

It's so difficult when you can't go to the funeral of someone who has died. This page suggests a few ways in which you can still connect with family and friends, and remember from home.

Three lit tealight candles Image not found. Type unknown Sam Setchell

If someone you love has recently died, this will be an exceptionally difficult time for you. If you are unable to go to the funeral for some reason, you may feel that you can't pay your respects in the way you would have wanted.

Although it will never replace the comfort of being there personally, there are some things you can do at home that will help you to remember the person who died, to pray and to 'be present' in thought, even if you're not there physically.

Here are some suggestions

- If the funeral is being live-streamed, then you could watch online. The Funeral Director or the minister may be able to help coordinate this; let the immediate family know that you'd like to be included when they share the live link.
- There is a reflection available to download from this page (below) which you can read at home, perhaps while the funeral is taking place, or at an arranged time when others can take some quiet time to read it too.
- Why not take a few moments to think, write, or draw some of your memories of the person? Later you may be able to share that with others at a special memorial service.
- You can still pray at home – [see here for some ideas](#). There is also a bookmark-style prayer card which you can download from this page (below) to help.
- You might like to read a poem or look at [Psalm 23](#), which is read at every church funeral.
- [You can light a virtual candle online by following this link](#), and/or you can light a candle at home as you remember.
- You could write and send a card to others who are missing the person you are grieving.
- Remember that there will always be services for remembering lost loved ones, such as All Souls day. Anyone can go to these services when they feel able to.
- If you're able to meet up with others some time in the future, it may be possible for the local church to help you organise a formal or informal service to remember the person afterwards.

If you were unable to see the person before they died

- This is particularly hard, and the best thing to do is to talk to someone about your feelings. Many of the things above will also help.
- Visit ataloss.org. There is an 'Griefchat' service running online there now. The charity [Cruse Bereavement Care](#) is also offering all kinds of support.

Supporting someone who is bereaved

The video below, produced through [Loss and Hope](#), offers some helpful guidance on supporting someone else who is bereaved when meeting up is not possible. To see subtitles, select the CC button on the video.

A row of mature people in deep discussion.

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Holding important conversations

Taking time to talk about funerals and death is really important.



Impact on bereavement

You may need additional support if you couldn't attend a funeral.

Documents

- [Funerals prayer card](#)
- [Funeral reflection](#)

Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/here-everyone/support-when-you-cant-attend-funeral>