

Memorial Services

The Guild Church of St Katharine Cree has stood at the heart of the community for centuries. For many people, it is the perfect place to remember a loved one, and we are here to help you through the process of organising a Memorial Service.



The death of a colleague, family member, or friend can be a devastating experience. Even if the person's death was not unexpected, the shock can be profound. We are here to offer help and support, practical advice, and pastoral care for you and your colleagues, friends, or family through difficult times.

We will always take the time to listen to you and what you want in a Memorial Service. As an Anglican church, our Memorial Services are grounded in the Christian context but we can be flexible within this structure. Our beautiful Grade-1-listed church is the perfect backdrop to a Memorial Service.

While Funerals are typically held shortly after death and are organised in most cases through a Funeral Director, Memorial Services usually take place six to nine months later (though there is flexibility about this). We will meet with you and help you to shape the service, which generally lasts about 50 minutes and is a celebration of the whole life of the person.

Eligibility

Most people are eligible to have a Memorial Service held at St Katharine Cree. Generally, most services are organised with us by workers in nearby offices to remember a colleague who has passed away. Sometimes we hold services for people with a particular connection to the church or to the industries traditionally associated here – insurance and shipping.

Music and Bells



Our professional Organist normally plays for Memorial Services but if you have a preferred organist or other musicians, you may use them. This does not alter the fee. Please note, due to the historic significance of our 17th century organ, only organists of a professional standard are permitted to play it.

Most Memorial organisers choose to have a professional choir of four singers perform, for which there is an additional hire fee. Occasionally we may arrange for Lloyd's Choir to sing, especially for Memorials connected with the insurance industry, in which case a donation is requested. We are also able to arrange for a trumpeter or other musicians subject to availability and your wishes.

We normally arrange for the church bells to be rung prior to a Memorial, at no additional cost, subject to the availability of volunteer bellringers.

Flowers and Orders of Service

You may want flowers at the service and are welcome to use any florist you wish.

We will work with you to decide the content of the Order of Service, which must be approved by the clergy before it goes to print. We request that you send us a draft copy at least one week before the service, although we recommend doing this further in advance to reduce the pressure on you in what will undoubtedly be an emotional week.

You are responsible for the design and printing of your Order of Service and may use any printer you like. We recommend Capital Print: 020 7247 3556 or sales@capitalprint.london

Refreshments

Light refreshments may be served in the church by prior arrangement for up to one hour without additional hire. We can provide tables, cloths and hot water urns if required. You will need to hire any required glassware and crockery are required as well as provide the staff or volunteers to prepare, serve, and clear away refreshments. You are welcome to arrange external caterers.

Collection

Charity and giving is an important part of legacy for many people. We can provide collection plates for you, and you may give the collection to a charity of your choosing. Many people choose to share this collection with our charitable ministry at St Katharine Cree, but this is not obligatory.

Church Fees

The fee for a Memorial Service starts at £1,400. This covers a memorial with a traditional structure and includes:

- A member of the clergy to help plan, and lead, the service
- Pastoral care and practical advice throughout the process and afterwards
- Professional organist
- Bells (subject to availability)
- Verger
- Cleaning

We will advise of what additional costs there might be for a choir and other options.

The fees simply cover the actual cost of providing the Memorial Service, including the preparation and administration. Often people also choose to make an additional donation to support our charitable work in the community as part of the legacy of the deceased. We can provide you with details on how to do this.

Next Steps and Booking

If you would like to discuss booking a Memorial Service, in the first instance please contact Crystal Green, the Church Administrator: 020 4570 7010 or Office@StKatharineCree.org