



# TYPES OF FUNERAL & MEMORIAL

## Did you know...?

There is no legal requirement in the UK to use a funeral director. The professionals are there to support you and help you achieve what you want to do. A good funeral director will provide the help and support you need when you need it.

## Traditional Funeral

The traditional funeral is commonly called a religious funeral.

It is mainly based on religious faith and belief.

Traditional funerals have unique and meaningful rituals from preparation to the burial. It is typically held in a places of worship and presided over by a religious official. If your loved one was a religious person, it is the best option as it will reflect his/her lifestyle, priority and belief. It can involve a burial or cremation.

## Non-Religious Funeral

The number of non-religious people is increasing around the world. In the UK, the number is almost doubled. Many people use a Celebrant to help in structuring and delivering the service. This funeral focuses on the celebration of life rather than grief on death. That's the reason why it's gaining popularity.

There are no strict rules or requirements so you can choose the location as you wish.

Typically it is held at crematoriums, cemeteries or woodland/natural burial sites.

## Direct Burial

If you want to bury your loved one without any formal ceremony this is a simple type of funeral with fewer regulations.

In the direct burial funerals, visitation, ceremony and graveside services are absent. Only the funeral home buries the casket. Direct burials are very affordable for you and the family as there will not be any formal funeral. But your wishes to have your loved one interred in a cemetery will be complete.

Often, direct burial funerals happen when the family lives far from the deceased or has a plan for a memorial service later.

## Direct Cremation

A direct cremation is a contemporary choice for people who do not want a funeral service bound in tradition. It offers a low cost funeral that allows you to bid a respectful farewell in a simple and fuss-free way.

A direct cremation involves no formal funeral service. It is usually unattended but, in the case of family-led funerals, may include a gathering of mourners. The remains will be returned to you and many families choose to hold a separate memorial event, celebration of life, interment or scattering of ashes to commemorate the life of the person who has sadly passed away.

## Green/Woodland/Eco Funeral

In a green funeral, the body is put in a biodegradable coffin or even a burial shroud. It is then buried not more than two feet deep from the top of the coffin/shroud to reduce methane emissions.

An environment-friendly coffin is made of bio-degradable material which is accepted by the owners of the natural burial ground.

But if you prefer woodland burial, you don't need to bother about a coffin, and you can always choose to bury the body in a shroud.

They are very popular among people who want to rest in peace with nature forever.

Below are some links to local green burial sites:

[Pembrokeshire Natural Burial Ground](#)

[Bargoed Natural Burials Carmarthenshire](#)



## Interment of Ashes Ceremony

This is where you bury the ashes of your loved one in a permanent place. The most common places to intern ashes are in a cemetery, your private property, a crematorium's garden, a natural burial reserve, or the churchyard.

If you wish to inter the ashes on public land you would need to obtain permission from the land owners, the group or corporation that own the land.

## Scattering of Ashes Ceremony

Once you receive the remains of your loved one, you might want to think of a meaningful way to honour their ashes. This is a part of the grieving process, but you can still get creative to create a lasting memorial.

There are a number of remarkable things you can do with the ashes, have a look at the [Alternative Funeral Ideas](#) document to find out more about this.

You can scatter ashes almost anywhere in the UK after a cremation, as long as you have permission from the landowner first. Ashes can be scattered at sea or on a river without permission, but you need to follow the [Environment Agency's guidelines](#).



## DIY Funeral

A DIY funeral allows you to put together a personal and unique funeral for your loved one, and gives you greater control over arranging the type of service or celebration, committal and the other aspects such as transport, music, flowers, coffins or caskets, that feels right.

The key to a successful DIY funeral lies in preparation, planning and getting plenty of help when you need it.

Before you choose to have a DIY funeral, be sure that you can handle the arrangements, both practically and emotionally. There is further information about having a DIY Funeral in the [Alternative Funeral Ideas](#) document.

## Memorial Service

The beauty of a Memorial service is that they do not have to occur within a specific time frame following a death. They can occur a day after interment or inurnment, a year later, or whenever.

The remains are not at the centre of this service, only the precious memory of the deceased. You really can do them anywhere and in a completely authentic way.