



Ashes: Scattered, Kept, or Placed?

By Eve Gibbons, Business Leader, (Cemetery Manager) Carr Villa Memorial Park

When families choose cremation, the next question often becomes: what should happen with the ashes?

There are many options. Some people choose to scatter ashes in a meaningful place. Some keep them at home. Others prefer to place them within a cemetery, in a niche wall, garden, or memorial location that offers permanence.

There is no right or wrong choice. But there are practical and emotional considerations that are worth thinking about ahead of time.

I have gently supported families who later found scattering ashes brought unexpected feelings, a sense of finality they were not prepared for, or a longing for somewhere specific to visit. I have also met families who kept ashes safely for many years, unsure of what to do next, because the conversation had never been had.

A permanent place is not for everyone. But for many, having somewhere tangible to visit, somewhere that remains constant, becomes deeply important over time.

Ashes represent a life. And how we choose to care for them often evolves as grief evolves.

If cremation feels right to you, take the next step in the conversation. Not just whether to be cremated, but what you would like to happen afterwards.

Because clarity brings comfort long after the service is over.

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