ORGANISING A FUNERAL
where the deceased has served in the RAF

We are often asked by the bereaved families of past Squadron members if we can provide Standards, Guards of Honour and coffin drapes at the funeral services of their recently deceased loved ones.

Listed below are some general facts which give quick guidance to many of the governing regulations. If you are planning a funeral for someone who served in the RAF and you would like to honour the person’s service as part of the funeral:

• A Union Flag may be used as a coffin drape.
• The Royal Air Force Ensign is *not* allowed to be used to drape a coffin nor may it be flown anywhere other than from a mast on an operational RAF station.
• A RAFA coffin drape may be available through an RAFA Area office: contact them to find out. Alternatively many undertakers also hold a Union Flag for this purpose.
• RAFA are unable to provide a Guard of honour. However, a request may be made by the family for a Royal Air Force representative to attend the funeral in uniform. Contact the local Station Warrant Officer who, where circumstances allow, will attempt to arrange this.
• A request for a trumpeter, if available, may be made through your local RAFA branch or Area office.
• The RAF Badge symbol is only to be used on a headstone for *serving* personnel and only when the UK Government is responsible for the maintenance of the gravestone.
• Special readings, poems and prayers associated with the RAF, which the family may wish to consider, are available. We suggest that, in this case, a religious leader be consulted for advice.