



*Port Glasgow New Parish
Church of Scotland*

Minister: Rev William Boyle

We Are Here To Help

***A brief guide on how your local
parish Church and Parish
Minister can support you with
funeral arrangements.***

Hello.....



My name is William Boyle, and I am the Parish Minister of Port Glasgow New Parish Church, based in the centre of town and part of the National Church of Scotland.

Our church parish covers a large part of the town from Bogston Train Station stretching over to Woodhall.

If your postcode area is covered by Port Glasgow New Parish, as Minister I will work with you to ensure we celebrate your loved one's life and give them the send-off that they deserve absolutely free of charge. A Minister will never ask you to pay for leading a funeral service and will be there for you well beyond the service itself to offer pastoral support.

On the next few pages, I have tried to answer some frequently asked questions about our role in your loved one's funeral. It will hopefully help you understand what to do, what to expect and how we can help you.

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Who can ask for a Minister's Help?

Absolutely anyone. Because the Church of Scotland is a national church, anyone may call on the services of a minister. This may be during a long illness, when life is ending, or in the immediate aftermath.

When do we call the minister in?

Whenever you feel it may help. Very often, as Minister I only know a death has taken place when the funeral director calls. However, I am also happy to be called to support a family during illness, and around hospital stays too.

The minister is not informed by the NHS if someone within the parish is ill or in need of support. So please, if it feels appropriate, don't be afraid to get in touch.

Do I need to be a member of the church to use the Church?

No, the Church building is for the people of the Parish. It is for anyone who lives in the Parish or has a family connection to the parish, and they may use the church for a funeral service. There is also no pressure to use the church building, some people prefer one service at the Crematorium or Graveside.

How Do We Plan a Funeral ?

As Minister I can help and support you with planning the funeral.

Many people begin by contacting the Funeral Director who will liaise with myself regarding when I am available and checking that the church or crematorium is free. The funeral director will pass on all of your contact information, and then I will phone to arrange a convenient time to talk about the service.

At the meeting you will be asked about important events in your loved one's life, such as when your loved one was born, which schools they attended, first jobs, their relationships and so on. It is listening to you talk about your loved one that helps me to picture them, tell their story and then choose appropriate music, readings, poems and prayers.

Also, if you have not already done so, I help you choose the hymns or other music you want. Please don't feel there is pressure to choose hymns, but if you do, I can help you choose.

I want to make this difficult time as bearable as possible. I will do all I can to support, care, and carry out your wishes. As Parish Minister and as a Parish Church we are here to help you at this difficult time and beyond.

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