

## **Cremated Remains**

Deciding what to do with cremated remains following a funeral service and cremation can be a very difficult decision to come to.

There are several traditional routes to follow which could include:-

- Interring them in a grave in a cemetery or churchyard either in a new cremation plot or in an existing grave. Permission must be obtained from the relevant authority.
- Scattering them on an existing grave within a cemetery (however you should take advice from the burial authority on this as this may prevent further burials within the grave). Permission must be obtained from the relevant authority.
- Scattering them at the crematorium – this can either be witnessed by yourself, or you can arrange to have them scattered in the same general area as a previous family member or friend. Permission must be obtained from the relevant authority.
- Scattering them at a place that had special meaning to you or the deceased. Permission must be obtained from the landowner.
- Keeping them at home until a future decision is made.
- Keeping them at the funeral directors until a future decision is made.
- Placing them in a columbarium vault at the crematorium (this is often seen as only a temporary repository for cremated remains and should not be viewed as the final resting place).

There are also some more modern routes explore such as:-

- Have the cremated remains placed in an urn that becomes a piece of art e.g. candle-holders, glass bowls, garden sculptures, jewellery boxes etc.
- Mix them with clay or concrete to create a more permanent memorial
- Commission an artist to mix them with paint to paint a portrait
- Have them pressed into a vinyl record which will play your favourite music.
- Scatter them from on high via the use of a hot air balloon. Permissions need to be obtained.
- Scatter them at sea. Permissions need to be obtained.
- Scatter them on a river. Permissions need to be obtained.
- Have them turned into a diamond.
- Have them turned into a windchime made of crystal.
- Have them mixed with glass to create an ornament.
- Have them mixed with glass to create a piece of jewellery.
- Retain some and place in a specially designed locket.
- Fire them into space via a firework display.
- Fire them into the space so they can circle the Earth.
- Bury them in an underwater reef.

It is important to reflect and choose something that is right for both the deceased and also for those they have left behind. There is no wrong or right method as everyone is different, having different needs and beliefs.

Your funeral director or local cremation authority will be happy to guide you in this matter.