



# G E Gamble & Sons

Independent Funeral Directors Since 1830

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## **Our Guide to Helping You Write an Obituary**

Placing a notice into a newspaper is the best way of informing people of the day and time of a funeral service, however, they are not the easiest things to write and it can prove difficult to put into words just how you feel.

If you are writing a main notice, that will include the funeral details, initially concentrate on the first part. (don't worry about the actual funeral details as these can be put in once everything has been arranged).

1. Start with the person's name and any nickname or maiden name by which they would also be known.  
(If necessary).

e.g. **Smith, Barry (Baz)**

*Or*

**Brown, Mary (nee Gray)**

2. Then, if you want to, you can put in names of family etc.

**Loving Husband, Dad and Great-Grandad.**

*Or*

**Much loved, and loving, Wife of the late Jack. Mother to John, Bill, Fred and Mary.  
Gran and Great-Gran.**



3. Now you need to decide how best to describe the person's death. There are quite a few options and it will depend very much on the individual circumstances. The most usual are shown here. (Please note that this line does not need to be included. A notice of death can simply have the person's name, the date, and place of death, as it is obvious, from the fact it is an obituary, that the person has passed away.)

**passed away peacefully,  
passed away after a short illness,  
died peacefully in his/her sleep,  
passed away after a brave fight,  
died suddenly but peacefully,  
tragically taken,  
fell asleep,  
passed away unexpectedly,**

If none of these seem right and you would like us to help you decide on more suitable wording, simply ring the number at the top of the front page.

4. Now you can put in the date and place where the death occurred, also the age of the person, if you wish. It may read something like these.

**On Monday 1st January 2050 at LRI aged 99 years.**

**On Monday January 1st at LOROS.**

**At home on 1st Jan 2050.**



5. At this stage you can include a verse, some poetry, a special quote or sentiments of your own, anything that is important and which you feel you to share. This is only limited by what the newspapers are allowed to print, but if it's genuine and heartfelt there should not be a problem. Listed here are some verses, poems and quotes to give you some ideas.

You will find many more on the internet and by visiting your local library.

#### Funeral Blues

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,  
Prevent the dog from barking with juicy bone,  
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum,  
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead  
Scribbling on the sky the message He is Dead,  
Put crepe bows round the white necks of public doves,  
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,  
My working week and my Sunday rest,  
My noon my midnight, my talk my song;  
I thought that love would last forever, I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now; put out every one:  
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;  
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;  
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

W. H Auden





A Choice of Verses

Words are few,  
Thoughts are deep,  
Memories of you  
We will always keep.

His memory is a keepsake,  
From which we'll never part,  
God has him in His keeping,  
We have him in our hearts.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay,  
Loved and remembered every day.

Your parting was so sudden,  
We sit and wonder why,  
The saddest thing of all  
Was that we never said goodbye.

You gave us all you had to give,  
Gifts both great and small,  
But most of all you gave us love,  
The greatest gift of all.

we often sit and think of you,  
Of the things we used to say and do,  
And wonder why you had to die,  
Without the chance to say goodbye.

You never asked for much in life,  
Your heart was true and tender,  
You simply lived for those you loved,  
And those you loved remember.

As rainbows are formed  
from both sunshine and rain,  
so ours lives are a mixture  
of joy and some pain.  
If we bear with the darkness  
and learn from it too  
the rain clouds will part  
and the sun will break through



### Quotes

There is a land of the living, and a land of the dead ~ The bridge between the two is love.

Grief is not forever, but love is.

Think of death as walking off a stage,  
in the wings are people waiting to greet you that the audience cannot see.

6. Normally this is where the funeral details would go.

It is important, if you are dealing with the main notice, that you are certain that all the funeral arrangements are confirmed before placing the notice in the newspaper.

If you are in any doubt, call the funeral director first.

Go to the sample notice at the end of this guide to see how the funeral details fit into a notice.

7. By placing a notice, you can also instruct people regarding your wishes for the funeral, including floral tributes or donations.

E.g. Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, may be sent for 'RSPB' c/o...

All floral tributes, and enquiries please, c/o

No Black to be worn please.



8. It is perfectly acceptable to put your funeral directors' details at the end of the announcement, and essential if they are going to be handling any charitable donations on your behalf.

Include their full postal address and telephone number.

Under no circumstances must you put yours, or anyone else's, home address into a newspaper announcement. It will advertise to burglars exactly when a house will be empty.

Similarly it is probably not a good idea to advertise the location of a wake, or gathering, following a funeral.

The lure of free food could be too much for people who were not invited to the funeral

9. The examples below will give you some idea of how a main notice and private notice differ, as well as the kind of wording that can be used as an alternative.

Smith, John (Jack) formerly of Syston and Skegness. Much loved Husband, Brother and Uncle, died suddenly, but peacefully, at home on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2050 aged 99 years.

'A special, and kind, man who will always be loved. An inspiration to us all and a perfect role model.'

Jack's funeral service will take place on Monday 1st January 2050 at 1.00pm at Syston Parish Church followed by cremation at Loughborough.

'No black to be worn please.'

All floral tributes,

For further enquiries c/o

G E Gamble & Sons,

57 High Street,

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Tel: 0116 2607500

Smith, Jack. You will never know the pain of letting you go. How lonely the nights are without you, and how long the days. I would give anything to hold your close again. Somewhere, sometime, we will be together again and I will spend every day wishing for that moment. I love you my darling. Mary X X X

*We hope this has been of help to you in writing, or preparing, your own notice but if you would like further help, please do not hesitate to call us.*

