

## Funeral Celebrants near Fir Tree, County Durham

Please note: to prevent un-necessary paper waste only the nearest 10 Celebrants are shown. If you need to see a list of all celebrants who serve Fir Tree, County Durham please go to <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/>.

### REV GEORGE CALLANDER CSBP FRSA

Ushaw Moor, Durham (7 miles) · **Memberships:** [SBP](#)

**Mobile Phone:** 07534 991482

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/rev-stephen-callander>

### Jonathan Elmer

Durham, County Durham (8 miles) · an **Independent Celebrant**

**Phone:** 01913784724 · **Mobile Phone:** 07951 662411

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/jonathan-elmer>

### Karen Marshall-Falland BA (Hons), RGN, RHV, Cert Independent Civil Celebrant.

Durham, County Durham (8 miles) · **Memberships:** [AOIC](#)

**Mobile Phone:** 07980388481

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/karen-marshall-falland-ba-hons-rgn-rhv-cert-independent-civil-celebrant>

### David Wright

Durham , Durham (10 miles) · **Memberships:** [BHA](#)

**Phone:** 01913860918 · **Mobile Phone:** 07941456340

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/david-wright>

### Hilary Bolton Bsc (Hons)

Chester-Le-Street , County Durham (13 miles) · **Memberships:** [GFG](#)

**Mobile Phone:** 07970181329

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/hilary-bolton>

### John Topping

Barnard Castle, County Durham (13 miles) · **Memberships:** [BHA](#)

**Phone:** 01833 690904 · **Mobile Phone:** 07812 525059

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/john-topping-1>

### Maria Bailey

Chester le Street, Durham (13 miles) · **Memberships:** [GFG](#) · [IOPC](#)

**Mobile Phone:** 07791574201

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/maria-bailey>

### Jonathan Wells

Stockton-on-Tees, Durham (14 miles) · **Memberships:** [BHA](#)

**Phone:** 07753822393

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/jonathan-wells>

### Carole Briggs

Darlington, County Durham (15 miles) · **Memberships:** [FoIC](#)

**Phone:** 07760246933 · **Mobile Phone:** 07760246933

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/carole-briggs>

### Rosalynd Robinson

Darlington, Durham (15 miles) · an **Independent Celebrant**

**Mobile Phone:** 07549885281

**Website:** <https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/rosalynd-robinson>

## About Funeral Celebrants

A Funeral Celebrant is a person who can help plan, write and lead a Funeral service. People from all walks of life choose to become a celebrant but all are motivated by a strong desire to help families give the person who has died a good send-off, one that honours, gives thanks for, and, even, celebrates a life.

Some Celebrants are introduced to families by a Funeral Director, others are approached directly. Either way, all will work closely with the family and the funeral director to ensure everything goes to plan.

## Association of Independent Celebrants

The AOIC (Association of Independent Celebrants) is the leading trade association for independent celebrants. The organisation was founded in 2007 to provide a network of professional, highly trained and reliable celebrants. It gives its members the chance to join together and support one other, receive recognition from other professions and provides a "group voice" to lobby in political campaigns. Above all, the AOIC encourages its members to operate under their own right and with their own individuality while providing each member with mentoring, career development, a code of conduct and a unique insurance package which we have recently negotiated.

### Our members

Each of our members is carefully selected and will only be admitted for membership if they meet all selection requirements and will maintain the high standards already set by the AOIC. Our members come from a variety of professional backgrounds, and many come with bereavement counselling experience. All are encouraged to use bespoke ceremony scripts which are tailored to each individual and can, where requested by the family, include religious, spiritual or non-religious content, including hymns and readings.

### Insurance

The policy now covering all members of the AOIC includes not only Public Liability Insurance £5m but also Personal Indemnity cover of up to £1m, which the Insurance Industry describes as a unique policy. With the exception of the BHA it is the only celebrant organisation to automatically cover its members within the membership package.

**The importance of adequate insurance.** All funeral directors should be asking for a celebrant's insurance cover because we live in a no win no fee society and people are claiming for all sorts of accidents, omissions and errors.

If a celebrant is at fault at a funeral, the insurance company that covers the funeral director may not wish to pay out, at the very least the funeral director and their insurance company will get into deep debate over fault and claims.

If a celebrant fails to turn up or makes omissions and the family make a claim of distress for the failing then funeral directors may find themselves in another legal wrangle.

It therefore makes sense for any funeral director to make sure that any minister or officiant they engage is covered by good, valid and comprehensive insurance. All AOIC members are instructed to provide copies of insurance to funeral directors.

### Supporting Funeral Directors Professional Bodies

The AOIC has made it our policy to support the NAFD & SAIF at all its meetings and our members are actively encouraged to support these events and area meetings.

### Membership of the NCPC, Dying Matters and The Child Funeral Charity

During the last year we have forged close links with all these organisations and openly encourage our members to support each organisation. Claire Henry, CEO of the NCPC (National Council of Palliative Care) has recently become our Patron and together we are working to improve end of life care and planning, which of course includes planning for a funeral.

As a bereaved family or a funeral director, you have the comfort and reassurance of knowing that your AOIC celebrant follows a prescribed code of conduct, and is highly trained, mentored and supported by a leading and highly regarded professional organisation providing each member with generous, valid and comprehensive personal and public insurance.

Find out more at <http://www.independentcelebrants.com>

## Humanists UK Celebrant Network

The British Humanist Association (BHA) is the national charity working on behalf of non-religious people who seek to live ethical and fulfilling lives on the basis of reason and humanity.

Founded in 1896, the BHA is trusted by over 55,000 members and supporters and over 70 local and special interest affiliates to promote Humanism. Our policies are informed with the support of over 150 of the UK's most prominent philosophers, scientists, and other thinkers and experts and we seek to advance them with the help of over 100 parliamentarians in membership of the All Party Parliamentary Humanist Group.

Our trained and accredited celebrants conduct funerals and other non-religious ceremonies attended by over one million people each year. Our funeral celebrants are sensitive people, empathetic to the experience of bereavement but focused on providing a funeral ceremony that will be most fitting for the circumstances. They are familiar with cremation and burial procedures and will guide you through the whole process of arranging a funeral ceremony. For any non-religious funeral ceremonies, a humanist celebrant, professionally trained and accredited with the British Humanist Association, gives the assurance of quality and trust.

Find out more at <https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies/non-religious-funerals/>

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## County Celebrant Network

The County Celebrant Network is based on the belief that our customers' needs are of the utmost importance. Our Celebrants are committed to meeting those needs. We create each Funeral Ceremony to be completely unique to the deceased and a written copy of the whole text is provided so that the ceremony can be followed easily. The Civil Funeral Ceremony provides a comprehensive framework to make a range of choices about the content and style of the final Ceremony. In short, a Ceremony unique to the deceased is created: a tribute to and a celebration of their life. Choices are made from the wide selection of poems and readings available. Additional pieces that hold special meaning and significance for the deceased can be included. We offer help and advice on all the options available and in deciding how the selections should be arranged and presented. Family members and friends may also be included in the ceremony as well as any music that is appropriate. The Ceremony is designed and conducted in such a way as to reflect the express wishes of the deceased and that of the family. As experts in a range of ceremonies our members can help find the right words for your service. We aim to give clients the highest standard of service over a range of ceremonial needs, and attention to detail is a hallmark of our profession.

Find out more at <http://www.countycelebrantsnetwork.biz/>

## Dying Matters

Dying Matters is a coalition of 32,000 members across England and Wales which aims to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and to make plans for the end of life. The Coalition's Mission is to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and to make plans for the end of life. This will involve a fundamental change in society in which dying, death and bereavement will be seen and accepted as the natural part of everybody's life cycle. Changes in the way society views dying and death have impacted on the experience of people who are dying and bereaved. Our lack of openness has affected the quality and range of support and care services available to patients and families. It has also affected our ability to die where or how we would wish. The Dying Matters Coalition is working to address this by encouraging people to talk about their wishes towards the end of their lives, including where they want to die and their funeral plans with friends, family and loved ones.

Find out more at <http://www.dyingmatters.org/>

## Fellowship of Professional Celebrants

The Fellowship of Professional Celebrants (FPC) is a self-regulated professional body which sets flagship standards for best-practice in training and fosters professionalism within celebrancy. All of our members are professionally trained to the highest standards and hold either our Foundation Certificate in Funeral Celebrancy or The Diploma in Funeral Celebrancy (awarded by our Associated Educational body, The International College of Celebrancy, Australia). Members are encouraged to continually update their skills through ongoing professional development, and are encouraged to work together to achieve more for the profession in which they work and for the families they serve. The FPC supports and fosters diversity within celebrancy, treating all celebrants, families & professional colleagues equally. We ensure all of our celebrants work to the very highest standards, and each celebrant members signs up to work to a set standard of service and professional ethics, which is laid down by the Fellowship, always listening to the needs & wishes of those they are working with. All of our members are Independent Celebrants which means that they can either conduct a funeral ceremony which is totally non-religious, or a more personalised service which still includes a small element of religion ie, a hymn, prayer or blessing to reflect the beliefs of the person who has died, or the wishes of family and loved ones left behind.

Find out more at <http://www.professionalcelebrants.org.uk>

## Fellowship of Independent Celebrants

We are a progressive group of Celebrants in one of the leading funeral training organisations. All FOIC celebrants are trained to an exceptionally high standard. We follow the NOCN syllabus to Certificate and Diploma Level 3. Celebrants affiliated to FOIC have £5 Million Public Liability Insurance and £1 Million Professional Indemnity Insurance. Most of all, our celebrants know how to create a truly heartfelt and bespoke funeral service, that will be remembered by the bereaved family and loved ones - for all the right reasons. FOIC - a trusted name in the world of funerals.

Find out more at <http://www.foic.org.uk/>

## Good Funeral Guild

The mission of the Good Funeral Guild is not to reflect change in funerary practices but to *be* the change. We do this by:

- offering the means and opportunity for the exchange of ideas and proposals among Guild members
- fostering a spirit of community among people interested in end-of-life matters and funerals
- fostering collegial, supportive and collaborative practice among deathworkers
- debating both topical and enduring issues around end-of-life matters and funerals
- enabling discussion and debate between funeral professionals and the public
- commenting on and contributing to the evolution of funerary rites and practices
- monitoring and commenting on the funeral industry
- nurturing, supporting and encouraging innovative, progressive practice among undertakers and ceremony leaders and launching initiatives to improve the experiential value of funerals for bereaved people
- publishing the work of innovative thinkers
- raising public awareness of end-of-life and funeral consumer issues
- acting as an interface between the funeral industry and the public and promoting better public understanding of deathcare and the commemoration of the dead

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- making available to the print and broadcast media information which will enable them to create useful, well-informed content
- creating a comprehensive information resource for funeral consumers
- lobbying HM Government and the funeral industry's trade associations (NAFD and Saif) in support of the interests of funeral consumers

Find out more at <http://www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk/home/the-good-funeral-guild/>

## **Green Fuse**

Green Fuse run their own National Level 3 Diploma for Funeral Celebrants, accredited by OCN London, which takes over 6 months to complete. Green Fuse trained independent funeral celebrants see the funeral ceremony as weaving together the colourful threads of a life, putting the person who has died centre stage for the last time, to be honoured, remembered and mourned by their community of family and friends. Because every one is different, Green Fuse celebrants are extensively trained to listen to families' wishes and provide a distinctive funeral, whether spiritual, agnostic, non-religious, individual, contemporary or traditional. They emphasise the healing power of ritual and beauty in their ceremonies and gently encourage participation by family and friends if they wish. They take an imaginative approach to creating a personal ceremony which is full of meaning.

Find out more at <http://www.greenfuse.co.uk/funeral-ceremonies.htm>

## **Irish Institute of Celebrants**

The Irish Institute of Celebrants offers professional training to people who want to become Celebrants, to become trained in the craft of ceremony to mark the milestones and transitions in the lives of individuals, families and communities. We offer knowledge, practical skills and an accredited qualification with ongoing training, mentorship and networking. We are dedicated to promoting the use of ceremony to help the client create a ceremony that reflects the couple's beliefs, philosophy of life, personal stories and personality.

Find out more at <https://www.iioc.ie/>

## **Institute of Civil Funerals**

The IOCF was founded with three main aims: to uphold quality and high standards in every funeral service delivered by its members; to provide support and professional development for those members and to promote civil funeral ceremonies throughout the funeral profession and with the public. The Institute represents Civil Celebrants who offer a funeral that is driven by the wishes, beliefs and values of the deceased and their family, not by the belief or ideology of the person conducting the funeral. There can be a religious or spiritual dimension in the funeral service, if it would be appropriate, and it can be held at most appropriate locations. IOCF members are professional, dedicated and reliable; have achieved an accredited qualification in funeral celebrancy and undergo continual monitoring and assessment to ensure that funeral arrangers and families can be guaranteed a ceremony of the highest quality.

Find out more at <http://www.iocf.org.uk>

## **Institute of Professional Celebrants**

The Institute of Professional Celebrants is a membership organisation that trains, supports and represents celebrants. We are NOCN accredited and we train our celebrants to offer the highest standard of ceremonies, with care, empathy and practical guidance for bereaved families. IPC recognises the social and spiritual importance of rites of passage, and the need for families to celebrate their loved ones lives in ways that are uniquely personal. We are working closely with Living Funeral Services to provide families and celebrants an even more diverse opportunity for families to record the lives of their loved ones. This includes the option for people to write down the stories of their lives that they want remembered, and for them to create their own funeral service with their chosen celebrant whilst they are still living. All our celebrants are covered by Public Liability Insurance (£5m) and Personal Indemnity insurance (£1m).

Find out more at <http://www.instituteofprofessionalcelebrants.org/>

## **OneSpirit Interfaith Foundation**

OneSpirit interfaith ministers act as celebrants in thousands of funerals every year throughout the UK and Ireland. We often preside at the funerals of people who have been 'spiritual, not religious?', or whose families and friends come from differing religious or secular backgrounds, and want a celebrant who is not only comfortable with diversity, but celebrates it.

All the 180 ministers on our Public Register have undergone a demanding two-year training which prepares us to offer skilful service as celebrants and counsellors. As well as being a training in practical matters, this involves exploring the essential truths and contributions of different faith traditions to the world's wisdom, and reaching our own deepest sense of what it means to live a full human life.

Thus we have a profoundly inclusive sense of spirituality and a reverence for life in all its beauty and pain. As funeral celebrants, this enables us to work in an empathic way with people in the shock of recent bereavement, to appreciate the particular qualities of the deceased person, and to encompass all the emotions that may arise, whatever the circumstances of the death.

Find out more at <http://www.interfaithfoundation.org/>

## **Natural Death Centre**

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Established 25 years ago in 1991, The Natural Death Centre is a social, entrepreneurial, educational charity that gives free, impartial advice on all aspects of dying, bereavement and consumer rights. We give support on family-organised and environmentally friendly funerals, and we run the Association of Natural Burial Grounds. Although green in outlook, we promote choice and education in all aspects of funerals. The Natural Death Centre and the Association of Natural Burial Grounds are both managed by Rosie Inman-Cook, supported by the board of trustees who all work within a variety of professions concerned with death or dying.

Find out more at <http://www.naturaldeath.org.uk/>

## **Society of Bereavement Practitioners**

SBP is an independent membership organisation founded in London in 2005 with the principal aim of recognising professional and personal commitment and achievement in any area of bereavement care and support.

We fulfil this aim through the diversity of our membership's expertise, and in the recipients of the Society's Award of Merit, which recognises consistently outstanding bereavement care and support. Our membership is drawn from a wide range of professions. Some are directly involved in bereavement care, and other less obviously so. Current members include funeral directors, nurses, carers, council staff, educators, counsellors, clergy and celebrants.

Membership is open to anyone who:

- supports the aims of the Society.
- can provide evidence of professional training or experience.
- can demonstrate a commitment to delivering high-quality bereavement care.

Members of the Society are entitled to use the post-nominal letters appropriate to their membership grade:

- Member - MSBP
- Accredited Member - MSBP(Acc)
- Fellow - FSBP

Visit <http://www.socbp.org> for further information.

Find out more at <http://www.socbp.uk/>

## **Scottish Independent Celebrants' Association**

SICA (Scottish Independent Celebrants' Association) is a forward thinking association of professional, independent Scottish Celebrants. Our Celebrants design and conduct personalised and individual ceremonies, centred around the wishes and values of the family, for Funerals, Weddings, Renewal of Vows, Baby Namings or any event significant to you and your family. With an independent celebrant the content of the Ceremony is led by the wishes of the client, there may or may not be religious or spiritual content, there may be all sort of music or words included. The essential point is that with an independent celebrant there is no system of belief dictating anything about the ceremony, the choice is entirely yours.

Find out more at <http://www.scottishcelebrants.org/>

## **United Kingdom Society of Celebrants**

We are a forward thinking professional body that actively promotes and supports our Members in their service provision and are at the forefront of developing and implementing professional standards and the provision of quality Celebrant Training. Our Civil Celebrants provide a truly bespoke service to their clients, by working with them, their families, friends and others our celebrants will write and deliver the ceremony their clients want, where and when they want it. Say NO to standard ceremonies at churches and registry offices where they just substitute names in a pre-set service. Say YES to bespoke, memorable, meaningful, personal and inclusive ceremonies at a location of your choice.

Find out more at <http://www.uksoc.com/>

Finally, there is a large group of

## **Independent Celebrants**

These are people who do not belong to one of the organisations listed above, but nevertheless provide Celebrancy services for families in need. Typically they are well known in their local communities and are happy to rely on personal recommendation.

# REV GEORGE CALLANDER CSBP FRSA

## Description

Personalised farewell services: Gently religious - a 'middle way' between traditional & secular

## Address

Ushaw Moor  
Durham  
United Kingdom

*(7 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

George Callander

## Mobile Phone

07534 991482

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/rev-stephen-callander>

## Memberships

This celebrant has told us that they are currently a member of the following association:

### **Society of Bereavement Practitioners**

Find out more at <http://www.socbp.uk/>

# Jonathan Elmer

## Description

Woodland Burial Trust

## Address

The Garth, Mill Road, Langley Moor  
Durham  
County Durham  
DH7 8HF

*(8 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

Jonathan Elmer

## Phone

01913784724

## Mobile Phone

07951 662411

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/jonathan-elmer>

This is an independent celebrant

# Karen Marshall-Falland BA (Hons), RGN, RHV, Cert Independent Civil Celebrant.

## Description

Independent Civil celebrant for unique services delivered from the heart

## Address

14 Hawthorne close  
Langley Park  
Durham  
County Durham  
DH79FD

*(8 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

Karen Marshall-Falland

## Mobile Phone

07980388481

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/karen-marshall-falland-ba-hons-rgn-rhv-cert-independent-civil-celebrant>

## Memberships

This celebrant has told us that they are currently a member of the following association:

### Association of Independent Celebrants

Find out more at <http://www.independentcelebrants.com>

# David Wright

## Description

Humanist and non-religious funerals. Accredited by Humanists UK

## Address

Durham

*(10 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

David Wright

## Phone

01913860918

## Mobile Phone

07941456340

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/david-wright>

## Memberships

This celebrant has told us that they are currently a member of the following association:

### Humanists UK Celebrant Network

Find out more at <https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies/non-religious-funerals/>

# Hilary Bolton Bsc (Hons)

## Description

I can help put together (and deliver) a beautiful and unique ceremony for your loved one.

## Address

14 Caledonia  
Great Lumley  
Chester-Le-Street  
County Durham  
DH3 4LR

*(13 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

Hilary Bolton

## Mobile Phone

07970181329

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/hilary-bolton>

## Memberships

This celebrant has told us that they are currently a member of the following association:

### Good Funeral Guild

Find out more at <http://www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk/home/the-good-funeral-guild/>

# John Topping

## Description

Conducting a personal, unique and moving funeral ceremony which celebrates the life of the deceased

## Address

Barry Brae, High Startforth  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 9AF

*(13 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

John Topping

## Phone

01833 690904

## Mobile Phone

07812 525059

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/john-topping-1>

## Memberships

This celebrant has told us that they are currently a member of the following association:

### Humanists UK Celebrant Network

Find out more at <https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies/non-religious-funerals/>

# Maria Bailey

## Description

Unique, personalised ceremonies which celebrate life and comfort loved ones.

## Address

29 Bede Court  
Chester le Street  
Durham  
DH3 3YJ  
United Kingdom

*(13 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

Maria Bailey

## Mobile Phone

07791574201

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/maria-bailey>

## Memberships

This celebrant has told us that they are currently a member of the following associations:

### Good Funeral Guild

Find out more at <http://www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk/home/the-good-funeral-guild/>

### Institute of Professional Celebrants

Find out more at <http://www.instituteofprofessionalcelebrants.org/>

# Jonathan Wells

## Description

Experienced funeral celebrant based in Sedgefield, Co Durham.

## Address

4 East Parade  
Sedgefield  
Stockton-on-Tees  
Durham  
TS21 3AX  
United Kingdom

*(14 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

Jonathan Wells

## Phone

07753822393

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/jonathan-wells>

## Memberships

This celebrant has told us that they are currently a member of the following association:

### Humanists UK Celebrant Network

Find out more at <https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies/non-religious-funerals/>

# Carole Briggs

## Description

Bespoke funeral services as unique as you are. Services with dignity and respect.

## Address

65 Duke Street  
Darlington  
County Durham  
DL37SD  
United Kingdom

*(15 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

Carole Briggs

## Phone

07760246933

## Mobile Phone

07760246933

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/carole-briggs>

## Memberships

This celebrant has told us that they are currently a member of the following association:

### **Fellowship of Independent Celebrants**

We are a progressive group of Celebrants in one of the leading funeral training organisations. All FOIC celebrants are trained to an exceptionally high standard. We follow the NOCN syllabus to Certificate and Diploma Level 3. Celebrants affiliated to FOIC have £5 Million Public Liability Insurance and £1 Million Professional Indemnity Insurance. Most of all, our celebrants know how to create a truly heartfelt and bespoke funeral service, that will be remembered by the bereaved family and loved ones - for all the right reasons. FOIC - a trusted name in the world of funerals. Find out more at

<http://www.foic.org.uk/>

# Rosalynd Robinson

## Description

A qualified member of the NFFD working as a funeral Celebrant in the North East of England.

## Address

Darlington  
Durham

*(15 miles from Fir Tree, County Durham)*

## Contact

Rosalynd Robinson

## Mobile Phone

07549885281

## Web Site

<https://funeralcelebrants.org.uk/rosalynd-robinson>

This is an independent celebrant