

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a vast field of red poppies in full bloom. The flowers are scattered across a green field, with some in sharp focus in the foreground and others fading into the distance. The sky above is a mix of blue and orange, with soft, wispy clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

**Andrew Bingham**  
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICE

*Local Caring*  
and Family Run

**Tel: 01449 771666**



# Thank you...

for taking the time to look at our brochure,  
we have tried to give you an overview of our  
services and hope that it will be of help.

*Andrew Bingham*

## Introduction

If you sadly require our services, please accept our sincere condolences. From the first time you contact us, we will endeavour to clearly advise, guide and support you, we are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, please do not hesitate to contact us, no matter what the time of day or night it is.

Andrew and his wife Heidi do not underestimate the great honour and privilege it is, to be given the responsibility of looking after the funeral arrangements of a loved one. We are very proud of our staff, facilities and our reputation and we pride ourselves on offering a personal, caring and professional service.

Please do not be afraid to ask any question, however unusual you might think it is, we are here to help.



# Contacts and useful numbers

## Stowmarket Registrar

**Tel: 0345 607 2080** (Please ring for an appointment)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

(Closed Wednesday)

9.30am - 4.00pm

## Ipswich Registrar

**Tel: 0345 607 2050** (Please ring for an appointment)

Monday - Friday

9.00am - 4.00pm

## Bury St Edmunds Registrar

**Tel: 0345 607 2060** (Please ring for an appointment)

Monday - Friday

9.00am - 4.00pm

## Ipswich Coroners Office

**Tel: 0345 607 2040**

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# About Us

Andrew Bingham Independent Funeral Service is the only Family owned and run Funeral Directors based in Stowmarket. As a family business you can be assured that you will receive our personal attention 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We are immensely proud of the service that we provide, our reputation, our staff who all live locally, our inviting

premises and our modern vehicles. We are not only deeply committed to upholding professional standards, but we have a long term commitment to our community. This is our neighbourhood, where we all live and work, and seek to build a relationship of trust within the community. We do not only want to be here in times of need, but we all actively participate in our local community in various clubs and events.

## Andrew & Heidi Bingham

Andrew originates from Yorkshire and also lived in Lancashire, where his father was a Methodist minister. Andrew has worked in the funeral profession since leaving school in 1986 and has worked for both a family funeral directors and also one of the larger organisations, carrying out all aspects of the profession. Andrew qualified as an embalmer in 1988 and as a funeral director in 1991 and served as chairman of the Essex and Suffolk National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD).

Heidi originates from Buxhall, near Stowmarket, where her mother and father Peter and Berice Jordan farmed the land and continue to run their own museum and tea room.







you will receive

*our personal attention*

24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

“Exceptional service from the word go. In addition to the more personal service required, knowledge of local area, meant that additional advice on florists, venues and so on, was comprehensive and impartial. It wasn't until I mentioned which funeral directors were helping us, did my neighbour, say she couldn't believe how compassionate they were when their nieces child died. Can not speak highly enough of all the team. ”

**Sara Durham**



# What to do when someone dies

## When someone dies at home

Contact your own Doctor or on call Doctor, district nurse or terminal care nurse. When one of these medical professionals have confirmed the death, contact ourselves, no matter what the time of day, we are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When you are ready two members of our staff will then bring your loved one into our care to the Nutshell in Milton Road South.

The Doctor will issue the medical cause of death certificate and will forward it directly to the registrars electronically.

## When someone dies in hospital

You no longer need to attend the hospital to collect the medical cause of death certificate, this will be sent electronically from the hospital. The bereavement office will contact you and let you know when they have sent the medical cause of death to the registrars. Once the death has been registered and all necessary forms completed at the hospital by the doctors, we will then be able to bring your loved one into our care.

## When someone dies at a nursing home

The staff may be qualified to confirm that death has taken place or alternatively the home will arrange for a doctor to visit. Once the death has been confirmed, the home or yourselves can contact us to make the arrangements for bringing your loved one into our care at any time, day or night. The doctor will send the medical cause of death to the registrars electronically.

Here to  
*personally help*  
and guide you...



## When someone dies unexpectedly

If a death is unexpected or the deceased has not been seen by their doctor recently, the coroner may need to be involved. The Coroner's duty is to investigate all sudden and unexpected deaths. This may include a post mortem examination to establish the cause of death and an inquest; we will guide you along with the Coroner's officer at all times through the process.

## Registering a Death

The death certificate will be sent electronically from the Doctor or hospital to the registrars, the surgery or hospital should contact you to let you know they have done this, you are then able to make an appointment to register, this can be at any registrars in Suffolk. It is advisable to take the birth and wedding certificate with you (if available).

Being conveniently situated next door to the registrars in Milton Road South, Stowmarket, this enables you, if you so wish, to visit the registrars and make the funeral arrangements at our homely style office, in one visit.

You are more than welcome to park your car at our office. Alternatively if it is more convenient for you we can make the funeral arrangements in the comfort of your own home.

...*24 hours a day,*  
7 days a week



# Arranging the Funeral

Making the funeral arrangements for a loved one can be quite daunting and you may feel that you don't know where to start. With our help, guidance and support we will enable you to organise the funeral that is right for you and that which reflect your loved one's life. We will take care of many of the practical issues and take away as much of the worries as we possibly can.

You may find it helpful to look at our website at the different options that are available from our downloadable brochures.



Funeral arrangements can either be made in one of our comfortable arrangement rooms or if you prefer, in the comfort of your own home.



Listed are a few questions you may like to think about:

Don't worry if you are unsure about anything  
*we will help you*  
and explain all the options available

- Is the funeral to be a burial or cremation?  
.....
- Would you like the funeral to take place in a Church, Crematorium or Cemetery chapel?  
.....
- Would you like a religious or non-religious funeral service?  
.....
- Where would you like the hearse and/or limousine to leave from? (Home, or our premises)  
.....
- How many limousines would you like? (each car seats 7 people)  
.....
- Would you like a printed order of service?  
.....
- Will you be having refreshments after the funeral?  
.....
- Would you like your loved one to be dressed in their own clothes or one of our gowns?  
.....
- Would you like donations for a charity?  
.....
- What music/Hymns would you like to be played?  
.....  
.....



# Personalising the Funeral

## Funeral Stationery

There are many options available to personalise the funeral including high quality stationery such as service sheets, personalised pew cards, memorial cards, books of condolence, photoboards etc.

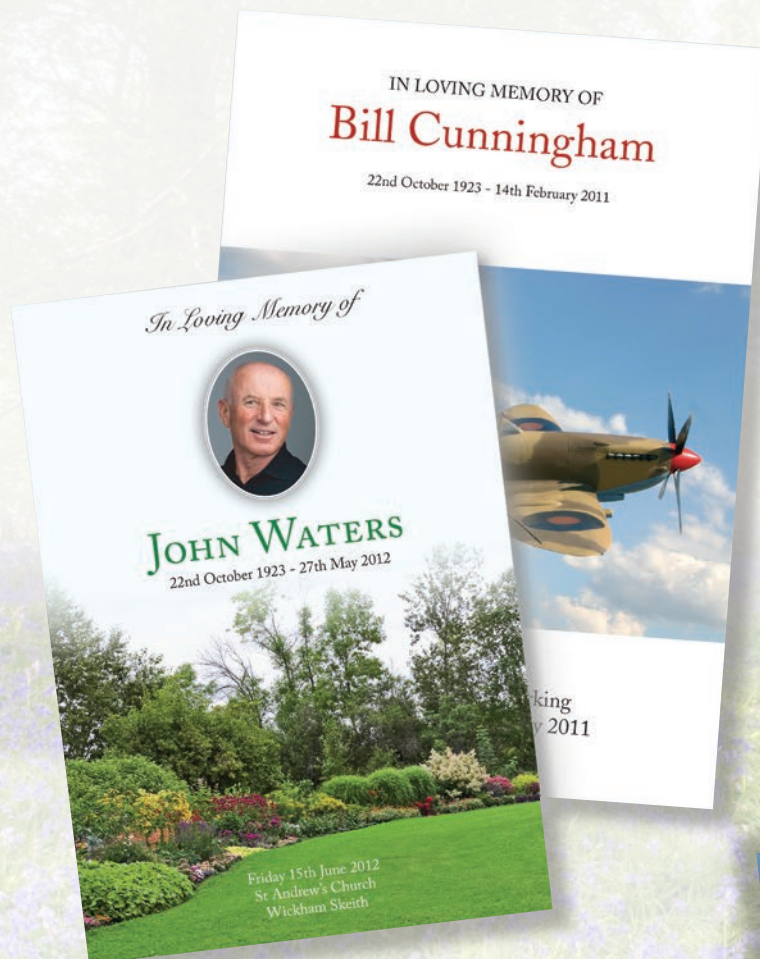


## Order of Service Sheets

Our A5 order of service sheets are printed on quality paper and card. The covers are printed on card and the inner pages on paper. Plain white or cream tinted options are available.

Choose your cover design from the options shown in our brochure. Alternatively a bespoke design can be created. These are available in black and white or colour designs (colour can also be used on the inner pages if required).

If you would like a picture to be added to the service sheet, you can either provide it digitally or we can scan a photograph at our office.



You do not have to worry about the actual content of the service sheet, we will liaise with the person taking the funeral service.

Once the service sheet has been designed we will provide a proof for you and any changes, if required, can be made.

We can also provide photo boards and books of condolence which are uniquely designed for you.



## Music

You can personalise the funeral to include a favourite piece of music perhaps as the coffin enters the chapel, during the service and at the end of the service.

Alternatively we can organise for a live musician.

## Eulogy

A member of the family, friend or colleague may like to pay a tribute at the funeral. It is advisable to discuss the length and content of the tribute with the officiant; it is also advisable that the tribute should be typed out, just in case the person feels too overwhelmed to read it out, in which case the officiant can then say it on their behalf.

## Funeral Catering

We can either organise with local hotels, public houses, community centres and village halls for refreshments after the funeral service or we can arrange for outside catering (who use locally sourced food) to be provided at a private venue or your own home. Whatever your requirements, we are here to help.



In Loving Memory of

*Glenda Matthews*

### Order of Service

#### Entrance Music

*'Wind Beneath My Wings' by Bette Midler*

#### Welcome and Opening Words

### Poem

*"A Golden Heart Stopped Beating" read by Steph  
(Ray's granddaughter)*

A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands at rest,  
It broke our hearts to see you go,  
God only takes the best.

They say that memories are golden,  
Well maybe that is true,  
But we never wanted memories,  
We only wanted you.

Your life was love and labour  
Your love for your family true  
You did your best for all of  
We'll always remember









## Our Transport

There are many options available, ranging from our modern Mercedes 'E' Class hearse and limousine to a horse drawn hearse, motorcycle hearse and vintage lorry. We have also been asked to include other vehicles in the funeral procession such as someone's pride and joy, fire engines, motorcycles, motorcycle outriders and tractors. We can also go via a particular place on route to the funeral.





# Coffins

We are very aware of our duty with regards to the environment. Many of our coffins are made in Suffolk and they are all accredited by the Forest Stewardship council (FSC).

**We have a large range of coffins to choose from which include:**

## Traditional Wood Coffins



## Bespoke Coffins

Bespoke personally designed coffins to incorporate personal pictures or images.

## Environmental Coffins

Various types of environmental coffins, which include willow, wool, banana leaf, bamboo and more.





# Flowers

Flowers can be ordered directly with ourselves or through your own florist. Our florist Sophie and her team has many years of experience and offers an extensive range of flowers ranging from a single red rose to a 6ft coffin spray, alternatively a specific design can be created to represent a hobby or interest.

**We have a flower brochure available or Sophie can meet with you to discuss your requirements.**



Red Rose Trio



Letter Design



Casket  
Garland

Pink, Rose and Lily  
Casket Spray







## Visiting the Chapel

Deciding on whether to visit your loved one in our peaceful chapel of rest can be a difficult decision and one only you can make. Our chapel is non-denominational and will suit those of all faiths and those without a faith. Your loved one can either be dressed in their favourite outfit or we can provide a gown. The chapel can be personalised by adding pictures and medals and we can also play their favourite music softly. You may like to place a letter, cards, teddy or photographs into the coffin. Alternatively you may wish for the coffin to be taken home prior to the funeral, either overnight or on the day.'





# Care after the funeral

At Andrew Bingham Independent Funeral Service we understand that when someone dies, life changes.

Everyone and their circumstances are different and we all grieve differently, for some the need of extra help is required and that is where our support continues.



**Friends in Bereavement**  
Support Group

## Friends in Bereavement Support Group

Naturally over time families and friends return to their routines and one of the many different emotions you may suffer, is the feeling of being alone or you may find it difficult to talk to someone close about how you are feeling.

Our Friends in Bereavement support group was formed in 2008 and has helped many people over the years, it is not a counselling session but it enables you to meet and talk with people who are in a similar situation. There is no charge and the group is very friendly and you will be made most welcome, anyone who has suffered a bereavement is welcome to join us.

We meet on the last Friday of the month at the Salvation Army Hall, Violet Hill Road, Stowmarket between 2pm and 4pm. We have day trips, Holidays, speakers, and a Christmas meal, Please ring us first as we may be on an outing.





# Remembering

There are many ways to remember your loved ones, including headstones, memorials and jewellery to name a few. We are happy to discuss all the options available.

## Memorials

There are many different types of stone, shapes and designs available and we will be more than happy to discuss your individual requirements with you and advise regarding cemetery or churchyard legislation.

## Keepsakes

There are many different keepsakes and memorials available, including cremated remains jewellery, fingerprint jewellery, birdbaths, sundials, memorial benches to name a few.



Cremated Remains Jewellery



Fingerprint Jewellery



Memorial Benches





FUNERAL PLANS FROM  
**Golden Charter**  
Smart Planning for Later Life



# Planning Ahead

## Pre-planning your funeral

A funeral plan is an easy way to arrange the funeral you want in advance. A plan allows you to specify your wishes, pay for the funeral director's services and make an allowance towards third party costs\*. At Andrew Bingham Independent Funeral Service, we work in partnership with Golden Charter to provide you with a safe and reliable way to plan ahead.

## A plan to suit your needs

As an independently family-owned funeral director, we'll take the time to understand your wishes and tailor a plan to suit you. We can discuss these at our premises or in your home, at a time that is convenient for you.

## Payment options to suit you

With a Golden Charter funeral plan, you can pay for your plan in several ways. Spread the cost or make a one-off payment – simply choose the one that's right for you.

## Ready to take the next step?

As well as the comfort of having a plan in place, you'll have the peace of mind that comes with being able to help save your family from worry and expense in the future. So why not take the next step? **Get in touch today.**

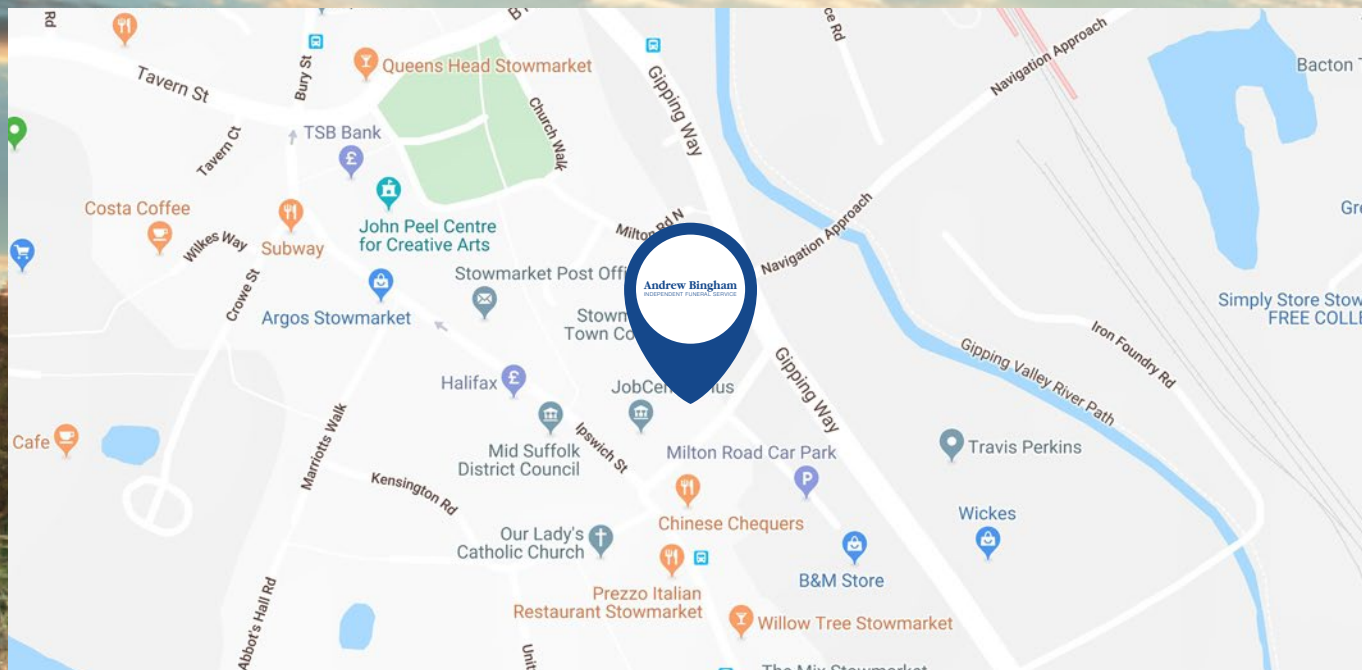
*Andrew Bingham Independent Funeral Service is an appointed representative of Golden Charter Limited trading as Golden Charter Funeral Plans which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN:965279).*

\*These are costs for essential, non-funeral director services required to carry out a cremation or burial. Examples are cremation or burial fees, doctor's certification fee and minister/celebrant fees.



# Andrew Bingham

INDEPENDENT FUNERAL SERVICE



The Nutshell,  
Milton Road South, Stowmarket,  
Suffolk, IP14 1EZ



01449 771666



[www.andrewbingham.co.uk](http://www.andrewbingham.co.uk)



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Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans

