



**Your local,
independent Funeral Director**

Winter Reflections on The Seasons of Remembrance and Christmas



Winter Newsletter 2023/24

Doesn't it strike you as rather odd, that during November, we approach remembrance with such solemnity and a sense of duty, but then just a few short weeks later we experience the joy and happiness of Christmas time, and whatever your own beliefs, it is a time for gathering family together and sharing warmth and kindness with each other.

But for some Christmas is not as joyous. They may suffer loneliness after enduring bereavement in the recent past and Christmas again is a catalyst amidst the festivities that provides a chance for remembrance of those who are no longer with us.

On Remembrance Sunday, many of my colleagues paid respects on behalf of our company at war memorials across the towns we serve. As Christmas approaches, my colleagues will attend Carol Services and we have put up a number of "Memory Christmas Trees" in churches and in our offices, to help people remember their relatives at this important time of year.

I have been in the funeral profession for 13 years and, in recent years, I am seeing the trend towards pure and direct cremations - I am always a little concerned for families in where and how they find their comfort following the loss of a close relative if they don't have an opportunity to say farewell with proper remembrance. Commemorating Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day is one of the last truly national rituals left to us. Whoever you are, you are aware of poppies and war memorials, of the Royal Albert Hall, the Cenotaph and the Chelsea Pensioners.

You are drawn into the ceremonies that symbolise the remembrance, the gratitude and the care of a nation. Celebrating Christmas is a global affair, but with local and family meaning.

Every society, every people needs to remember and to reflect. In many ways, our world is in a troubling place just now, certainly less tolerant, perhaps more selfish. However, over the last 20 years we have seen attendances at Remembrance ceremonies, Christmas tree lightings and Carol Services soar, especially among the young. Memory, prayer, wisdom and resolve are the antidote to despair, loss and grief. These are among the things that will make for "good remembrance". If the growing support and need for Remembrance Day and Christmas Memorial Services is what we need as human beings, then I hope proper farewell and remembrance will be considered an equally growing need for individuals when remembering loss within their own family.

For the Funeral Director, every day is a Day of Remembrance. We walk alongside families to help them through the early days of their grief. We are also there for them on the day of the funeral and afterwards, should they need our ongoing support.

We know that we are unable to do this alone and are very grateful to all our local clergy, ministers, celebrants, other professionals and also our own families, who walk alongside us every day and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to them all.



Sean Martin
Head of Operations
www.cefuller.co.uk

Introductions



Ben Seward
Operations Manager



Claire Needs
Funeral Administrator

If you have visited us in recent months you may have been greeted by either Claire Needs or Ben Seward. Ben is our Operations Manager and he is overseeing the proposed renovations to the office and Chapel of Rest as well as assisting with day to day matters as required. Claire is a very experienced Funeral Administrator who is now working with Marie full time to ensure that there is always someone on hand to look after our clients. If you are passing, do pop in to introduce yourself - a warm welcome is guaranteed.



Goodbye.....but not farewell

After 10 years with C. E. Fuller & Co, Ian Bowers has taken retirement from his full-time post to spend more time with his wife Angela. He has continued to work after the recent merger with Peasgood & Skeates and has worked closely with Ben Seward in clearing the site ready for redevelopment in 2024.

He is taking a short break but we are delighted that he will be back to join the C. E. Fuller & Co. casual bearer/driver team at some time in the new year. Ian is well known to so many people in Soham and has supported many families over the years and we are thrilled that he wishes to continue.

Ben presented flowers to Ian's wife Angela, whilst Marie & Anita Brown presented a card and gift to Ian. We wish them well.

Pete Cowling, Funeral Director and Claire Needs, Funeral Arranger are pictured with Ian, Angela, Anita, Marie and Ben.



Marie, Ian, Claire and Ben were proud to represent CE Fuller & Co at the town's Remembrance Service and to lay a wreath at the war memorial.



We have had a busy few months clearing some of the outbuildings ready for our renovations to start in the new year. Anita was on hand to supervise the project and she was particularly pleased that we were able to re-home some of the family's artefacts; in particular, the large printing press, which has been donated to the Art Department at Soham Village College.

We have some exciting plans for the site and look forward to sharing them with you over the coming months. Please rest assured that the refurbishment will be planned in stages and it will be very much business as usual throughout. You can follow our progress on our Facebook page but if you have any specific queries, please contact Ben Seward: ben.seward@cefuller.co.uk

Watch this space ...