بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

Janazah Guide

Tees Valley

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّـا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return. (Quran 2:156)

This guide covers the complete Islamic funeral process — from the moment of death through burial. Based on the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ and the guidance of trusted scholars. For local support in Tees Valley call Middlesbrough Central Mosque: 01642 254585.

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1. When Someone Is Dying (Muhtadhar)

Signs of approaching death

- Quickening breath
- Weak knees
- Nose bending, temples subsiding

Position the person

- Right side facing Qiblah (direction of Mecca), OR
- On their back, feet toward Qiblah, head slightly raised

In the room

- Burn loban (frankincense) or use itar (non-alcoholic perfume)
- Anyone in state of janaba, haydh, or nifas must leave the room

Recite

- Surah Yasin (17th ruku, 22nd para)
- Surah Ra'ad (6th ruku, 13th para)

Talqeen

Recite the Shahadah near the dying person — help them recall it, do not order them to say it.

2. Immediately After Death

1. Close the eyes gently
2. Tie a strip of cloth under the chin and around the head to keep the mouth closed
3. Remove all jewellery (rings, necklaces, bracelets, nose studs)
4. Straighten the limbs — do not force if illness prevents it
5. Bind the ankles together with a strip of cloth
6. Cover the body with a clean (tahir) cloth until ghusl
7. If death in hospital: gently press stomach to remove waste before transfer to mortuary

Duas to recite

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Innā lillāhi wa innā ilayhi rājiʿūn (Quran 2:156)

3. Who to Call

1. Family doctor — if death at home
2. Local mosque / funeral arrangers (01642 254585)
3. Imam — for ghusl and janazah arrangements
4. Close relatives

Designate one family member to make all funeral decisions. When first contacting the mosque/funeral arranger, have ready: name, address, date of birth, date of death, age, place of death, and next-of-kin details.

4. Legal Requirements (England & Wales)

Step 1 — Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD)

Every death requires an MCCD before the funeral can proceed.

- Issued by hospital doctor (if death in hospital) or GP (if at home/care home)
- A "Verification of Death" certificate is produced first — this is NOT the same as the MCCD
- Under the new system (from 09.09.2024): a Medical Examiner (ME) independently scrutinises the cause of death and gives the family opportunity to ask questions. Once the ME notifies the registrar, family can book an appointment to register.

Step 2 — Register the Death

- Next of kin must register before any burial can be arranged

- Middlesbrough Register Office: 01642 729004
- Hours: Mon–Fri 9am–4pm (emergency weekends: 10am–12pm)
- After registration, a Certificate for Burial ("green form") is issued
- Green form MUST be sent to the cemetery before burial can take place

5. What to Prepare for Ghusl

- Shroud material: ~22 yards (woman = 5 pieces, man = 3 pieces)
- 3 thin strips of material for tying the shroud
- 2 thick covering sheets (towelling, approx. 1m²)
- 2 large clean towels (pre-washed towels absorb better)
- 2 pairs rubber gloves + box of disposable surgical gloves
- Cotton wool, soap, shampoo
- 2 pairs scissors, surgical tape
- Camphor, non-alcoholic perfume (loban/frankincense)
- Bin bags, jug, large bucket
- Warm water (same temperature a living person would use to bathe)

6. Ghusl — Team Rules

- Minimum 4 people required (6 for a female)
- Same gender only — exception: husband may wash wife and vice versa; woman may wash a young boy
- Woman in haydh or nifas must not touch the body — may assist without touching
- All washers must be in a state of wudhu (ablution)
- Handle the body gently — no hard rubbing
- Fumigate the table with loban 3, 5, or 7 times anticlockwise before beginning
- Recite during washing: Allahumma ighfir lahu (for male) / laha (for female)

7. Ghusl Procedure (Step by Step)

1. Ensure all equipment is ready and water is warm
2. Cover the body from neck to ankles with a thick sheet
3. Four people hold the sheet slightly raised so the washer can work underneath throughout
4. Remove and safely dispose of any dentures, catheters, needles, or tubes. Cover any bleeding areas with cotton wool and tape.
5. Cut away and discard all clothing
6. Press stomach firmly but gently to clear any waste; clean with cotton wool
7. If death was recent, slightly raise head/shoulders while pressing. CAUTION: do not do this if death was during childbirth, surgery, or if body has been in cold storage.
8. Tilt body to the left; clean the back passage with flowing water
9. Perform wudhu (ablution) — same as for salah:

10. a) Face × 3

11. b) Hands to elbows × 3 (start right)

12. c) Masah of the head

13. d) Feet to ankles × 3 (start right)

14. If deceased was in state of janabah: wash mouth and nose × 3 with wet cotton wool, then dispose

15. Place cotton wool pads over eyes, mouth, ears, and nose to prevent water entering

16. Wash hair with water and shampoo. For females: undo braids, wash, part into two and bring hair forward over shoulders.

17. Wash the neck

18. Soap and wash the front of the body — avoid staring, keep water flowing away from the body

19. Tilt to left — soap and wash right side; tilt to right — soap and wash left side. Check for discharge.

20. Remove and replace wound dressings with fresh cotton wool

21. Rinse entire body with clean warm water — leave no traces of soap or impurity

22. Rinse an odd number of times — 3, 5, or 7 (sunnah). Family may help with rinsing.

23. Final rinse: use water with dissolved camphor

24. Remove cotton wool from nose, ears, eyes, mouth

25. Dry hair with one towel draped around the head

26. Dry front of body with second towel; replace wet covering sheet with a clean dry sheet

27. Tilt body left, tuck towel underneath, tilt right, draw towel through — drying the back

8. The Kafan (Shroud)

General rules

- Good quality but not expensive — silk and extravagant materials are not permitted
- Should be white (following the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ)
- Scented with non-alcoholic perfume (loban/frankincense)
- Cost paid from the deceased's own wealth; if no money, the guardian is responsible, then the family

Women's shroud — 5 pieces (material 60" wide / 5ft)

Piece	Name	Length	Width
1	Lifafah (Outer sheet)	8ft	5ft
2	Sina'band (Chest wrap)	7ft	5ft
3	Izar (Loin cloth)	7ft	5ft
4	Qamis/Kurta (Shirt)	5ft	4/5ft
5	Orhni (Scarf)	4ft	2ft
+	3 tying strips		

Men's shroud — 3 pieces (same sizes)

- Lifafah (Outer sheet)
- Qamis (Shirt)
- Izar (Loin cloth)
- + 3 strips to tie shroud

Putting on the Kafan

1. Lower body gently onto the kafn. Roll front of Qamis over the body to cover to calves.
2. Remove the covering sheet used during bathing
3. Rub camphor mixture on sajdah points: forehead, nose, both palms, knees, tops of feet
4. Divide hair into 2 parts; place on right and left shoulders over the Qamis (women only)
5. Cover head and hair with Orhni (scarf) — tuck in, do not fasten (women only)
6. Fold the Izar: left flap first, then right over it
7. Fold the Sina'band the same way (women only)
8. Fold the Lifafah the same way
9. Fasten ends with 3 strips: 1 above head, 1 around middle, 1 below feet

Prohibitions in the Kafan

- Do NOT enclose any Qur'anic verse, charter, or dua inside the kafan
- Do NOT write the kalimah or any dua on the kafan or chest of the deceased

9. After the Kafan

The deceased is now ready for burial (Dafn). Arrange Janazah salah without delay.

وَأَسْرِعُوا بِالْجَنَازَةِ

"If a person passes away, hasten him to his grave and do not keep him away." — Prophet ﷺ

- Arrange Janazah salah at mosque without delay
- Bury in the nearest Muslim cemetery
- Only Mahram family members may view the face of the deceased after kafan is on
- Qur'an may be recited next to the body before the Janazah is carried away
- If deceased was a pilgrim (in Ihram): wash normally but shroud in Ihram — do not cover head, do not apply perfume

10. Salat ul-Janazah (Funeral Prayer)

Fard kifayah — communal obligation. If some perform it, the obligation is lifted from all. Held at the mosque. No ruku' or sujud.

4 Takbeers

1. 1st Takbeer: Recite Surah al-Fatiha (silently)
2. 2nd Takbeer: Recite Salawat (Ibrahimiyyah)
3. 3rd Takbeer: Dua for the deceased (see below)
4. 4th Takbeer: Salaam on both sides

Dua for the deceased (male)

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ وَعَافِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنْهُ

Allahumma-ghfir lahu warhamhu wa 'afihi wa'fu 'anhu (Muslim 963)

11. Burial (Dafn)

- Hasten — ideally within 24 hours
- Muslim sections: Thorntree Cemetery (Cargo Fleet Lane, TS3 9RL) and Acklam Cemetery (Acklam Road, TS5 7HD)
- Book via Middlesbrough Bereavement Services: 01642 817725
- Body lowered into grave on right side, facing Qiblah
- Recite at lowering: Bismillahi wa 'ala sunnati rasulillah (Abu Dawud 3213)
- Grave filled with soil — those present may add three handfuls

12. Key Local Contacts — Tees Valley

Middlesbrough Central Mosque 01642 254585 30 Southfield Road, TS1 3EX
Jamia Masjid Al-Madina 01642 245855 133a Waterloo Road, TS1 3JB
Abu Bakr Mosque 01642 873305 Middlesbrough
Register Office 01642 729004 Town Hall, Dunning Street
Urgent burial (Sat 9–11am) 01642 726050 —
Bereavement Services/Cemetery 01642 817725 —
HM Coroner's Office Teesside 01642 729013 PO Box 506, TS1 9FE
James Cook Hospital Bereavement 01642 854937 Marton Road, TS4 3BW
NHS 111 (out-of-hours GP) 111 —