of malignancy and chronic deteriorating conditions; whatever the cause, parents are rarely prepared. They hope against hope that their child will be the one that doesn't die and survives. Because, as a parent, it's out of the natural order of things to lose your child before you die. I do think there's a real problem though about actually impaired decision making, and I know what you mean about horses and carriages, feeling the child was a princess, with the Disney-type pressures too. That puts a huge onus on you to try to help them to be imaginative and find ways of doing what they want without running up huge debts. I think there's a huge onus on you all to discuss and think imaginatively with the family about what would meet what the child may have wanted. You can help them realise that their overwhelming grief is private and internal and nobody judges ill of them by having a gentle funeral for the child that they love. It's a really difficult situation and demands all your empathy and communication skills.

## Ian Rudkin, Co-operative End of Life Services

When will the learned friends in Parliament start talking about death and dying on the national curriculum and making it a sole subject rather than incorporating it into social sciences, or whatever they call it now? To have the subject of death and dying in the curriculum and across the different age groups.

## Baroness Finlay

We have tried and tried and tried! We are continually being told that the curriculum is really crowded, etc. I think actually we are getting there though by drip, drip. There's been stuff from Dying Matters that's gone to schools and into the curriculum. I would like the Department of Education to set up a one-stop point for schools in particular. Because when they've got bereaved children, they need advice which is age specific and situation specific. There are so many websites, but actually people need a one point of contact and to then be steered on. It really struck me when a girl in my grandson's class died; the headmaster said that this was the first time they had had a death in their school, and the school is now in the area of the Grenfell Tower (London). Now, of course, many in the school are bereaved. Teachers have lost friends or family, children have lost friends or family in that fire and that empty shell is visible from the school route. I agree that we need to do more to push for open discussion and help schools cope.

## Ian Rudkin

Perhaps our services could put some pressure on.

## Baroness Finlay

Absolutely, I would be really glad to work with you through Dying Matters so that we get a concerted single voice.

## Revd Dr Peter Jupp – Chairman of the Session

This has been a remarkable paper in what is a bereavement issues morning at CBCE. We know that in two months we shall be coming up to the twentieth anniversary of the death of Princess Diana and the enormous amount that that did to encourage bereavement support groups and to enable people to have the taboo about death further lifted. Thank you very much indeed Baroness Finlay for the frankness and gentleness with which you have spoken to us today and to wish you all the very best in the special and varied work that you do. ■

## Biography

**Baroness Finlay** is a Welsh doctor, professor of palliative medicine and an Independent Crossbench member of the House of Lords. She is a professor of palliative medicine at Cardiff University School of Medicine, consultant at the Velindre cancer centre in Cardiff and a Vice President of Marie Curie. Lady Finlay chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dying Well and is co-chair of the All-Party Carbon Monoxide Group.



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### The Law and the Dead

**Dr Heather Conway**  
London: Routledge (2017)  
ISBN: 978-0-415-70694-0

This very informative and useful text has come from Dr Heather Conway, Senior Lecturer in law at Queen's University, Belfast. Dr Conway focusses on a number of substantive issues relating to the recently-dead and their 'post-mortem' fate. She is correct in her observation that 'disposal' of the dead is a rather grey and pragmatic term for what is a highly emotional and significant act, but 'disposal' has become a word for which scholars dealing with this aspect of mortality can find no ready replacement. The text deals principally with the UK, but also draws on practice from jurisdictions derived from the British system. It is slightly unfortunate that the text appears in advance of recent Scottish changes: it would have been interesting to have read Dr Conway's views on the new proposals.

The text deals principally with current legislation, looking backwards in time to set context where to do so is deemed to be useful. There is a sense that legal dispute is not necessarily a new or increasing activity, as Dr Conway suggests, but rather that its tone and content shifts according to societal change. The nineteenth century was rife with apoplexy engendered by church/chapel burial politics played out in legal disputes in cemeteries all over England and Wales. These disputes very nearly led to the disestablishment of the Church of England.

Dr Conway has excelled in the exploration of legal issues in family burial disputes. Much of this work is reflected in chapter 4, 'Resolving funeral disputes' and chapter 5, 'Funeral instructions: the case for ante-mortem planning'. Here the point is robustly made that current legislation contains contradictions in its treatment of familial succession, and is insufficiently flexible to accommodate new family forms. Step families, blended families, civil partnerships and even the now commonplace incidence of unwedded couples are still poorly acknowledged in laws framing decision-making rights in the event of a death. These chapters are set in a broader frame which explores issues from the moment of death, through bodily disposal laws and on to organ donation, exhumation and memorialising the dead. There is discussion of new disposal technologies and digital memorial practices, and questions on the capacity of current

legislation to regulate innovation and new behaviours. Dr Conway has gracefully moved some issues to one side including – for example – law on the definition of death and on what constitutes a dead body.

There is much to find enjoyable in this text. The law can be confused and difficult but legal writing does not need to be, and this text is immediately

accessible. Dr Conway charts a brisk pathway through a great deal of legal complexity, which for the most part underlines the very opaque nature of the law, degrees of unnecessary duplication and contradiction, and lacunae where one might expect to find at least guidance if not regulation. The text is aimed very much at those with some basic understanding of legal procedures although the wider audience of death scholars and practitioners will find much that is useful.

Book reviews tend to be a reviewer's paean to the text they wish had been, rather than the text in hand. It is not my place to discuss the value of the book to cremation practitioners. I am guilty of wishing that Dr Conway had addressed in rather more detail issues relating to grave re-use: the chapter on exhumation appears to be rather lacking without some reference to grave shortages as a principal reason for the change introduced by s2 of the Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2014. It would also have been good to have seen discussion of problems relating to the transfer of burial rights. Issues on organ donation are well rehearsed elsewhere, and so could be omitted here. I would have preferred to have seen greater concentration and more extended debate on less-well understood aspects of burial and cremation law. Green or woodland burial grounds ostensibly sit largely outside any formal legal frame but are covered in good practice guidance and – presumably – consumer law. It would have been useful to have explored the legal protection afforded families and individuals using this or indeed any sort of private sector burial provision.

Reviewers have to find niggles, and these were mine. Nevertheless, I would be not at all hesitant in recommending this text to academics, practitioners and policy-makers, and feel sure that it won't stray far from my desk.

**Dr Julie Rugg, Cemetery Research Group, University of York**

There is much to find enjoyable in this text. The law can be confused and difficult but legal writing does not need to be, and this text is immediately accessible.

# Zoroastrian Funerals

By Charles Ward

The Zoroastrian religion is unique in that it bans both burial and cremation.

It bans burial because interring a dead human body pollutes the earth. Some Cremation Society members might agree.

It also bans cremation because, to Zoroastrians, fire represents the sacred purity of God. It is why a traditional Zoroastrian funeral demands that the body be taken to a Tower of Silence to be torn to pieces by vultures. A handful of Towers still exist and are in active use in Mumbai and other parts of the world where there are Zoroastrian communities – as well as vultures. But in Britain a deceased Zoroastrian is just as likely to be cremated as anyone else. A famous example is the late Freddie Mercury of Queen, who was born a Parsee, and who was cremated at Kensal Green Crematorium. But whether a Zoroastrian funeral takes the form of a burial or cremation, the basic format will always be the same.



Tata Mausoleum – Brookwood Cemetery

Zoroastrian funerals are always 'big' funerals. The Zoroastrian community worldwide is barely 200,000 strong: mainly based around Mumbai but with pockets elsewhere, including Yazd, in Southern Iran, the UK and America. Numbers are dwindling because of the numbers of Zoroastrians choosing to marry outside their religion.

You can't convert to being a Zoroastrian. You have to be born into it. And the moment someone marries 'out', the line is broken and the entire religion moves another notch towards extinction. So in a tiny community where everybody knows each other, a funeral is a community event: a chance to meet as well as to show respect. Like Jewish and Muslim traditions, funeral rites have to start as soon as possible after the person has died. But with Zoroastrians the whole process takes a little longer. There are several stages.

The first stage involves the body being taken to a funeral director's chapel of rest. But that chapel will need to be large enough to accommodate around 20 people, including two Zoroastrian priests or dasturs. The body will then be laid out in an open coffin and dressed in a sudreh (or religious garment) and with the head covered by a red felt cap. Each day and for the next five days, family and dasturs will gather around the open coffin. The women will wear head-scarves. The men will cover their heads with handkerchiefs, if they have nothing else more suitable. The dasturs will each be robed in white and with black felt caps. They will make a small fire of sandalwood on a table near the head of the deceased. Then the prayers will start.

At a signal from the dasturs, the family will stand up, with the palms of their hands facing upwards. Then the dasturs

will – in unison – chant the prayers which they have learned over a lifetime. Before starting their chants, each of the dasturs will put on a long white face-mask to stop any of their spit contaminating the sacred flame. The prayers last around 45 minutes, after which the dasturs and the family will disperse. They will return at the same time the following day for more prayers. During the whole of this process no-one must touch the body. To touch it would be to pollute it, which would mean that the whole process would have to be started over again. At the end of the five days, the body – now purified by prayer – will be taken by hearse to the crematorium. Everyone will be there.

The first part of the crematorium service will be little different to any other crematorium service. The coffin will have been closed. There will perhaps be a favourite song and a eulogy. Then the dasturs will take over. There will be more chanted prayers, more sandalwood being burnt, until the curtains close on the coffin and the deceased is taken in for cremation. But just as important to Zoroastrians is what happens to the ashes after cremation.

Within Brookwood Cemetery, near Woking, there is a small Zoroastrian burial ground. It was donated by Queen Victoria to the Parsee community in 1862. Almost every race, creed, nationality and sect is represented in this vast international cemetery. The Zoroastrian burial ground

is at the back of the cemetery at the end of a long winding road. It is marked by the large Tata mausoleums, which can be seen by anyone travelling past Brookwood Station on the Waterloo to Basingstoke line.

Provided the family is within easy travelling distance, it is to Brookwood Cemetery to which the ashes will be taken: to be buried beneath a white marble slab inscribed with the name and a picture of the deceased – as well as space for a votive lampstand for anyone coming to pay their respects. But there is one final ritual which any Zoroastrian visiting a crematorium or burial ground has to do before stepping back into their home.

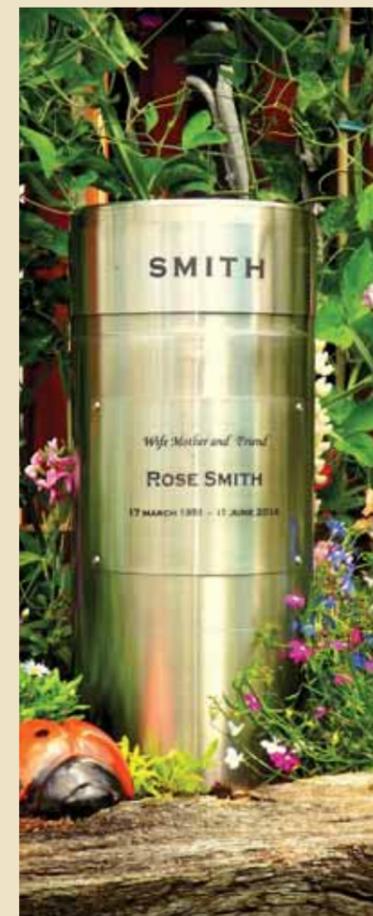
They must throw water over themselves to wash off any uncleanliness and prevent any bad luck being brought into the house.

## Biography

Charles Ward is the ICCM Company Solicitor and also works as a senior property lawyer with HB Public Law, a shared service organisation acting for several London Boroughs and other public bodies. He co-wrote *Memory of Beheram*, with Zoroastrian author Farida J Manekshah which describes life within a modern day Zoroastrian family. His other books include *Residential Leaseholders Handbook*.

### Some facts about Zoroastrians

- Zoroastrianism is the ancient monotheistic religion of Persia. It was founded 3,500 years ago by its prophet Zarathustra and spread across the Middle East.
- Its high point was its 539 BC defeat of the Babylonian King Belshazzar at the battle of Opis. Two hundred years later it survived conquest by Alexandra The Great, when he married the Zoroastrian Princess Rukhshana. But disaster came with the Arab invasion of Persia of 651 AD, when the Zoroastrian religion was all but wiped out. Many of those who wanted to stay with the old religion went into exile and arrived at Gujarat, where they became the Parsees.
- They prospered over the next 1,000 years and during two centuries of British rule became captains of industry. The vast Tata Corporation provides the most enduring example of this legacy. When the curtains finally close on Zoroastrianism's long and rich history, what will be left are its echoes. Concepts such as heaven, hell, resurrection, a day of judgment and the need to pray five times a day all came out of Zoroastrianism.



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# Catholics and Cremation 2017

By Monsignor Kevin McGinnell, PhB, STB, PGCE  
Joint Liturgical Group (GB)

I am a parish priest in Luton as well as having other responsibilities and this is the third time I've addressed this community. I'm very pleased to be able to follow what Alison Crake (President, National Association of Funeral Directors) has said. The whole notion of shared knowledge is crucial, as there are lots of different misunderstandings of where the Catholic Church stands with cremation.

I hope that I will be able to offer you some useful thoughts. Certainly, when I look back at the first time I spoke to you in 2005, things have changed in different ways. We need to reflect on whether we appreciate the different understandings of death and life to help our shared work. I would like to begin by thanking you for the professional work that so many of you do in the funeral profession. It is so important for us to be able to rely on people's competence, sympathy and empathy. There are occasional hiccups, I'm sure you all know, but in general we have tremendous support from you and that makes our lives very much easier.

As I said, I am a parish priest in Luton and I've got five funerals this week. None of them are cremation. They range from a 12-year-old this morning, after two years of leukaemia, to a 94-year old yesterday in Birmingham, and then others in Brentwood, Luton and Aylesbury. One was a priest, two were strong Catholic families and two were, what we would call less gospel greedy, less enthusiastic, but they were all committed to the Church. But no cremation and that would be fairly standard for me in my own experience.

Where I am in Luton was a community in the 70's, with the majority first generation Irish, Italian, West Indian Catholics and about 2,000 people at mass in our Church. In fact, it was run by priests of the Dublin diocese. I am the first 'native priest' there and I've been there for 12 years. In 2017, and this is a significant issue for us, we haven't changed the culture of our society in a sense. The Irish are still a predominant group, second or third generation, but over the last 10 years there has been a significant influx of Polish, African (in my church particularly Kenyans), Indians (particularly from Kerala) and a very strong Pakistani community. In fact, that young boy who was buried today at 12 was from a Pakistani family. All of these, except for the Irish, are first generation. Given the fact that I now have 18 mosques in the parish, perhaps only 50 people live in the parish itself, yet we still have 800 at mass on a Sunday. I will only go to the crematorium perhaps twice or three times a year. We are, in Luton, perhaps 20% of the actual population compared to say 10% of the national population. The Muslim community is another 20% of the population.

It's against this background that I want to speak about the Instruction that came out last year. I will explain this as easily as I can, but I realise that I have my own technical language that you will probably be very glad you don't have

to deal with at all. We get instructions from Rome. We don't always follow them to the letter, but we do get them. The Instruction of the 2nd March 2016 was called *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation. The previous 1963 document was 706 words long. As with most of our Vatican documents, they are given a title that comes from the first words of the text. So the first words of the text in 1963 were about 'the reverent and unbroken practice of burial'. It was, therefore, very clear from the beginning that was the track on which that first permission for a cremation was going to be given – 'in the light of, the pious, unbroken practice of burial'. The Instruction of 2016 *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* is over double the length, and that is significant. The issue that's more important is that the opening words are 'To rise with Christ we must die with Christ: we must "be away from the body and at home with the Lord"'. The distinction is important. The first was about practice – you bury the dead, you can't cremate. This new document very specifically says that unless you understand and believe in the resurrection of the dead and, therefore, the resurrection of the body, don't go down the line of cremation. It's a theological document. The first was simply giving permission – this is now a different document altogether. (Slide 1)

**Instruction *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation from CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH of 2nd March 2016**

- Instruction Piam et Constantem [1963] 706 words – 'the reverent and unbroken practice of burial'
- Instruction *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* [2016] 1858 words – 'To rise with Christ we must die with Christ: we must "be away from the body and at home with the Lord" '

Slide 1

So those emphases are important, and you can see from the 1963 document this is the way it pans out.

- Burial is to be encouraged as the ancient tradition of ▶

the Christian Church, and particularly the Catholic community,

- Cremation, [and this is the document that five Cardinals signed in front of Pope Paul VI] they said, has its roots in attacks on Christian belief in the 'resurrection of the dead and the immortality of the soul'. So it's immediately antagonistic, and we do know that the cremation movement in the nineteenth century did belong to certain people who attacked Christianity,
- However, it says very simply, and this to now justify cremation: Cremation (the process) is a neutral act, because it 'does not affect the soul nor prevent God's omnipotence from restoring the body'. Very simply, if we believe in the resurrection of the body then God can actually put a body back together from ashes or from whatever has happened in the grave – we don't stop God from doing things,
- The Church has accepted cremation in history, and this is another justification for accepting cremation, for the sake of public order. So throughout literally the medieval ages, the times of plague, etc. we are very clear that this is what has been permitted.

So the 1963 document, when cremation was permitted, was based simply on expediency. It's permitted, not be encouraged and you've got to be very careful about it.

Fifty-three years later in 2016, it is important to note that this document has been issued for the Catholic Church of the East and the West. People talk about the Roman

Catholic Church – we are not just the Roman Catholic Church, that's the western part of the Catholic Church.

There are 28 churches, many of them with great autonomy, within the Catholic tradition, under the Pope. This document has been specifically issued for the 1.2 billion Catholics in the world. It isn't just a western notion.

The consultation that led to this document of 2016 reflects this universality, so these are the people who were involved in it. Congregations are like ministries in the Vatican set up. We have this most peculiar business of being an independent sovereign state, so we have all of this ministries that work in various areas:

- One is about Divine Worship,
- One is the Council for Legislative Texts, which is a bit like the Lord Chancellor's office – it determines exactly what language we can use when we make law,
- Numerous Episcopal Conferences, so for instance, our conference of England and Wales, the conference of Scotland, the conference of Ireland,
- The Synods of Bishops of the Oriental Churches, which again number about 27, and
- The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which is the teaching body of the church.

This is what has led to what became a much longer document than the 1963 document. It is about theology, not about practice alone, because it is from the theology that we can then say that this is what is permitted.

The first theological premise, and this is from our core

Christian teaching, is that Christ was raised from the dead in his body. His resurrection then brings us the hope of Heaven ourselves, because we believe that death is not the end. Christ was raised from the dead, therefore the Christian who walks in his footsteps and all people of good faith can follow him. By being baptised we share the life of the risen Christ – we are already touching into the one who we believe is risen. And then, because of Christ, Christian death has a positive meaning.

So, if belief is expressed, then indeed we need to see what that means:

- Christ was buried, so burial as a process, expresses faith and hope in the resurrection of the body, because it happened to Christ,
- Burying in the earth is also a sign of life. There is this understanding in the scriptures of the image of a seed buried to produce new life,
- Burying a body respects the integrity of the individual for the resurrection of the body,
- Burial is one of the corporal works of mercy from ancient times – it's there in the Hebrew testament,
- The cemetery expresses the unity between the Church on earth and those who have gone before. The cemetery is not a place for the dead; it is a place for the living *with* the dead to be in unity. It's not an historical experience; it's about the reality of faith today.

So because of those core beliefs, how would you understand cremation? I am sorry if this sounds negative, but it's Rome setting out how it understands the practice.

Cremation is now acceptable, before it was permitted. The language is interesting – cremation is becoming more acceptable within our culture, but:

- It needs to be chosen for sanitary, economic or social considerations,
- It must always have been the wish of the deceased,
- It must be clear that it does not affect the soul's immortality nor the doctrine of the resurrection of the body,
- Burial shows a 'greater esteem towards the deceased' (but I'm not certain that people would always agree with this),
- Cremation is not prohibited 'unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine'. So, if somebody specifically says that they want a Christian funeral and

were to say to us 'but I don't believe in the resurrection of the body', or 'I don't believe in the immortality of the soul', we would not be allowed by our law to permit cremation,

- It should be accompanied by 'relevant liturgical and pastoral directives', and that's something I want to explore in my final point,

- It must take care to avoid every form of scandal or the appearance of religious indifferentism.

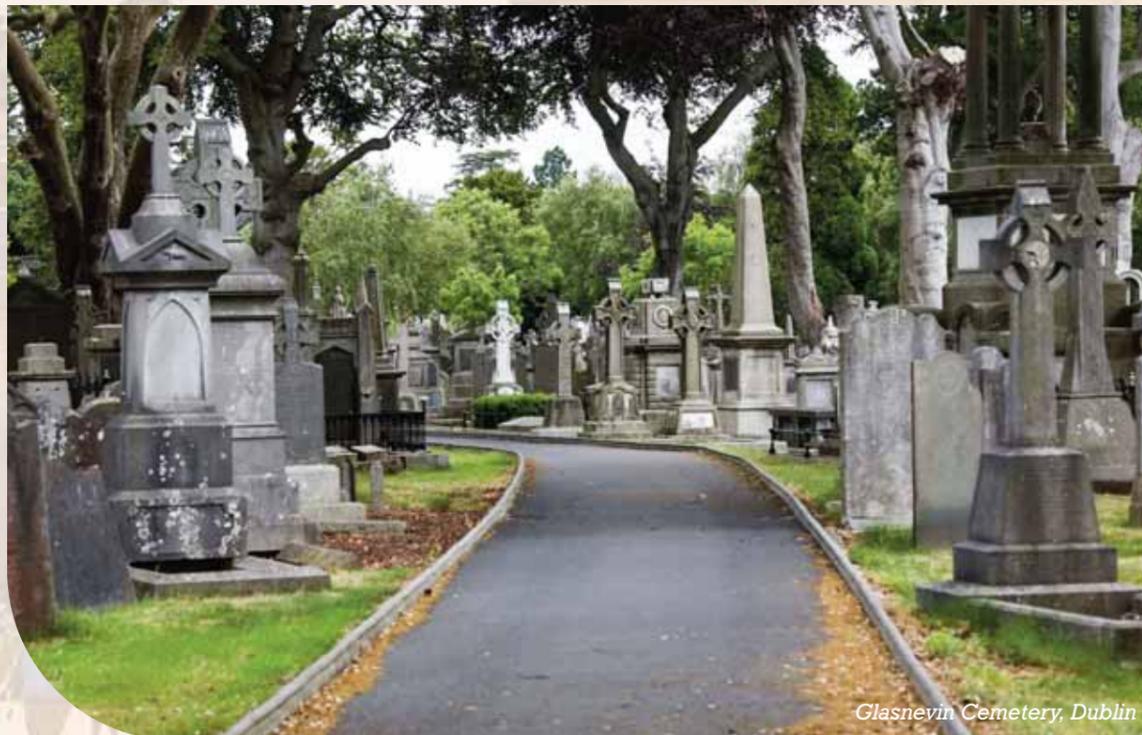
A pastoral note needs to be added here, particularly where some people feel that a funeral service in a crematorium chapel is better than somebody having a funeral in the church and then the so-called 'committal' at the crematorium. That leads to questions about where do people belong in terms of their local church?

The conservation of ashes is where the church began to raise major concerns if we understand

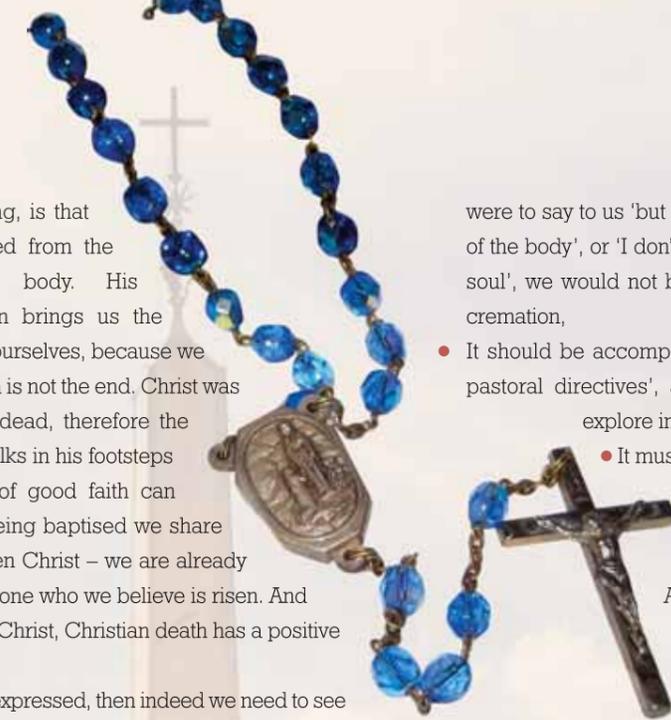
cremation as being a parallel to burial. The law of the Catholic Church is:

- Ashes must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesiastical authority,
- The tombs, that is wherever somebody has had their ashes buried in a casket, or even if their ashes have been poured into the earth in a specific place that is marked, they become places of remembrance and reflection because we believe that the living, the dead and those in Heaven 'altogether form one Church',
- By having a place to visit this ensures that the dead are always remembered and are in our prayers,
- They will not be forgotten by future generations. For instance, like many Catholic communities, we have three Sundays where we have the blessing of the graves in the three major cemeteries in Luton. People come to pray for the dead, not just their own, but to pray for those, for instance, who were buried there a century ago and may not even be remembered by anyone, because they should not be forgotten by future generations,
- This is also to try and prevent any unfitting or superstitious practices,
- Ashes, according to our law, may not be kept at home, nor divided among the family,
- And they may never be scattered.

We need to reflect on whether we appreciate the different understandings of death and life to help our shared work.



Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin



The point about this, which is getting very difficult for us, is that because nothing like this was said clearly in the 1963 document, many people have heard that other people have scattered ashes, etc. It is a practice that is common in the wider society. This is where Rome may seem to be heavy-handed. To be honest since it was not stated in 1963 it has now created a real pastoral problem for us. It is very important for you to know that that is the way the Church would want people to be helped to understand things. In Luton we have issued guidelines to funeral directors where we can try and say to people 'please don't let assumptions be made, so that priests find themselves in difficult situations'. We also have the issue, for instance, that we don't really have any cemeteries or places for burial of ashes. In Luton, at the moment, there is a dearth of spaces to bury ashes.

In conclusion, we do need a greater understanding by all involved and I am very appreciative of what Alison [Crake of the National Association of Funeral Directors] was saying about shared knowledge, because we need to share our understandings. Certainly in terms of our own relationship when we are called to someone who has died and how we work with the doctors, for instance, in hospitals.

We have to accept the emotive responses of people. For instance, people who want to keep ashes at home. Cremation is a stage in the process. It is not committal, and I think this is a distinction about which I want to offer a few thoughts. In our understanding, when the body is taken to the crematorium, and even into the cremator, it's only the stage before the burial. In one sense (and I find it very

difficult to find a parallel for this) it's a bit like the preparation of a body for embalming before burial. Our funeral liturgy ends with the entombment be it of a coffin or an ashes casket.

One answer to this has taken place in a faculty given to the bishops of America and Canada, which is where cremation takes place without anybody present. The cremains (the casket carrying the ashes) is brought to the church for our Requiem Mass or to the cemetery chapel for a funeral service, and the burial follows on immediately. There is a seamless process to this which fits in with the mind of the Church. At the moment, we would like to ask our bishops to consider this. In many senses, it would actually offer an understanding that would fit our theology and actually be more practical in many different ways. It would allow us to try and work with people to understand that burial is burial, whether it's ashes or the body itself.

It would also enable crematoria, I think, to respond to Catholic funerals without the time constraints that are there at the moment. In Luton certainly we are waiting three or four weeks for a funeral at times. Sometimes it's the church, sometimes it's the funeral directors. If I had died before midday today in my mother's village in Ireland, I would be buried tomorrow with everything in place, including a microphone and seats around the grave. I just don't know how they do it in Ireland. They would delay it an extra day if they wanted me to come over and conduct the funeral, but it's a different world.

In trying to help people engage with cremation as an option especially with, the lack of grave space

generally, to see cremation as a part of a process, simply a technical act, would be very helpful. The ashes in the casket would be brought to church for the funeral, followed by a burial. It would be much more positive liturgically and practically and I think more positive as a pastoral practice.

Richard Rutherford, who is one of the major writers on

cremation in the States, has written a good pastoral practice book on this, but he warns that if the widow is carrying the cremains into the church, be very careful that you don't spill too much holy water on her makeup in case it runs. That's a pastoral note that I'm not used to over here.

Thank you very much.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### Alan José, Session Chairman

Well thank you very much Monsignor. I think that has placed very interesting light on what was a document, understandably, quite difficult to comprehend in many ways and I think, as you mentioned yourself, it's a great pity that a lot of that information wasn't imparted in 1963. I'm sure many of us, following the issue of that document, had a number of very distressed families talking to us, concerned that they had ashes scattered and feeling very upset by the whole process. I think there is still a great deal of pastoral work for you and other priests to do across the country, and the world indeed.

### Alison Crake, President, National Association of Funeral Directors

Would the splitting of ashes into such items as memorial jewellery or any keepsakes, be the same?

### Monsignor Kevin McGinnell

Absolutely. To be honest, it was the memorial jewellery I think that prompted that particular document to enable clarity about it. It is difficult sometimes, when what we are looking at is a practical question, to then say that you have got to have the theology thought through first.

### Alan José

Thinking about what the public expect many times, and you mentioning the example from the Church's point of view, that direct cremation with nobody being present and then the ashes casket being taken to the church would be more acceptable, we still have to overcome how the families view that and how families might be educated. I can see that would be a very interesting study. Quite a challenge for the Church.

### Monsignor Kevin McGinnell

At the moment it's just permitted in America and Canada. Occasionally it has happened here, mainly because of repatriation. The cost of repatriation is incredibly reduced

if you are just taking a casket back to Ireland, or receiving it from India, for example.

### Michael Jacobs, Bursary Student

I appreciate that you haven't done any cremations perhaps since the reiteration of the Vatican's preference for burial, but have you been approached by any parishioners yet on the subject, who maybe have voiced complaints? I was just wondering how you've gone about dealing with those and if you haven't had any, how you might plan on dealing with that pastorally?

### Monsignor Kevin McGinnell

I think, as you know, even amongst our community, many of the ashes are left with the funeral director. What we are asking now in terms of our instructions to our priests is to make sure that if anybody wants a cremation, and again the permission is there very clear, it's a much more generous statement than the 1963 document, that when we are talking about the planning of the funeral, we include the question about 'When are we going to bury the ashes?' We've also certainly tried to ask our local funeral directors to have that in their thoughts when they are talking to a family. The experienced funeral directors have great sensitivity to all of the different churches and different faiths. Occasionally, we do have slight difficulty when somebody who is very new in post goes with what they think happens generally. So, it is that clarity with a funeral director to say let the people talk that through with the priest before any decisions are made.

### Revd Dr Peter Jupp

Monsignor Kevin, thank you very much indeed for your exposition this afternoon. The Cremation Society has now been twice blessed this year because, at an earlier Council meeting, Monsignor Tony Rogers came to speak to us about this Instruction; so we are grateful to both of you. I have found three things particularly helpful in your address. Firstly, your emphasis that for the Catholic Church, cremation is not committal but a stage in the process ▶



Ashes; interment

leading on to burial. Secondly, your reminding us that this Instruction is about the *theology* of cremation, whereas the 1963 document was about the *practice* of cremation. My own anxiety – please don't misunderstand me – is that when the Church of England debated cremation between 1942 and 1944, it too ignored the theology of cremation when it agreed on the acceptability of the practice of cremation. Some of the speakers in those Anglican debates argued that cremation was acceptable as a 'preparation for burial' but they were a minority. Thirdly, your comments on new North American Catholic practice. I wonder whether this could also be adopted in the UK. Would your Diocese be willing to push this further forward? This practice is particularly relevant in the context of the present revival of 'direct cremation'.

**Monsignor Kevin McGinnell**

In terms of process, we are going to approach the bishops of England and Wales. They will then have to present a petition to Rome and it will have to go to several of the congregations to see if they approve it, but because there is a precedent in the States and Canada, the possibility is there very clearly. I just comment that as a priest, certainly, if you take a whole service at a crematorium, which is very rare for us, there is a sense of it being a liturgy, but when we do a committal at the crematorium, which is five or six minutes, it's a difficult to see what is happening – whether there is a curtain, or whether the coffin descends or moves through – because it is not final. Whereas, this morning at the child's funeral, his uncles and his dad infilled the grave. There was a very definite sense of completion and I think that's the issue that we need to look at as to how do people see this, particularly then if the ashes are not collected from the funeral director.

**Professor Douglas Davies, University of Durham**

Picking up the point of our Chairman, what you say is faultless in the theological points that the document makes. Theologically perfect, but psychologically imperfect, in the sense that the greatest essay on cremation was written by the anthropologist in the early twentieth century and his point was that cremation is never, in itself, a final process. There is always a secondary and subsequent event and

that's the point indicated in the document. The issue I want to make highlights the psychological element that the way we relate to other people is very complex and involves our imagination. And, it seems to me, that the liturgy of cremation of a Catholic kind, which might, for example, involve placing holy water on the coffin; re-emphasising the baptismal element, triggers the imagination to relate to the dead brother or sister in the faith prior to the cremation itself. And I think that that then does make it difficult when you have the cremated remains as the output of the cremation. What is now our imagination in relation to the dead? Because it seems to me that there is an enormous difference between the way, in our culture, we react to a corpse compared to cremated remains; and I have written extensively on this, one can't imagine oneself in relation to a corpse in the way one imagines oneself in the relation to cremated remains. And that I think is where the 'soul' issue comes in, and I would be interested to know what you think about this, because in one sense Protestant theology, especially in the twentieth century, although Catholic and Protestant theology was very similar at the time of the Reformation (they were both committed to soul beliefs), Protestant theology, especially in the twentieth century, especially in the Church of England, took against the soul. They wanted to abolish the soul because it led to unfortunate beliefs about salvation. It seems to me that that the sense of the Communion of Saints that you are alluding to in the context of burial, is what I would be really interested in, in terms of how Catholics in your experience might relate to the identity of the dead now in terms of their soul wherever it is in relation to the divine, and their former relationship to that body. Sorry, that's rather extensive, but just to touch on the complexity of the issues.

**Monsignor Kevin McGinnell**

I don't think the Catholic Church has ever lost its soul. I was talking to some parishioners on Sunday after Mass and one said: 'Well, I'm not going to be cremated because I don't want to go into the fire', another said: 'I don't want to be buried because I don't want to be eaten by worms', so the whole issue is there. I think we have avoided the issue of death in our society particularly over the last 30 or 40 years. Today at the funeral of this 12-year-old there must have been

about 100 kids, aged 11 or 12, who had been at school with him. I'm very positive about children facing death, seeing somebody who has died, going to a funeral, etc. because without that sense I think you have this problem about what we do with the cremated remains or the coffin. I think that the way forward is to be clear about the catechism teaching within the Church about death, about the reality of the soul, about what we mean by the Communion of Saints. Our Bishops' Conference has just produced a website called the *Art of Dying Well* because we are asking everyone in the Church to face up to precisely the same questions. How do we give the answers to somebody who asks what do you do as you're dying, what do you do in preparation for your funeral? A serious question we need to ask ourselves as Catholics is what do we think is going to happen to our soul? I think if you've got people thinking along those lines, then the difference between a casket of ashes and a coffin would not be there. I hope that's offered some thought.

**Alan José**

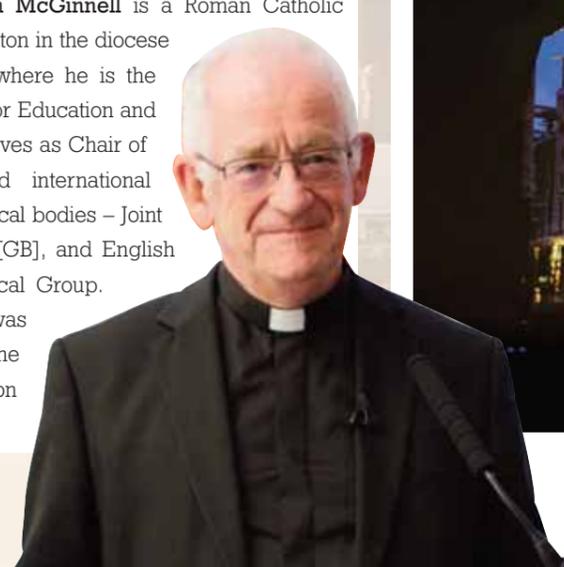
Well, this has been a very interesting topic and one I'm sure which we will discuss a great deal more. What advice can we, on behalf of the Church, offer to people who are upset with the fact that they have had ashes scattered already and are feeling perhaps awkward or uncomfortable?

**Monsignor Kevin McGinnell**

God is bigger than those sort of things – that's the reality. If we believe in the resurrection of the body and God can bring a body back from whatever's left in a coffin or from whatever's left in a casket, then I'm sure he can gather whatever's scattered. It's much more to do with the thought that in future what we are looking at is asking people to really have a different way of considering what happens. ■

## Biography

**Monsignor Kevin McGinnell** is a Roman Catholic parish priest in Luton in the diocese of Northampton where he is the Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation. He serves as Chair of the national and international ecumenical liturgical bodies – Joint Liturgical group [GB], and English Language Liturgical Group. Previously he was vice Chair of the Churches' Group on Funerals.



# Cremation & Burial Communication & Education 2018

Hilton Newcastle Gateshead,  
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Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th  
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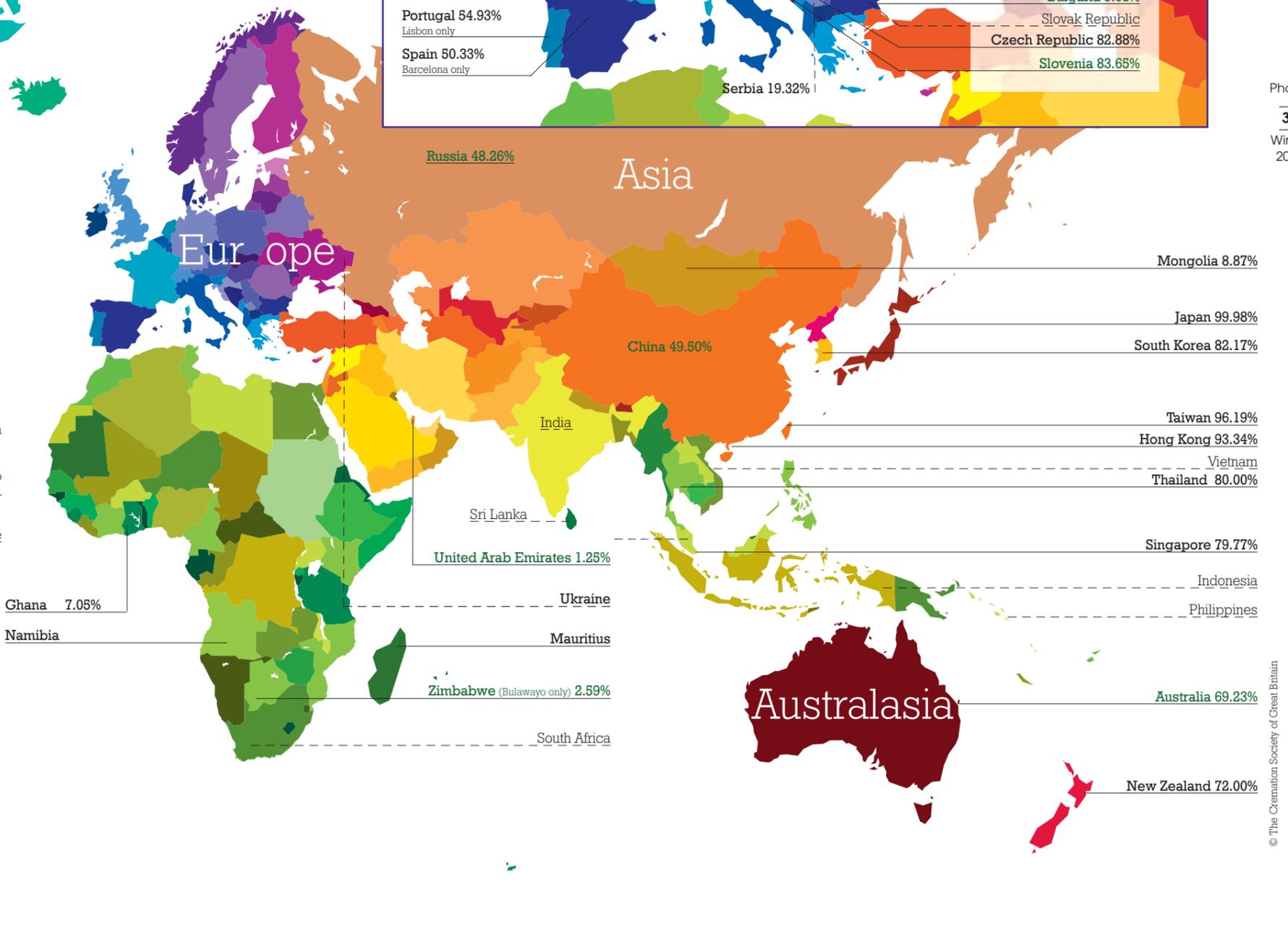
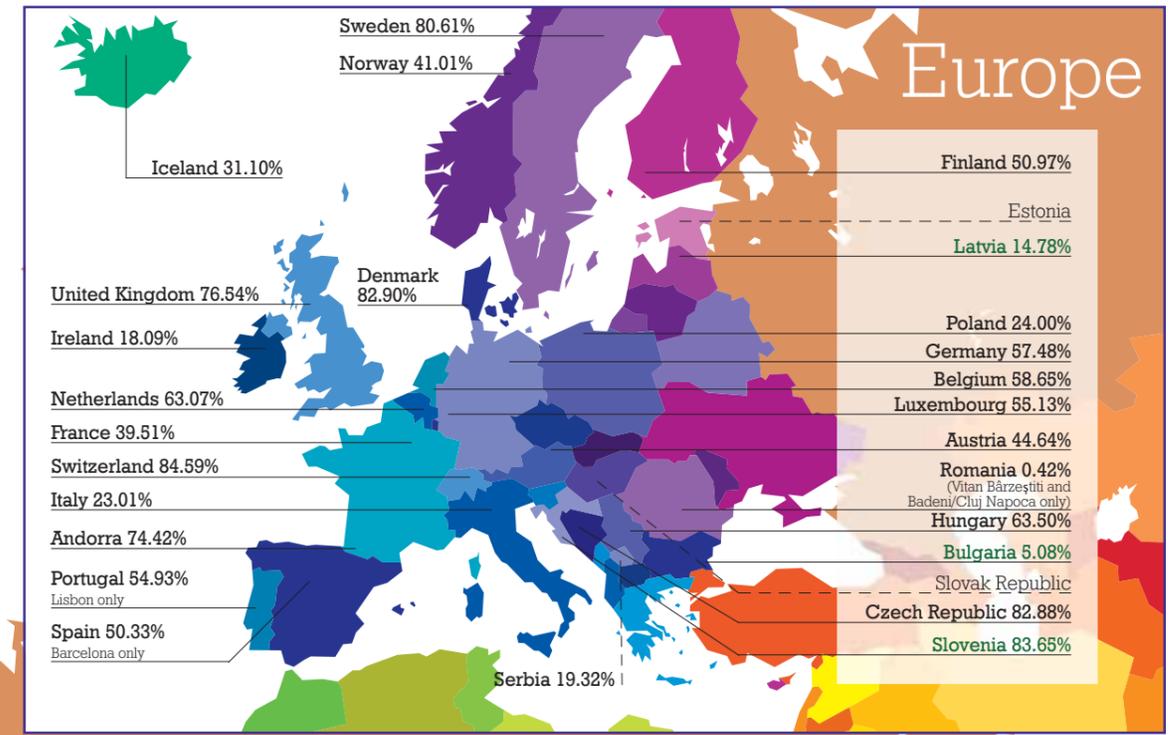
Figures in **Black** = 2016 % rates  
 Figures in **Green** = 2015 % rates  
 (or last available figure)

More information on  
 following pages

Limited information  
 on miscellaneous listing

# International

● **Statistics 2016**



# International Cremation Statistics 2016

## ANDORRA



Number of crematoria: 1

### Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	159	270	58.89
2016	160	215	74.42

There is no national cremation society in Andorra. Information is provided by the following organisation:

### Pompes Funebres de les Valls

Carrer dels Escalls No. 9 baixos  
Escaldes – Engordany AD 700  
Andorra

President: Maurici Vilalta Armengol

Date of foundation: January 2007

Number of members: 9

## ARGENTINA



Number of crematoria: 95

**Crematoria situated at:** Buenos Aires (51), Chaco (2), Chubut (2), Córdoba (12), Entre Ríos (6), Jujuy (3), Neuquén (5), Salta (2), San Juan (2), Santa Fe (7), Tucumán (3)

### \*Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2009*	84,541	341,297	24.77
2010*	92,656	364,670	25.41

\*Estimated. Latest figures obtainable.

There is no national cremation society in Argentina. Information was provided by the following organisation which ceased trading in April 2012.

### Lindberg Argentina S.A. (Cremation and Incineration Equipment)

Crucero Gral. Belgrano 5782, B1766EER  
La Tablada, Buenos Aires, Argentina

President: Ricardo Chernitsky

Treasurer: Daniel Pellejero

Date of foundation: 1958

Number of members: 40

## AUSTRALIA



Number of crematoria: 82 (72 ACCA members, 10 Non ACCA members) Cremeteries and Funeral Directors in certain states/territories of Australia are able to operate crematoria. Given that the two sectors operate separately at present, it is difficult to assess the actual number and location of all crematoria in the

country. These details represent the most accurate and latest that we have been able to obtain.

### Crematoria situated at:

■ **Australian Capital Territory:** 1

Norwood Park

■ **New South Wales:** 33

Albury, Armidale, Botany (Eastern Suburbs), Canobolas, Castlebrook, Coffs Harbour (2), Coomealla (*Non ACCA Member*), Dareton, Dubbo (2), Forest Lawn, Inverell, Leura, Lincoln Grove, Lismore, Macquarie Park, Moama (*Non ACCA Member*), Newcastle, Northern Suburbs, Palmdale, Pinegrove, Port Macquarie, Rookwood (2), Shoalhaven, Taree, Tweed Heads, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong (2), Woronora.

■ **Northern Territory:** 1

Darwin

■ **Queensland:** 21

Albany Creek, Allambe Gardens, Buderim, Bundaberg, Caboolture, Cairns, Caloundra, Goodna, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Laidley, Logan City (Carbrook), Mackay, Maryborough, Mt Thompson, Noosa, Nudgee, Rockhampton, Stapylton, Toowoomba, Townsville.

■ **South Australia:** 6

Centennial Park, Enfield, Gawler, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, Whyalla.

■ **Tasmania:** 4

Carr Villa, Launceston, Hobart, Ulverstone.

■ **Victoria:** 9

Altona, Ballarat, Bendigo, Bunurong, Fawkner, Geelong, Lilydale, Springvale, Traralgon.

■ **Western Australia:** 7

Albany, Bunbury, Fremantle, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karrakatta, Pinnaroo

### \*Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2008	89,300	137,000	65.18%
2009	72,000	104,000	69.23%

\*Latest figures obtainable

### Australasian Cemeteries & Crematoria Association

Suite North 1, 215 Bell Street,  
Preston 3072, Victoria, Australia

President: Mr Peter Deague

Executive Officer: Mr Chris Harrington

Chair of Finance and Audit:

Mr Darryl Thomas

Date of foundation: 1985

Number of Members: 159

Name of journal: ACCA News

Date of foundation: 1991

Published: quarterly

Circulation: 2,000 approximately

Editor: Mr Chris Harrington

Suite North 1, 215 Bell Street,

Preston 3072, Victoria, Australia

## AUSTRIA



Number of crematoria: 13

**Crematoria situated at:** Bad Vöslau (NÖ), Graz, Hohenems, Innsbruck Kramsach, Linz, Knittelfeld, St Marienkirchen, St. Pölten, Salzburg, Steyr, Villach, Wien (Simmering)

### Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	35,258	83,073	42.44
2016	36,008	80,669	44.64

### Bundesverband der Bestatter der Wirtschaftskammer Österreich

A-1045 Wien, Wiedner Hauptstrasse 63,  
Austria

President: Franz Nechansky

Secretary: Mag. Jakob Wild

Date of foundation: 1946

Number of members: 650

Name of journal: PIA

Date of foundation: 2008

Published: quarterly

Circulation: 3,000

Editor: Christian Madlmayr, Wiedner

Hauptstrasse 63, A-1045 Wien

## BELGIUM (3 Societies)



Number of crematoria: 17

**Crematoria situated at:** Antwerpen, Brugge, Bruxelles, Charleroi, Ciney, Court St-Etienne, Courtrai, Frasnes Lez Anvaing, Gent, Hasselt, Holsbeek, Liège, Mons, Sint-Niklaas, Turnhout, Vilvoorde, Welkenraedt

### Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	63,468	110,508	57.43
2016	63,380	108,056	58.65

a) **Société Belge pour la Crémation, ASBL**

Boulevard Maurice Lemonnier 1/4,  
1000 Bruxelles

President: Jean-Paul Petit

Secretary: Phillippe Malbecq

Treasurer: Robert Smets

Date of foundation: 1905

Number of members: ±3,000

Name of journal: Reliance – Journal de la Société Belge Pour La Crémation

Published: quarterly

Circulation: ±3,000

Editor: Robert Smets, Avenue de la

Reine 9, 1310 La Hulpe

b) **Société Cooperative**

**Intercommunale de Crémation**

Avenue du Silence 61, 1180 Bruxelles

President: Mr Mahfoudh Romdhani

Secretary: Mr Xavier Godart

Treasurer: Mr Xavier Godart

Date of foundation: 1933

c) **Neomansio S.C.R.L.**

Rue des Coquelicots 1, 4020 Liège

President: M. Jean-Pierre Goffin

Directeur général:

M. Philippe Dussard

Date of foundation: 1978

Number of members: 57

## BRAZIL



There are 43 crematoria situated in:

■ **Bahia (1):** Salvador

■ **Ceará (2):** Fortaleza (2)

■ **Espirito Santo (1):** Vila Velha

■ **Goiás (2):** Val Paraíso, Goiânia

■ **Minas Gerais (2):** Contagem, Uberlândia

■ **Pará (2):** Belém (2)

■ **Paraíba (1):** João Pessoa

■ **Paraná (4):** Campina Grande do Sul, Pinhais, Curitiba, Maringá

■ **Pernambuco (1):** Paulista

■ **Rio de Janeiro (5):** Niterói, Nova Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro (Capital) (3)

■ **Rio Grande do Norte (1):** Parnamirim

■ **Rio Grande do Sul (6):** Caxias do Sul, Porto Alegre, São Leopoldo, Viamão, Nova Hamburgo, Santa Rosa

■ **Santa Catarina (2):** Balneário Camboriu, Blumenau

■ **São Paulo (13):** Embu das Artes, Guarulhos, Itapeverica da Serra (2), Jaboticabal, Santos, São José dos Campos, São José do Rio Preto, São Paulo (Capital) (2), Sorocaba, São Bernardo do Campo (2), Votuporanga

No national cremation statistics are available.

All information is provided by the following organisation:

### Sindicato dos Cemitérios e Crematórios Particulares do Brasil

Av. Brigadeiro Faria Lima,

2128 - 12º andar

cj. 1202, 01452-930, São Paulo SP, Brazil

President: José Elias Flores Junior

Secretary: Eduardo de Souza Meirelles

Treasurer: Claudia Schützer de

Magalhães

Date of foundation: 1999

Number of members: 90

## BULGARIA



Number of crematoria: 1

Situated at: Sofia

### \*Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2006	5,423	113,438	4.78
2007	5,746	113,000	5.08

\*Latest figures obtainable

### Sofia Crematorium Ltd

1202 Sofia, 14 Zavodska Street,

Bulgaria

President: Mr Manias Varo

Secretary: Mr Yanislav Nedev

Date of foundation: September 2001

Number of members: 20

## CANADA



Number of crematoria: 261 (excluding Quebec)

**Crematoria situated at:** Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territory.

### Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	178,668	259,444	68.87
2016*	182,619	259,995	70.24

\*Provisional figures. Excludes Quebec

There is no national cremation society in Canada. Cremation statistics are provided by the Cremation Association of North America.

## CHINA, the People's Republic of



Number of crematoria: 1,745

### \*Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2011	4,684,000	9,600,000	48.80
2012	4,777,000	9,650,500	49.50

\*Latest figures obtainable

### China Funeral Association

7 Baiguang Road, Xicheng District

100053, Beijing, China

President: Mr Qi Xuesen

Secretary: Mr Zhang Hongchong

Treasurer: Ms Huang Lihua

Date of foundation: September 1989

Number of members: 710

Name of journal: China Funeral News

Date of foundation: 1990

Published: weekly

Circulation (per issue): 25,000

Editor: Mr Cheng Xinming

Jia 6, Baijiazhuang Rd., Chaoyang

District, Beijing, China 100020

## COLOMBIA



Number of crematoria: 18

**Crematoria situated at:** Armenia (1), Barranquilla (1), Bogotá (3), Bucaramanga (1), Calarcá (1), Cali (4), Cartagena (1), Manizales (1), Medellín (1), Pereira (1), Santa Marta (1), Tunja (1), Valledupar (1)

### \*Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2014	3,282	–	–
2015	4,201	–	–

\*Latest figures obtainable

There is no national cremation society in Colombia. The above information is provided by the following organisation and relates to their crematoria only situated at Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cali, Cartagena, Tunja and Valledupar

### Grupo Recordar

Transversal 16ª # 46-24, Bogotá DC,

Colombia

National Director of Planning and

Budget: Ana María León Avellaneda

## CUBA



Number of Crematoria: 9

**Crematoria situated at:** Havana City (3), Camagüey, Holguín, Mantanzas, Mayabeque, Santiago de Cuba, Villa Clara

### Statistics of cremations:

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	9,067	99,691	9.09
2016	9,206	99,401	9.26

There is no national cremation society. All information provided by the following organisation:

### Oficina Nacional de Estadística e Información (ONEI)

Dirección de Información

Paseo No. 60 entre 3ra. y 5ta., Vedado

La Habana, Cuba

**CZECH REPUBLIC****Number of crematoria: 27**

**Crematoria situated at:** Blatná, Brno, Česká Třebová, České Budějovice, Hustopeče u Brna, Jaroměř, Jihlava, Jindřichův Hradec, Karlovy Vary, Kladno, Klatovy, Liberec, Mělník, Most, Nymburk, Olomouc, Ostrava, Parbudice, Plzeň, Praha-Motol, Praha-Strašnice, Semily, Šumperk, Tábor, Ústí nad Labem, Vysočany u Chomutova, Zlín.

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	89,439	111,173	80.45
2016	89,306	107,750	82.88

**Společnost přátel žehu**

110 00 Praha 1, Revoluční 24/1546

*President:* PhDr Ivan Duškov*Secretary:* Mgr Stanislav Motyčka*Treasurer:* Jiří Smrž*Date of foundation:* 1909*Number of members:* 9,420*Name of Journal:* Internal Instruction for Functionary*Date of Foundation:* 2014*Published:* 5 times per year*Editor:* Mgr Stanislav Motyčka**DENMARK** (2 Societies)**Number of crematoria: 20**

(Gentofte, Lyngby and Struer crematoria closed 31st December 2010) (Gladsaxe and Vejle crematoria closed in 2011)

(Helsingør, Holbæk, Køge, Næstved, Nakskov, Nykøbing F., Roskilde and Slagelse closed in 2013)

**Crematoria situated at:** Aabenraa, Aalborg, Aarhus, Esbjerg, Fælleskrem, Hillerød, Hjørring, Holstebro, Horsens, Odense, Randers, Ringsted, Rønne, Silkeborg, Svendborg, Greater Copenhagen (5) (Ballerup, Bispebjerg, Glostrup, Sundby, Søndermark)

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	43,238	52,555	82.27
2016	43,792	52,824	82.90

**a) Danske Krematoriers Landsforening**

c/o Hjørring Kirkegård, Aldershøjvej 11 9800 , Hjørring, Denmark

*President:* Allan Vest*Date of foundation:* 1983*Number of members:* 26**b) Landsforeningen LIV & DØD**

Nikolaj Plads 27,

1067 København K, Denmark

*President:* Inge Nesgaard*Chief Executive Officer:*

Mogens Balling

*Date of foundation:* 1881**FINLAND****Number of crematoria: 23**

**Crematoria situated at:** Espoo, Hämeenlinna, Helsinki (2), Hyvinkää, Imatra, Joensuu, Jyväskylä, Kajaani, Karjaa, Kotka, Kuopio, Lahti, Oulu, Pori, Rauma, Seinäjoki, Tampere (3), Turku, Vaasa, Vantaa

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	25,631	52,080	49.21
2016	27,483	53,923	50.97

**Suomen Hautaustoiminnan****Keskusliitto-r.y.****Begravningsverksamhetens****Centralförbund i Finland r.f.**

Pylkkäläntie 11, 51540 Mikkeli, Finland

*President:* Jouni Laaksonen*Secretary:* Matti Karjalainen*Treasurer:* Matti Karjalainen*Date of foundation:* 1889*Number of members:* 101

Membership granted to associations, foundations and Lutheran congregations.

**FRANCE**

Two new crematoria opened in 2016 at Château-Thébaud and Noyal-Pontivy

**Number of crematoria: 179**

**Crematoria situated at:** Abbeville, Aix-en-Provence, Ajaccio, Albi, Allasac, Amiens Métropole, Amilly/Montargis, Angoulême, Annecy, Arcueil, Arpajon/Avrainville, Aubagne, Auxerre, Avanne-Aveney, Avignon, Bar-Le-Duc, Bastia, Beaurains, Beaurepaire, Beauvais, Begard, Bergerac, Besançon, Beuvrages, Béziers, Biarritz, Bonneville, Bordeaux, Boulogne, Bourges, Bourg-Saint Andéol, Brest, Brix, Bron, Caen, Canet-en-Roussillon, Cannes, Capdenac, Carhaix-Plouguer, Caudry, Châlons-en-Champagne, Chambéry, Champigny sur Marne, Châteauroux, Cholet, Clamart, Clermont-Ferrand, Courcouronnes, Crissey, Cuers, Dax, Dijon, Dole, Dunkerque Littoral, Épinal, Évreux, Gap, Grenoble, Hautmont, Héricourt, Herlies, Holnon, Joigny, La Balme, La Guadeloupe, La Rochelle, La Roche sur Yon,

La Seyne sur Mer, Lafox, Lavilledieu, Le Creusot, Le Havre, Le Mans, Lens, Les Joncherolles, Les Mureaux, Les Ulis, Lexy, Lille/Wattrelos, Limoges, Lons-le-Saunier, Lorient, Lyon, Mably, Macon, Mainvilliers, Manosque, Marcilloles, Mareuil-Les-Meaux, Marseille, Martigues, Martinique, Mayenne, Méru, Metz, Montauban, Montelimar, Montfermeil, Montfort-Sur-Meu, Montluçon, Montpellier, Montreuil-Juigné, Montussan, Mont-de-Marsan, Mont-Valérien, Mulhouse, Nancy, Nantes, Nevers, Nice, Nîmes, Niort, Nouvelle Calédonie, Olonne-sur-Mer, Orange, Orchies, Orléans, Pamiers, Paris, Pau, Périgueux, Perpignan, Pierres, Poitiers, Pont-à-Mousson, Quimper, Reims, Rennes, Roanne, Roost-Warendin, Rouen, Ruaudin, Saint-Avold, Saint-Brieuc, Saint-Étienne, Saint-Jean de Kourtzerode, Saint-Malo, Saint-Nazaire, Saint-Pierre-de-Plesguen, Saint-Prix Les Mézières, Sainte-Marguerite, Saint Sauveur, Saint Souplet, Saintes, Sarrebourg, Sausheim, Savigny-en Veron, Sées, Semur-en-Auxois, Sète, St Denis de la Réunion, St Fargeau-Ponthierry, St Martin/Ales, St Ouen-L'Aumône, St Pierre de la Réunion, St Thégonnec, Strasbourg, Tarbes/Azereix, Thionville, Tonneins, Toulouse, Tours, Trebes, Troyes, Val de Loire, Valence, Valenton, Vannes/Plescop, Vendin Lez Béthune, Vernouillet, Vichy, Vidauban, Villedieu les Poêles, Villefranche-sur-Saône, Viriat, Yutz, Yvetot

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	209,613	591,428	35.44
2016	231,951	587,000	39.51

**Fédération Française de Crémation**

50 rue Rodier, BP 411-09 – 75023 Paris Cedex 09

*President:* Jo Le Lamer*Secretary:* Patrick Lançon*Treasurer:* Brigitte Philippe*Date of foundation:* 1924*Number of members:* 75,000*Name of Journal:* Transition*Date of Foundation:* 1947*Published:* quarterly*Circulation (per issue):* 45,000*Editor:* Jean Chabert**GERMANY**

**Number of crematoria: 164,** 79 of which are owned by public authorities; others privately owned.

**Crematoria situated at:** Aachen, Aalen,

Ahrensburg, Albstadt, Altenburg, Altenfeld, Aschaffenburg, Augsburg, Aurich, Baden-Baden, Bayreuth, Berlin (3), Bernburg, Bielefeld, Bochum, Brandenburg, Braubach, Braunschweig, Bremen, Bremerhaven, Celle, Chemnitz, Chieming, Coburg, Cottbus, Cuxhaven, Darmstadt, Dessau, Diepholz, Diemelstadt, Döbeln, Dortmund, Dresden, Duisburg, Dülmen, Dusseldorf, Eberswalde, Eisenach, Eisleben, Emden, Erfurt, Essen, Flensburg, Forst (Lausitz), Frankfurt/Main, Frankfurt/Oder, Freiburg, Friedberg, Fürstzell, Geislingen, Gera, Gießen, Göppingen, Görlitz, Gotha, Göttingen, Griefswald, Hagen, Halle (Saale), Hamburg-Ohlsdorf, Hameln, Hamm, Hanau, Hannover, Hasede, Heidelberg, Heilbronn, Hennigsdorf, Hermeskeil, Herzberg, Hof, Hohenburg, Jena, Kabelsketal, Karlsruhe, Kassel, Kempten, Kiel (2), Kissing, Koblenz, Köln, Konstanz, Krefeld, Lahr, Landau, Leinfelden, Leipzig, Lindau, Lörrach, Lübeck, Lüdenscheid, Ludwigsburg, Ludwigshafen, Lüneburg, Magdeburg, Mainburg, Mainz, Mannheim, Mechernich, Meiningen, Meissen, Memmingen, Minden, Mühlheim, München, Nettetal, Neubrandenburg, Nohra-Kinderode, Nordhausen, Nürnberg, Obertshausen, Offenbach, Oldenburg, Osnabrück, Osterburken, Perleberg, Pforzheim, Plauen, Potsdam, Quedlinburg, Regensburg, Reichenbach, Reutlingen, Ronneburg, Rostock, Rutesheim, Saalfeld, Saarbrücken, Schmalkalden, Schönebeck, Schwäbisch Gmünd, Schwäbisch Hall, Schweinfurt, Schwerin, Selb, Siegen, Singen, Sinsheim, Sonderhausen, Sonneberg, Stade, Stendal, Stuttgart, Suhl, Tornesch, Traunstein, Tuttingen, Ulm, Verden, Villingen-Schwenningen, Vilshofen, Wachtberg, Werl, Wetzlar, Weimar, Wiesbaden, Wilhelmshaven, Willich, Wuppertal, Zittau, Zwickau.

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	482,350	872,000	55.32
2016	544,335	947,000	57.48

There is no national cremation society.

All information provided by the following organisation:

**Bundesverband Deutscher Bestatter e.V.**

Volmerswerther Strasse 79

D-40221 Düsseldorf

*President:* Christian Streidt*Secretary General:* Stefan Neuser*Date of foundation:* 1948*Number of members:* 3,000*Name of Journal:* Bestattungskultur (formerly Das Bestattungsgewerbe)*Date of Foundation:* 1949*Published:* monthly*Circulation (per issue):* 36,000*Editor:* Stefan Neuser**GHANA****Number of crematoria: 8**

There is one gas furnace cremation facility at Lashibi Funeral Home, Accra, opened in 2011.

There are seven Open Pyre Crematoria at Accra (1977), Akim Oda (2010), Cape Coast (1970s), Koforidua (2002), Kumasi (1993), Sekondi (2007), Takoradi (1960s)

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	5,120	71,556	7.16
2016	5,120	72,664	7.05

All information provided by the following organisation.

**Ridge Cremation and Funeral Service**

PO.Box LI 720

Latebiokorshie, Accra

Ghana, West Africa.

*President:* Joe A Quarcoo*Secretary:* Godfried A Otu*Treasurer:* Mahesh Gokaldas*Date of foundation:* 1977*Number of members:* +3,000**HAITI****Number of Crematoria: 3**

**Crematoria situated at:** Port-au-Prince (Pax Villa) (1), Tabarre (2)

**\*Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	179	–	–
2016	196	–	–

\*Pax Villa only.

**Pax Villa Funéraire et Crématorium**

29 Route de Mais Gâté, Tabarre,

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, WI.

*President:* Mr Robert Loubeau*Date of foundation:* July 1962**HONG KONG****Number of Crematoria: 6**

**Crematoria situated at:** Cape Collinson, Cheung Chau, Diamond Hill, Fu Shan, Kwai Chung, Wo Hop Shek.

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	42,737	46,757	91.40
2016	43,556	46,662	93.34

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

Cemeteries and Crematoria Section  
42nd Floor, Queensway Government Offices

66 Queensway, Hong Kong

**HUNGARY****Number of crematoria: 17**

**Crematoria situated at:** Budapest, Csanádpuszta, Csömör, Debrecen, Geszthely, Győr, Magyarszecsöd, Pécs, Siófok, Szeged, Szolnok, Tatabánya.

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	78,790	128,750	61.20
2016	83,330	131,220	63.50

All information provided by the following organisation:

**Országos Temetkezés Egyes let és Ipartest let (OTEI)**

H-1134 Budapest, Váci út 23-27

Hungary

*President:* Jozsef Horváth*Secretary:* Barbara Nebelhaj*Treasurer:* Geza Ladocsy*Date of foundation:* 1971*Number of members:* 57*Name of journal:* Magyar Temetkezés*Date of foundation:* 1993*Published:* quarterly*Circulation:* 600*Editor:* Jozsef Horváth**ICELAND****Number of crematoria 1**

The Cremation Society of Iceland, founded in 1948, was dissolved in 1964 but cremations continue at the crematorium in \*Reykjavik.

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	629	2,184	28.80
2016	718	2,309	31.10

**\* Capital Area Cemeteries**

Vesturhlíð 8

105 Reykjavik, Iceland

*President:* Jóhannes Pálmason

*Secretary:* Thórsteinn Ragnarsson  
*Treasurer:* Helga Halldórsdóttir  
*Date of foundation:* 1932  
*Name of journal:* Bautasteinn  
*Date of foundation:* 1996  
*Published:* once a year  
*Circulation:* 1,200  
*Editor:* Thórsteinn Ragnarsson  
 Vesturhlíð 8, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland



**Number of crematoria:** 6

One new crematorium opened in Daristown in 2016

**Crematoria situated at:** Cavan, Cork, Dublin (4) (Daristown, Glasnevin, Newlands Cross and Mount Jerome),

Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	4,981	29,952	16.63
2016	5,498	30,390	18.09

There is no national cremation society. All information provided by the following organisations:

**Glasnevin Trust**

Daristown Crematorium  
 Collinstown Cross, Co Dublin  
 Glasnevin Crematorium, Finglas Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11  
 Newlands Cross Crematorium, Ballymount Road, Dublin 24  
*President:* Mr George McCullough  
*Secretary:* Mr Mervyn Colville  
*Treasurer:* Mr John Hyde  
*Date of foundation:* 1982

**General Cemetery Company of Dublin**

Mount Jerome Cemetery  
 Harolds Cross  
 Dublin D6W HY98  
*Secretary:* Mr Alan Massey

**The Island Crematorium**

Rocky Island, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork, P43 DD71  
*President:* Mr Louis Ronan  
*Secretary:* Mr Frank Murphy  
*Treasurer:* Mr Martin Crowley

**Lakelands Crematorium**

Old Dublin Road  
 Cavan H12 RF78  
*Secretary:* Declan Finnegan



**Number of crematoria:** 75

**Crematoria situated at:** Acqui Terme (AL), Albosaggia (SO), Aosta, Arezzo, Ascoli Piceno, Asti, Bagno a Ripoli (FI), Bari, Bergamo, Biella, Bologna, Bolzano, Bra (CN), Brescia, Busto Arsizio, Cagliari,

Carpanzano (CS), Cava dei Tirreni (SA), Cervignano del Friuli (UD), Cesena, Cinisello Balsamo (MI), Como, Copparo (FE), Cremona, Domicella (AV), Domodossola, Faenza (RA), Ferrara, Firenze, Genova, La Maddalena (OT), La Spezia, Livorno, Lodi, Mantova, Mappano di Caselle Torinese (TO), Massa, Messina, Milano, Modena, Milinella (BO), Montecorvino Pugliano (SA), Novara, Olbia (OT), Padova, Palermo, Parma, Pavia, Perugia, Piacenza, Pisa, Piscina (TO), Pistoia, Ravenna, Reggio Emilia, Rimini, Roma, San Benedetto del Tronto, Sassari, Savona, Siena, Spinea (VE), Torino, Treocate, Treviso, Trieste, Udine, Valenza (AL), Varese, Venezia Isola San Michele, Venezia Marghera, Verbania, Verona, Vicenza, Viterbo

Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	137,165	647,571	21.18
2016	141,553	615,261	23.01

**a Federazione Italiana per la Cremazione**

Corso Turati, 11/c - 10128 Torino, Italy  
*President:* Franco Lapini  
*Secretary:* Giampaolo Berti  
*Treasurer:* Giovanni Pollini  
*Date of foundation:* 1906  
*Number of members:* 39

**b) SEFIT-Utitalia**

Via Cavour 179/A - 00184 Roma  
*President:* Giovanni Valotti  
*Operative Secretary:* Barrera Pietro  
*Operative Secretary for International Activities:* Fogli Daniele  
*Date of foundation:* June 2005 (previously SEFIT-Federgasacqua founded 1947, and then SEFIT-FederUtility)  
*Number of members:* 476 (of whom 50 are members of SEFIT)



**Number of crematoria:** Approximately 1,460

In 2016, 16 crematoria were newly constructed at the following locations:

Tokyo-Prefecture (12 cremators), Kimino-Town (10 cremators), Saku-City (7 cremators), Tajimi-City (6 cremators), Gamagouri-City (6 cremators), Taga-Town (6 cremators), Kawachinagano-City (4 cremators), Hasaki-City (3 cremators), Uonuma-City (3 cremators), Nakano-City (3 cremators), Ukiha-City

(3 cremators), Yomitan-Village (3 cremators), Nose-Town (2 cremators), Muroto-City (2 cremators), Aki-City (2 cremators), Setouchi-Town (2 cremators)

Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	1,345,873	1,346,276	99.97
2016	1,376,805	1,376,486	99.98

**Japan Society of Environmental Crematory**

Nihon Kankyo Saien Kyokai, 10-6 Yotsuyakami tyou Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki-City, 210-0828 Japan  
*President:* Mr Akio Okumura  
*Secretary:* Mr Makoto Hasegawa  
*Treasurer:* Mr Yuji Moriyama  
*Date of foundation:* 1972

*Number of members:*

- Enterprise members: 33
- Municipal members: 18
- Personal Members: 25
- Scientific members: 7

*Name of journal:* Kankyo Saien (Journal of Environmental Crematory)

*Date of foundation:* 1981

*Published:* annually

*Circulation:* 750

*Editor:* Mr Makoto Hasegawa



**Number of crematoria:** 1  
**Crematoria situated at:** Riga

*Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2004	1,361	10,101	13.47
2005	1,529	10,342	14.78

\*Latest figures obtainable

**SIA 'Rigas Krematorija'**

Varonu 3a, Lv-1005, Riga, Latvia  
*Head of the Board:* Juris Videnieks  
*President:* Ilze Verpakovska  
*Treasurer:* Andris Treimanis  
*Date of foundation:* 1994  
*Number of members:* 16



**Number of crematoria:** 1

The first crematorium opened in Luxembourg in October 1995. Prior to this cremations took place in Liège, Belgium.

Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	2,204	3,983	55.34
2016	2,187	3,967	55.13

**S.I.C.E.C. (Syndicat Intercommunal pour la Construction et l'Exploitation d'un Crématoire)**

1, Allée des Châtaigniers L-1366 Luxembourg  
*President:* Monsieur Jean Tonnar  
*Managing Director:* Madame Steffi Weigel  
*Secretary:* Monsieur Marc Thill  
*Date of foundation:* 1976  
*Number of members:* 72



**Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill**

Rose Hill Mauritius  
*Mayor:* Mr Ken Fat Fong Suk Koon  
*Chief Executive:* Mr Jean François Dorestan  
*Financial Controller:* Mr Daniel Lam Hing  
*Date of Foundation:* 1896  
*Number of members:* 24 Municipal Town Councillors

**Number of Crematoria:** 3  
**Crematoria situated at:** Chebel (2), Camp Leveux

*Statistics of cremations for The Municipal Council of Beau Bassin – Rose Hill:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	16	–	–

\*Latest figures obtainable

**The District Council of Black River**

Geoffroy Road, Bambous  
*President:* Mrs Veronique Leu-Govind  
*Secretary:* Mr Jean François Dorestan  
*Treasurer:* Mrs Bianca Armoogum  
*Date of foundation:* 1989  
*Number of members:* 14  
**Number of Crematoria:** 5 (**Black River Council Area**)  
**Crematoria situated at:** The St Martin Cremation Ground, Bambous (Montagne St Pierre Crematorium)  
 Locations of other crematoria unknown

Statistics of cremations for The District Council of Black River:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	80	431	18.56
2016	107	564	18.97

**Municipal Council of Curepipe**

Queen Elizabeth II Avenue Curepipe  
*Mayor:* Mr Berty Hans Margueritte  
*Chief Executive:* Mrs T D Ramkissoon-Mungoosingh  
*Financial Controller:* Miss Pushadevi Viveka Mohabeer

*Date of foundation:* 1889  
*Number of members:* 20  
**Number of Crematoria:** 5  
**Crematoria situated at:** Bigarade Cemetery/Crematorium (1 wood pyre, 2 gas cremators), Trou Aux Cerfs (1 wood pyre), Tout Court Cremation Ground (1 wood pyre)

Statistics of cremations for Municipal Council of Curepipe:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	242	571	42.38
2016	288	611	47.14

**The District Council of Flacq**

Plaine de Gersigny, Central Flacq  
*Chief Executive (Ag):* Mr Ramanjooloo  
**Number of Crematoria:** 28 (**cremators**)  
**Crematoria situated at:** unknown

*Statistics of cremations for The District Council of Flacq:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2013	496	–	–

\*Latest figures obtainable

**The District Council of Grand-Port**

Royal Road, Rose-Belle  
*President:* Mr Vinay Hurcharan  
*Secretary:* Mrs T D Ramkissoon-Mungoosingh  
*Treasurer:* Mr Navin Soogund  
*Date of foundation:* 1950  
*Number of members:* 28

**Number of Crematoria:** 23 (**21 Cremation Grounds and 2 cremators**)  
**Crematoria grounds situated at:** St Hilaire, Riviere des Creoles (Pte Brocus Cemetery), Old Grand Port, Bois des Amourettes, Petit Sable, Beau Champs, Plaine Magnien, Camp Carol, Mare D'Albert, Trois Boutiques, New Grove (Gros Billot), Rose Belle, Union Park, Cluny, Nouvelle France, 16 eme Mille, Midlands, Mare Tabac, Mahebourg (Tombeau) , Petit Bel Air, Mare Chicose  
**Cremators situated at:** Plaine Magnien, Rose Belle  
**Statistics:** unknown

**The District Council of Moka**

District Council Office, Royal Road, Quartier Militaire  
*Chairperson:* Mr Renganarden Sooben  
*Chief Executive:* Mr Ghovadarajah Naidoo Ramanjooloo  
*Treasurer:* Mr Abdool Azad Moideen  
*Date of foundation:* 1951  
*Number of members:* 17  
**Number of Crematoria:** 14 (**cremators**)  
**Crematoria situated at:** villages in the District of Moka

*Statistics of cremations for The District Council of Moka:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2012	102	246	41.46
2013	250	–	–

\*Latest figures obtainable

**District Council of Pamplémousses**

Morrison Road, Pamplémousses  
*President:* Mr R Woodhit, Gosk  
*Secretary:* Mr R Beeharry  
*Treasurer:* Mr G Charles  
*Date of foundation:* 2013  
**Number of Cremation Grounds:**19  
**Crematoria situated at:** Calebasses, Creve Coeur, Fond du Sac (First Road), Fond du Sac (Ossailles), Grande Rosalie, Ilot, Le Hochet (Riche Terre), Long Mountain (Les Mariannes), Mon Gout, Morc St Andre, Notre Dame, Pamplémousses (Old Cholera Cemetery), Plaine des Papayes, Pointe aux Piments, Terre Rouge (Bois Marchand Cemetery), Triolet (Derminham), Triolet (Fire Station), Triolet (Sewraz), Ville Bague (Nicoliere)  
**Statistics:** unknown

**City Council of Port-Louis**

Jules Koenig Street, Port Louis  
*Lord Mayor:* Mr Mohammad Oumar Kholeegan  
*Chief Executive:* Mr Jaylall Mulloo  
*Treasurer:* Mr Raj Gungadeen  
*Number of members:* 32  
**Number of Crematoria:** 4  
**Crematoria situated at:** Port-Louis

Statistics of cremations City Council of Port-Louis:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	184	–	–
2016	168	–	–

**Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes**

St Jean Road, Quatre Bornes  
*President:* Mr Atmaram Sonoo

Chief Executive:

Mr Vinesh Singh Seeparsad

Treasurer: Mr Sanjay Veerasamy

Date of foundation: 1896

**Number of Crematoria: 3**

**Crematoria situated at:** Berthaud, Palma, Trianon

Statistics of cremations for Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	804	1,376	58.43
2016	798	1,345	59.33

#### The District Council of Riviere du Rempart

Royal Road, Mapou

Chairman: Mr Goorooduth Chuckum

Chief Executive: Mr Dheeraj Gopaul

Chief Health Inspector: N Langur

Date of foundation: 1962

Number of members: 22

**Number of Crematoria: 3**

**Crematoria situated at:** Belmont, Petit Raffray (Daruty) and Piton

Statistics of cremations for The District Council of Riviere du Rempart			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	265*	–	–
2016	248	–	–

\* Cremations at Belmont 229, Petit Raffray 19, Piton 17

#### District Council of Savanne

Lady Barkly Street, Souillac

Chairperson: Mr K Gajadur

Chief Executive: Mrs S Coonjan Jugroop

Financial Controller: Mr M N Rungasamy

Date of foundation: 2012

Number of members: 19

**Number of Cremation Grounds: 11**

**Crematoria situated at:** St Martin, Riviere des Galets, Chamouny, Tyack, Camp Diable, L'Escalier (25arpents, Bassin Caragnue), Riviere du Poste (Royal Road, Seeajee), Grand Bois, Bois Cheri  
**Statistics:** unknown

#### Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix

Town Hall, St Paul Avenue, Vacoas

Mayor: Mr Navin Ramsoondur

Secretary: Mr Nandraj Dayal

Treasurer: Mr Reshad Gaungoo

Date of foundation: 1963

Number of members: 18

**Number of Crematoria: 9**

**Crematoria situated at:** Allee Brillant, Camp Fouquereaux, Cinq Arpents, Henrietta, Highlands, La Marie, Phoenix Cemetery, Solferino, Trois Mamelles Cemetery

Statistics of cremations for Municipal Council of Vacoas-Phoenix:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	286	727	39.34
2016	345*	753	45.82

\* The figures are for Phoenix Municipal Cemetery and Trois Mamelles Cemetery. The council does not have records for the cremations carried out on cremation grounds. N.B. Permits for cremation are issued including those at the Phoenix Cemetery by the Ministry of Health.

#### MONGOLIA

**Number of crematoria: 2**

**Crematoria situated at:** Ulaanbaatar City

Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	2,140	17,620	12.15
2016	1,576	17,763	8.87

#### Mongolian Funeral Association

"New Mind Group" Building,

Undsen Huuli Street 9/1,

5th khoroo, Sukhbaatar District,

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

President: Idermaa Garavsuren

Secretary: Baasandulam Oyundalai

Date of foundation: 2008

Number of members: 10

#### NAMIBIA

**Number of crematoria: 1**

**Crematoria situated at:** Windhoek

*Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	184	–	–
2016	477	–	–

\* Windhoek is the only crematorium in Namibia, thus carrying out cremations for the entire country. Death statistics are currently not available for the entire country, only for the City of Windhoek. No burial statistics are available for Namibia and to apply a cremation rate for the country using figures applicable to Windhoek would be misleading.

#### Windhoek Crematorium

Department of Economic Development & Environment

PO.Box 59, Windhoek, Namibia

Cremation Officer: Mr Obed Haraseb

#### THE NETHERLANDS (4 Societies)

Eight new crematorium opened in 2016 in Amsterdam (Zorgvlied), Beverwijk, Hardenberg, Hilversum, Lisse, Maassluis, Nijmegen (Waalstede) and Utrecht (Domstede)

**Number of crematoria: 93**

**Crematoria situated at:** Aalten, Almere, Almere, Alphen a/d Rijn, Amersfoort, Amsterdam (De Nieuwe Noorder), Amsterdam (De Nieuwe Ooster), Amsterdam (Westgaarde), Apeldoorn, Appingedam, Arnhem, Assen, Baexem, Bergen op Zoom, Beuningen, Bilthoven, Breda, Capelle aan de IJssel, Delft, Den Haag (Nieuw Eykenduynen), Den Haag (Ockenburg), Diepenveen, Dieren, Doetinchem, Dordrecht, Drachten, Echt, Ede, Eijsden, Eindhoven, Emmen, Enschede, Geleen, Gouda, Goutum, Groningen, Haarlem, Heerenveen, Heerhugowaard, Heerlen, Heeze, Helmond, Hilvarenbeek, Hoorn, Kerkrade, Leiden, Lelystad, Marsum, Meppel, Middelburg, Nieuwegein, Nieuw-Vennep, Nijmegen, Nijverdal, Oosterhout, Purmerend, Rijswijk, Roermond, Roosendaal, Rosmalen, Rotterdam (Hofwijk), Rotterdam (Laurentius), Rotterdam (Zuid), Schagen, Schiedam, Sneek, Spijkenisse, Stadskanaal, Terneuzen, Tiel, Tilburg, Uden (2), Uithoorn, Utrecht, Velsen, Venlo, Venray, Vlijmen, Weert, Winschoten, Zaandam, Zoetermeer, Zutphen, Zwolle.

Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	93,177	147,134	63.33
2016	93,907	148,898	63.07

#### a) Landelijke Vereniging van Crematoria (LVC) (Dutch National Cremation Federation)

Van Stolkweg 29a, 2585 JN Den Haag

President: Mr J Blaak

Secretary: Mr J M H J Keizer

Treasurer: Mr C Beaulen

Date of foundation: 1988

Number of members: 88

#### b) Yarden Vereniging

Transistorstraat 10, 1322 CE, Almere

President: Mr D van der Vegte

Secretary: Mr R L Boer

Treasurer: Mr P G A van den Kerkhoff

Date of foundation: 2001

Number of members: 950,000

Name of journal: Verder

Date of foundation: 2015

Published: twice a year

Circulation (per issue): 450,000

Editor: Mrs Monique Orriëns

#### c) Koninklijke Vereniging voor Facultatieve Crematie (Royal Dutch Cremation Society 'de Facultatieve')

Van Stolkweg 29a, 2585 JN Den Haag

President: Mr J M H J Keizer

Secretary: Mrs C C Bosua-Westerman

Treasurer: Mr F L J Jacobs

Date of foundation: 1874

Number of members: 1583

#### NEW ZEALAND

**Number of crematoria: Unknown.**

Most city crematoria are owned and operated by the local council although there has been a trend in recent years towards funeral homes establishing their own small crematory. There is no national organisation for these facilities and therefore no accurate details of those currently operating. Within the funeral industry it is acknowledged that 72% of deaths are cremated.

Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	–	31,608	*72.00
2016	–	31,179	*72.00

\* Estimated

#### Cremation Society of Canterbury Limited

PO. Box 398, Christchurch,

New Zealand

General Manager: Barbara Terry

Date of foundation: 1936 as a private company.

#### NORWAY

**Number of crematoria: 26**

**Crematoria situated at:** Ålesund, Arendal, Bærum, Bergen, Bodø, Drammen, Gjøvik, Halden, Harstad, Kongsvinger, Kristiansand, Kristiansund, Narvik, Odda, Oslo, Ringerike, Røros, Sandefjord, Sandnessund, Sarpsborg, Skedsmo, Skien, Stavanger, Steinkjer, Tinn, Trondheim

Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	16,164	40,727	39.69
2016	16,703	40,726	41.01

#### Norsk Forening For Gravplasskultur

Neslandsvatn, N-3750 Drangedal,

Norway

President: Ingvild Hareide Hansen

Secretary: Synnøve Haugstad Sira

Date of foundation: 1966

Number of members: 467

Name of journal: Gravplassen

Date of foundation: 1998 (Originally

'Kirkegårdskultur' founded in 1970)

Published: quarterly

Circulation (per issue):1,300

Editor: Alf Bergin

Ishallveien 24, 4021 Stavanger, Norway

#### PERU

**Number of crematoria: 8**

**Crematoria situated at:** Asociacion del Cementerio Britanico (Callao – Lima Department), Baquijano Cementery (Callao – Lima Department), Centro Funerario Jardinez de la Paz (Lurin – Lima Department), Crematorio Ecologico El Manantial (Villa El Salvador – Lima Department), El Angel Cementery (Lima Department), Jardines de la Paz Cementery (La Molina – Lima Department), Navy Hospital (Callao – Lima Department), The Army (Lima Department)

*Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	660	959	68.82
2016	850	1,533	55.45

\* Cementerio Británico Crematorium only

#### Asociacion Del Cementerio Britanico

Avenida Mariscal Oscar R. Benavides

(Avda. Colonial) 2141, Callao, Lima, Peru.

President: Carlos Davis Cancina

Secretary: Maureen Chesterton

Date of foundation: 1835

#### POLAND

**Number of crematoria: 52**

**Crematoria situated at:** Antoninów, Bełchatów, Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Bytom, Chorzów, Częstochowa, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Gdańsk, Głogów (2), Gorzów Wielkopolski (2), Jasienica, Jelenia Góra (2), Kalisz, Koszalin (2), Kraków, Legnica, Łódź (2), Łódź (church), Nowa Chelmska, Opole, Otwock, Poznań (cooperative), Przasnysz, Pruszków, Radom, Ramlewo, Roszkowo, Ruda Śląska (private) (2), Rzeszów, Skarbimierz, Skarżysko-Kamienna, Skwierzyzna, Słupsk, Stalowa Wola, Strzelin, Szczecin, Suwałki, Toruń, Warszawa, Wrocław, Wrocław (2), Wyszkiw, Zmigrod, Żory

Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	–	394,900	*22.00
2016	–	388.000	*24.00

\*Estimated

#### Polish Funeral Association

Sokolowska 4 01-136 Warsaw

Poland

President: Krzysztof Wolicki

Vice President: Marek Cichewicz

Secretary: Adam Ragiel

Treasurer: Jan Szczuciński

Date of foundation: 1998

Number of members: 117

Name of journal: Memento

Date of foundation: 1997

Published: 6 times per year

Circulation (per issue):circa 450

Editor: Krzysztof Wolicki

#### PORTUGAL

**Number of crematoria: 20**

**Crematoria situated at:** Almada, Barcarena, Camarate, Elvas, Ferreira do Alentejo, Figueira da Foz, Lisbon (3), Matosinhos, Paranhos, Ponta Delgada, Porto, Porto Santo, Póvoa de Santa Iria, Rio de Mouro, São João de Madeira, Sesimbra, Setúbal, Viseu

*Statistics of cremations:			
	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	3,270	6,537	50.02
2016	3,680	6,699	54.93

\*Lisbon only

#### Câmara Municipal De Lisboa

Direcção Municipal de Ambiente Urbano

Departamento de Higiene Urbana

Divisão de Gestão Cemiterial

Cemitério de Carnide,

Rua Rio Zêzere 1600-755 Lisboa, Portugal

President: Dr. Fernando Medina

Councillor: Dr. Duarte Cordeiro

Municipal Director: Eng. Ângelo Mesquita

Head of Division: Dra. Sara Gonçalves

**ROMANIA****Number of crematoria:** 4**Crematoria situated at:** Bucharest (Vitan Bârzești), Cenusă (closed in 2002), Oradea (Phoenix), Badeni/Cluj Napoca (Ignis)**\*Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	972	261,822	0.37
2016	1,083	256,501	0.42

\* Bucharest (Vitan Bârzești) and Badeni/Cluj Napoca (Ignis) only

Information provided by the following organisations:

**Administration of Human Cemeteries and Crematories**

Human Crematory Vitan Bârzești

1 Green Houses, 4th District

042124 Bucharest, Romania

*Director:* Emil Iana*Date of foundation:* 1994**Amurg. Romanian Cremation Association**

Laturenii, nr. 43, Hunedoara, Romania

*President:* Marius Rotar*Vice-President:* Cosmin Bodrean*Treasurer:* Mihaela Bodrean*Date of foundation:* 22 April 2010*Number of members:* 78**RUSSIA****Number of crematoria:** 16**Crematoria situated in the following****cities:** Artyom (Primorsky Region),

Chelyabinsk, Ekaterinburg, Moscow (4),

Nizhny Tagil, Norilsk, Novokuznetsk,

Novosibirsk, Rostov-na-Donu,

St. Petersburg, Surgat, Vladivostok,

Volgograd

**\*Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2010	108,577	291,612	37.23
2011	102,492	212,394	48.26

\* Cremation numbers for Chelyabinsk and Volgograd have not been disclosed. Latest figures obtainable.

Information provided by the following organisation:

**Novosibirsk Funeral Trade House Ltd**

4/10 Voyentorgovskaya St, Voskhod,

Novosibirsk reg, Russia 630530

*Name of journal:* 'Funeral Home'*Date of foundation:* 2003*Published:* quarterly*Circulation:* 2,500*Editor:* Sergei Yakushin**SERBIA****Number of crematoria:** 2**Crematoria situated at:** Belgrade and Novi Sad**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	3,405	16,618	20.49
2016	3,090	15,995	19.32

**Udruženje Krematista Srbije “OGANJ”**

(Cremation Association of Serbia)

Sime Igumanova 14

11000 Beograd, Serbia

*President:* Mr Branislav Matijas*Secretary:* Mrs Maja Nikoli*Treasurer:* Mrs Nada Dančetović*Date of foundation:* December 1904*Number of members:* 4,123**SINGAPORE****Number of crematoria:** 4**Crematoria situated at:** Brighthill, Choa

Chu Kang, Mandai, Tse Tho Aum

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	15,751	19,862	79.30
2016	15,968	20,017	79.77

**National Environment Agency**

Environmental Health Department

40 Scotts Road, #21-00 Environment

Building

Singapore 228231

**SLOVENIA** (Republic of)**Number of crematoria:** 2**Crematoria situated at:** Ljubljana &

Maribor

**\*Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2014	15,671	18,886	82.98
2015	16,592	19,834	83.65

\*Latest figures obtainable

**Žale Javno Podjetje, d.o.o.**

Med hmeljniki 2, 1000 Ljubljana

*President:* mag. Robert Martincic*Secretary:* Katja Tekavec*Treasurer:* Kristina Hafner Lapajne*Date of foundation:* 1914*Number of members* : 1*Name of journal:* Urban*Date of foundation:* 2004*Published:* quarterly*Circulation:* 2,500*Editor:* Justina Justina Simičič

Javni Holding Ljubljana, d.o.o.

Verovškova 70, 1000 Ljubljana

**SOUTH KOREA****Number of crematoria:** 60**Crematoria situated at:** Busan,

Chungcheonbuk (3), Chungcheongnam

(3), Daegu, Daejeon, Gangwon (8),

Gyeongsangbuk (11), Gyeongsangnam

(11), Gyeonggi (3), Incheon, Jeju,

Jeollabuk (5), Jeollanam (6), Kwangju,

Sejong, Seoul (2), Ulsan

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	221,895	275,895	80.79
2016	230,762*	280,827	82.17*

\*Estimated

**SPAIN****Number of crematoria:** 132 (as at 2006)**Crematoria situated at:** A Coruña

(Servisa), A Coruña Municipal, Albacete,

Albolote (Granada), Alcalá de Henares,

Alcobendas, Alcorcón, Alfafar-Silla

(Valencia), Algeciras (Cádiz), Alicante,

Alora (Málaga), Arrecife (Lanzarote),

Avilès (Asturias), Azcoitia (Guipuzcoa),

Badajoz, Badalona (Barcelona),

Baracaldo (Vizcaya), Barcelona,

Barcelona (Rocas Blancas),

Benalmádena (Málaga), Bilbao (Vizcaya),

Burgos-la Paz, Burgos-San José,

Carcajente (Valencia), Cartagena,

Castellón, Ceuta, Chiclana de la Frontera,

Ciudad Real (T. Alfonso X),

Ciudad Real (T. del Prado), Ciudadela

(Menorca), Collado Villalba, Córdoba,

Coria del Río (Sevilla), Cuenca, Denia

(Alicante), El Ejido (Almería), Elche

(Alicante), Elda (Alicante), El Escorial

(Madrid), Elgoibar (Guipuzcoa), Erandio

(Vizcaya), Espinardo (Murcia), Estepona

(Málaga), Figueras (Gerona), Fuengirola

(Málaga), Galdacano (Vizcaya), Getafe,

Gijón, Granada, Granollers (Barcelona),

Guadalajara, Hospitalet de Llobregat

(BCN), Huelva, Jaén (Benigno Torres),

Jaén (Grupo Delgado), Jaén (San Jose),

Jàvea (Alicante), Jeréz de la Frontera

(Cádiz), La Línea de la Concepción

(Cádiz), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria,

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (MB),

Leganés, Leon (Funeraria Leonesa),

León (Serfunle), Lèrida, Linares, Llodio

(Àlava), Logroño, Madrid, Málaga, Manzanares (Ciudad Real), Marbella, Melilla, Mérida (Badajoz), Mieres del Camino (Asturias), Molina de Segura (Mùrcia), Mondragón (Guipúzcoa), Monzón (Huesca), Móstoles, Murcia, Narón (La Coruña), Nijar, Orense, Oviedo, Palencia (San Millán), Palencia (T. Parque), Palma de Mallorca, Pamplona, Parla, Pinos Puente (Granada), Pinto (Madrid), Plasencia (San Lorenzo), Plasencia (Ntra. Señora de Fatima), Pontevedra, Puentegeñil (Córdoba), Puerto Real (Cádiz), Rentería, Reus (Tarragona), Ribarroja del Turia (Valencia), Salamanca, Salt (Gerona), San Feliu de Guixol (Gerona), San Fernando de Henares (Mad), San Javier (Murcia), San Lorenzo del Escorial (Mad), San Pedro del Pinatar (Murcia), San Sebastián (Guipuzcoa), Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Mixta), Santander, Sevilla, Soria, Tarragona, Tarrega (Lérida), Terrasa (Barcelona), Toledo, Torrejon de Ardoz (Mad), Torrente (Alicante), Valencia, Valladolid (T. Parque), Valladolid-Necrópolis, Velez Malaga, Vigo-Memorial, Vigo-Municipal, Villajoyosa (Alicante), Villanueva Serena-Badajoz, Villarrobledo (Albacete), Vitoria (Àlava) Gasteiz, Vitoria (Àlava) Lanzurica, Zamora, Zaragoza

**Statistics of cremations – national rate:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2005	74,819	387,019	19.33
2006	77,900	*380,000	*20.50

Latest figures obtainable \*approximately

**Statistics of cremations –****Barcelona (2 crematoria):**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	8,021	16,212	49.48
2016	7,817	15,532	50.33

**Cementiris de Barcelona S.A.**

C\ Joan d'Àustria, 130, 08018 Barcelona

*President:* Mr Eloi Badia Casas*Director General:*

Mr Jordi Valmaña i Corbella

*Secretary:* Mr Joan Manuel Aparicio Ullod*Treasurer:* Mr Àngel Pascual Cano*Date of foundation:* 2006**SWEDEN****Number of crematoria:** 59**Crematoria situated at:** Alingsås,

Ängelholm, Arvika, Bollnäs, Borås,

Eskilstuna, Fagersta, Falun, Filipstad,

Gällivare, Gävle, Göteborg, Halmstad, Helsingborg, Huddinge, Jönköping, Kalmar, Karlskoga, Karlskrona, Karlstad, Katrineholm, Kiruna, Kramfors, Kristianstad, Landskrona, Lidköping, Linköping, Ludvika, Luleå, Lund, Malmö, Mariestad, Mora, Nacka, Norrköping, Nyköping, Nässjö, Örebro, Oskarshamn, Östersund, Sandviken, Skellefteå, Skövde, Sollentuna, Stockholm (Skogs, Räcksta), Sundsvall, Tranås, Trelleborg, Trollhättan, Umeå, Uppsala, Vänersborg, Varberg, Värnamo, Västerås, Växjö, Visby, Ystad.

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	73,937	90,907	81.33
2016	73,344	90,982	80.61

**Sveriges kyrkogårds-och****krematorieförbund**

Box 19071, SE-104 32 Stockholm

*President:* Mr Jan Olov Andersson*Secretary:* Katarina Ahlman*Treasurer:* Helen Neiglick*Date of foundation:* 1882*Number of members:* 447*Name of journal:* Kyrkogården*Date of foundation:* 1929*Published:* 6 times a year*Editor:* Johan Nilsson

Kyrkogården, Box 19071, 104 32

Stockholm, Sweden

**SWITZERLAND****Number of crematoria:** 28**Crematoria situated at:** Aarau, Baden,

Basel-Stadt, Bellinzona, Bern, Biel,

Burgdorf, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Chur,

Davos-Platz, Fribourg, Genève,

Langenthal, Lausanne, Locarno, Lugano,

Luzern, Neuchâtel, Olten, Rütli, St. Gallen,

Schaffhausen, Schwyz, Sion, Solothurn,

Thun, Winterthur, Zürich.

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	57,764	67,606	85.44
2016	54,643	64,586	84.59

**Schweizerischer Verband für****Feuerbestattung**

Stadt Zürich, Bestattungs-und Friedhofamt

Postfach 8022, Zürich

*President:* Marc Lüthi*Secretary:* Rolf Steinmann*Treasurer:* Alex Borer*Date of foundation:* 1916*Number of members:* 25**TAIWAN****Number of crematoria:** 38**Crematoria situated at:** Chiayi City,

Hsinchu City, Hsinchu County (Huko

Township) (Zhudong Township), Hualien

County (Fonglin Township) (Jian

Township) (Rueisuei Township) (Yuli

Township) (Sanmin District), Keelung City;

Kinmen County, Lienchiang County

(Nangan Township), Miaoli County

(Dahu Township) (Houlong Township)

(Nanzhuang Township), Nantou County

(Jiji Township), Penghu County (Magong

City), Pingtung County (Fangliao

Township) (Gaoshu Township) (Pingtung

City), Taichung City (Dajia District)

(Xiton District), Tainan City (Baihe

District) (Liouying District) (Sinying

District) (South District) (Zuojhen

District), Taipei City, New Taipei City,

Taoyuan City (Jhongli District) (Taoyuan

District), Taitung County (Chenggong

Township) (Taitung City), Yilan County

(Luodong Township) (Toucheng

Township) (Yilan City), Yunlin County

(Huwei Township)

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	153,596	163,858	93.74
2016	166,246	172,829	96.19

There is no national cremation society in Taiwan.

All information is provided by the

following organisation:

**Kaihung Environmental Engineering****Co Ltd**

6F, No.376, Sec. 7, Cheng De Road,

Bei-Tou,

Taipei, Taiwan

*President:* Ching-Wen Hu**THAILAND****Number of crematoria:** 2,077

80% of Thai people are Buddhist and

therefore cremation is the usual method

of disposal. With the exception of the

Northern Province where open air

cremation in a cemetery is still the

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	365,113	456,391	80.00
2016	384,347	480,434	80.00

There is no national cremation society in Thailand. Information is provided by the following organisation:

**Siam Funeral Co. Ltd.**

30/21 Village No. 6  
Klongsi, Klongluang  
Pathumthani 12120  
Thailand

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**



**Number of crematoria: 4**

The first is situated in Port of Spain and operated by Port of Spain City Corporation. The second and third are situated in San Fernando and Trincity and are both operated by Belgroves Funeral Home Co., Ltd. The fourth is situated in Arima.

In addition there are six sites (riverbanks used by Hindus alone) where cremations are carried out by traditional pyre.

**\*Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2014	*998	10,379	*9.62
2015	*1,042	10,618	*9.81

\*San Fernando and Trincity only. Latest figures obtainable

**Belgroves Funeral Homes Company Ltd**

107-109 Coffee Street, San Fernando  
Trinidad, West Indies

*Chief Executive Officer:* Keith Belgrove

*Assistant Chief Executive Officer:*

Mercedes Belgrove

*Date of foundation:* 1888 (private company)

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**



**Number of crematoria: 1**

Al Foah Crematorium situated in Abu Dhabi.

Newly opened in January 2012 but operational since October 2011

**\*Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2011	5	580	0.86
2012/13	21	1,684	1.25

2011 – figures from October to December 2011

2012/13 – figures for 12 months ended 31st July 2013. \*Latest figures obtainable

Information provided by the following organisation:

**Al Foah Funeral Services**

PO Box 73373

Abu Dhabi

United Arab Emirates

*President:* Mr Stewart A Jack

**UNITED KINGDOM**



**Number of crematoria: 281**

**Crematoria situated in the following counties at:** Bedfordshire (2), Berkshire (4), Bristol (3), Buckinghamshire (2), Cambridgeshire (3), Cheshire (6), Cleveland (3), Cornwall (3), Cumbria (3), Derbyshire (3), Devonshire (6), Dorset (3), Durham (4), Essex (10), Gloucestershire (3), Hampshire (6), Herefordshire (1), Hertfordshire (2), Isle of Man (1), Isle of Wight (1), Kent (8), Lancashire (9), Leicestershire (3), Lincolnshire (7), Greater London (24), Greater Manchester (14), Merseyside (6), Norfolk (4), Northamptonshire (3), Northumberland (1), Nottinghamshire (4), Oxfordshire (3), Shropshire (2), Somerset (6), Staffordshire (5), Suffolk (4), Surrey (3), Sussex (7), Tyne & Wear (7), Warwickshire (4), West Midlands (12), Wiltshire (3), Worcestershire (3), Yorkshire (24), Scotland (28), Wales (15), Northern Ireland (1), Channel Islands (2).

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	462,916	606,216	76.36
2016	459,693	*600,598	*76.54

\* Provisional figures

**The Cremation Society of Great Britain**

1st Floor, Brecon House

16/16a Albion Place

Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5DZ

Web site: [www.cremation.org.uk](http://www.cremation.org.uk)

*Chairman:* Mr H Thomas CBE

*Secretary:* Miriam Deacon

*Date of foundation:* 1874

*Name of journal:* Pharos International

*Date of foundation:* 1934

*Published:* quarterly

*Editor:* Miriam Deacon

**USA**



**Number of crematoria: 3,204**

**Crematoria situated in the following states at:** Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Dist. of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii,

Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

**Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2015	1,302,920	2,677,244	48.67
2016*	1,336,282	2,669,761	50.05

\*Provisional figures

**Cremation Association of North America**

Executive office: 499 Northgate Parkway, Wheeling, Illinois 60090

*President:* Michael G Sheedy

*President Elect:* Mitch Rose

*Treasurer:* Elisa C Krcilek

*Date of foundation:* 1913

*Number of members:* 3,300

*Name of journal:* The Cremationist of North America (formerly National Cremation Magazine)

*Date of foundation:* 1965

*Published:* quarterly

*Circulation (per issue):* 3,300

*Editor:* Sara Corkery

**ZIMBABWE**



**Number of crematoria: 2**

**Crematoria situated at:** Bulawayo and Harare.

**\*Statistics of cremations:**

	Cremations	Total deaths	% of deaths
2014	125	4,931	2.53
2015	124	4,791	2.59

\*Bulawayo only. Latest figures obtainable

**City Health Department**

PO Box 1946, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

**NB These figures are reproduced as supplied by our contacts in each country.**

# Table of International Statistics

Country	Number of Crematoria	Cremations 2015	Cremations 2016	% of Deaths
Andorra	1	159	160	74.42
Argentina	95	–	No information available	
Australia	82	–	No information available	
Austria	13	35,258	36,008	44.64
Belgium	17	63,468	63,380	58.65
Brazil	43	–	No information available	
Bulgaria	1	–	No information available	
Canada (excluding Quebec)	216	178,668	**182,619	**70.24
China, The People's Republic of	1,745	–	No information available	
Colombia (Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cali, Cartagena, Tunja and Valledupar only)	18	4,201	No information available	
Cuba	9	9,067	9,206	9.26
Czech Republic	27	89,439	89,306	82.88
Denmark	20	43,238	43,792	82.90
Finland	23	25,631	27,483	50.97
France	179	209,613	231,951	39.51
Germany	164	482,350	544,335	57.48
Ghana	8	5,120	5,120	7.05
Haiti (Pax Villa only)	3	179	196	–
Hong Kong	6	42,737	43,556	93.34
Hungary	17	78,790	83,330	63.50
Iceland	1	629	718	31.10
Ireland, Republic of	6	4,981	5,498	18.09
Italy	75	137,165	141,553	23.01
Japan	1,460	1,345,873	1,376,805	99.98
Latvia	1	–	No information available	
Luxembourg	1	2,204	2,187	55.13
Mauritius	*126	–	No information available	
Mongolia	2	2,140	1,576	8.87
Namibia	1	184	477	–
The Netherlands	93	93,177	93,907	63.07
New Zealand	unknown	–	–	**72.00
Norway	26	16,164	16,703	41.01
Peru (Lima only)	8	660	850	55.45
Poland	52	–	–	**24.00
Portugal (Lisbon only)	20	3,270	3,680	54.93
Romania (Bucharest (Vitan Bărzești) and Badeni/Cluj Napoca (Ignis) only)	4	972	1,083	0.42
Russia	16	–	No information available	
Serbia	2	3,405	3,090	19.32
Singapore	4	15,751	15,968	79.77
Slovenia, Republic of	2	16,592	No information available	
South Korea	60	221,895	**230,762	**82.17
Spain (Barcelona only)	2	8,021	7,817	50.33
Sweden	59	73,937	73,344	80.61
Switzerland	28	57,764	54,634	84.59
Taiwan	38	153,596	166,246	96.19
Thailand	2,077	365,113	384,347	80.00
Trinidad & Tobago (San Fernando & Trincity only)	4	1,042	No information available	
United Arab Emirates	1	–	No information available	
United Kingdom	281	462,916	459,693	**76.54
U.S.A.	3,204	1,302,920	**1,336,282	**50.05
Zimbabwe (Bulawayo only)	2	124	No information available	

\*This figure relates to cremators/wood pyres as opposed to crematoria \*\*Estimated

## International Cremation Statistics – Miscellaneous Listing

The following is a list of countries in which cremation facilities exist and are the only details we have been able to obtain

Country	No. of crematoria	Location of crematoria where known
Aruba	1	
Bahamas	1	Nassau
Costa Rica	2	San José (2)
Estonia	2	Tallinn, Tartu
Grenada	1	
Guatemala	1	Guatemala City
India	Unknown	Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bansbaria, Baroda, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Gauhati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Madras, Mumbai, Mysore, New Delhi, Panihati, Surat and Trivandrum
Indonesia	7	Djakarta, Surabaya, Jogjakarta, Surakarta, Semarang, Bandung and Malang
Jamaica	2	
Malaysia	7	Hokkien, Jahore, Kuala Lumpur, Kwantung, Petaling Jaya (2) and Wah Chai
Mexico	70	Aguascalientes, Chihuahua, Córdoba, Cuernavaca, Culiacán, DF (Mexico City), Guadalajara, Hermosillo, Juarez, Mazatlan, Monterrey, Nuevo Laredo, Oaxaca, Puebla, San Miguel Allende, Tampico, Torreón, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Uruapan and Zitacuaro
Panama	5	
Philippines	2	Manila
Puerto Rico	3	
El Salvador	1	San Salvador
Slovak Republic	3	Banská Bystrica, Bratislava, Košice
South Africa	33	Bloemfontein, Brakpan, Cape Town (Maitland), Despatch, Durban (Chatsworth/Mobeni), Durban (Clare Estate), Durban (Stellawood), East London, Eshowe, George, Johannesburg (Braamfontein), Johannesburg (Brixton), Kempton Park, Kimberley, Klerksdorp, Krugersdorp, Ladysmith, Lenasia, Malmesbury, Middelburg (Hiveld), Nelspruit (Lowveld), Newcastle, Pietermaritzburg (Cremone), Pietermaritzburg (Mountain Rise), Pietersburg, Port Elizabeth, Port Shepstone, Pretoria, Tongaat, Upington, Vanderbijlpark, Verulam, Worcester
Sri Lanka	45	Avissawella, Biyagama, Boralessgamuwa, Borella (4), Delgoda, Dickwella, Eldeniya Makola, Gampaha, Galkissa (2), Ganemulla, Godagama, Jawatte, Kalalgoda, Katugastota, Kirillapone, Kohuwela, Kolonnawa, Kurunegala, Madampitiya, Mahaiyawa (2), Maharagama, Matara, Matale, Mirigama, Mirihana, Moratuwa, Nawala, Nawalapitiya, Nuwara Eliya, Padukka, Panadura, Pannipitiya, Pugoda, Ratnapura, Talangama, Thunbowila, Udahamulla, Weligalla, Weligama, Weliveriya
Suriname	2	
Ukraine	3	Kharkiv, Kiev, Odessa
Vietnam	2	Saigon and Hanoi



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# Could Highgate Cemetery soon be open for cremated remains only?

Highgate Cemetery will be full up for burials within six years unless drastic action is taken, including the possibility of re-using 19th-century graves, according to a new exhibition focusing on what the future holds for the famous site.

The lack of space for new plots is among a series of pressure points which Trustees say must be addressed in a new management plan, which also includes the growth of trees which are wrecking some of the cemetery's historic graves.

Chief Executive, Dr Ian Dungavell, said the exhibition, being held in the cemetery chapel in Swain's Lane, should be the starting point for a public debate on what to do next.

'The cemetery has been in use for 178 years and has now reached a point where important decisions need to be made about its future,' Dr Dungavell told the *New Journal*.

'This isn't about what we are planning to do, it's about a conversation to see what people think the future should hold. We are saying these are some of the things we could do, what do you think? We want to ask people what direction they think the cemetery could take.'

Changes at the cemetery almost always spark local discussion and over the years there has been fiery criticism at the annual general meetings of the Friends' group – people who have signed up to support the burial ground, the last resting place for Karl Marx, George Eliot, Michael Faraday and, more recently, George Michael.

A common flashpoint is the balance between offering somewhere that tourists visit, and a place of quiet contemplation for those with relatives buried there. At last year's session, there was a warning that the cemetery was at risk of becoming a 'Disneyland of Death' due to attempts to draw visitors in.

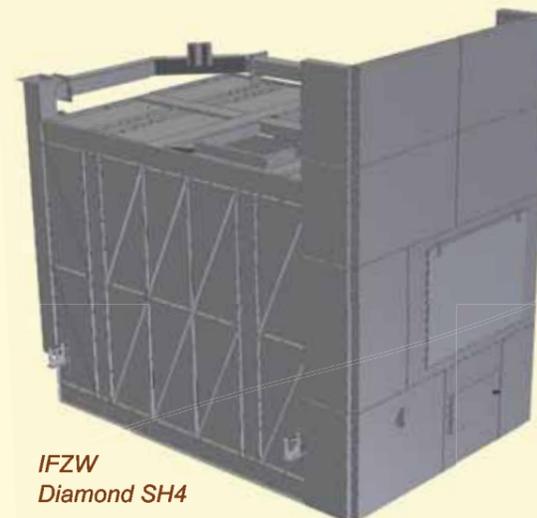
Dr Dungavell said: 'We rely on visitors and

selling graves to keep the cemetery going. In six years' time we will be out of burial space. Last year we sold 43 graves. Do people want more burial space? There are ways of doing this – for example some cemeteries have a system where they are exhuming graves, digging deeper, reintering the bodies and then creating more graves above.'

He added: 'There are also plots that were sold to families in the 19th century, but the people who have inherited them do not know this and are not easy to trace. They could be reclaimed, or we could say we just do not have any more space left. We could also only take cremated remains – but that again opens up other questions as the type of memorials for cremations is different to traditional graves, so it will change the look of parts of the cemetery. And if we stop having burials, we will need to find other ways of paying for the cemetery's upkeep – for example, some cemeteries have a café or a visitors' centre.'

Dr Dungavell also warned that self-seeding sycamores had taken hold over large swathes of the land, adding: 'We are trying to keep a balance, but the trees are getting bigger, they are falling over, they are wrecking historic monuments and we also know the disease ash die-back is heading our way. We are spending a lot of money just treading water. For example, the western cemetery is pretty inaccessible except on guided tours. The delicate balance between benign decay and dereliction has been tipped. If we continue to allow trees to grow unchecked they will destroy the cemetery.'

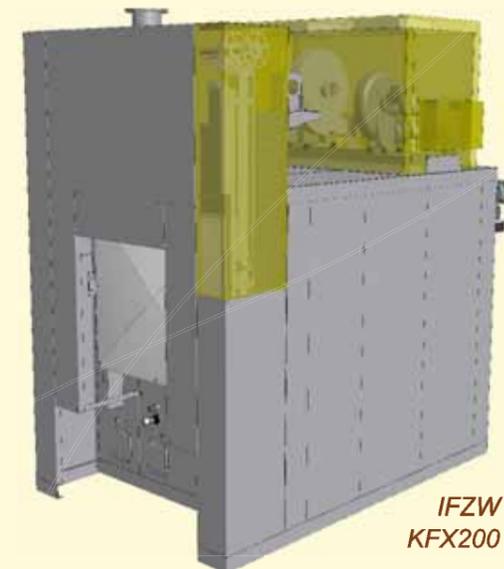
Dr Dungavell said the exhibition and questionnaires would give visitors a voice as to how they want the cemetery's Trustees to deal with these issues. He added: 'These are the types of decisions people need to have a role in making. There are consequences for whatever path we choose.'



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