

features

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details and internet passwords to those who should be informed of the death.

THE Lasting Post website offers practical guidance on dealing with aspects of death, as well as a space to record personal wishes concerning life's ending: informing people, legal and financial issues, funeral and memorial service.

The site's founder, Chantal Rickards, says she wants to help people avoid her own experience of being "in a black hole without a torch" when her mother died six years ago. "She was born and died a Roman Catholic, but my father was buried in a Church of England churchyard. We felt that Mum would want to be buried next to Dad, but we had no idea whether the funeral service should be Catholic or Anglican."

Ms Rickards and her five siblings were evenly split: three wanted a Roman Catholic service; three an Anglican. "The problem was we had no map. My mother suffered a form of Alzheimer's in her last 18 months. We had never tackled the issue before that, and when she became irrational, it was inappropriate to do so." In the end, the family arranged two services.

Provision for dependants aside, there is also the question of bequests. In the Christian Legacy survey, more than a third of *Church Times* respondents with wills had not included a charitable legacy.

While cancer-research and