

New Website – Planning for and Dealing With Death and Bereavement

Lasting Post is a new website that helps individuals and families plan for and deal with death and bereavement in a practical yet sensitive way. Run by volunteer professionals, it is free to users.

The site has four sections: Planning Ahead, When Death Occurs, Announcements and Everlasting Post.

'Planning Ahead' is for those who want to give formal instructions and express wishes in respect of their own death, whether untimely and sudden or in old age. The topics include help with legal and financial issues, ranging from the role and selection of executors to charitable donations, who to be informed and the details of funeral arrangements. Users can simply print off the relevant pages and fill in the details by hand. However, if they want to save information online for future reference or alteration they will need to register. All information stored can only be accessed and amended thereafter by user ID and personal password.

'When Death Occurs' goes into full detail, not only on the legal and bureaucratic side, but also paying attention to the emotional side: how can one expect to be affected by grief and how can one express condolences both meaningfully and correctly, for example.

It also contains an online bereavement community and mutual support area. It is commendably inclusive: although the tradition assumed is Church of England, there are sections devoted to all the major religions and other parts of the Christian church.

'Announcements' is for announcements of death and where obituaries and memorial books can be posted; the fourth section 'Everlasting Post' is for posting enduring memories of people who have died, giving their families and friends a special way to remember and celebrate their lives. Lasting Post is the only site providing all this information and guidance in one place.

The overall aim is to allow individuals to express their wishes and to reduce the burden on those left behind - and for those who knew them to help their memories live.

The organisers believe that firms that deal professionally with any aspect of death will benefit if their clients use the site and will be particularly pleased to receive any comments and suggestions for co-operation.

Lasting Post can be contacted through the site www.lastingpost.com or at headoffice@lastingpost.com.