

## SOURCING A MEMORIAL STONE

One way to find a mason is to use an internet search engine to search 'local stonemasons' in your area.

Alternatively, you could ask the location that you are going to place the memorial stone if they have any masons that they frequently work with.

We would be more than happy to help you source a memorial stonemason free of charge. Please call your nearest Full Circle service and we can help you make all the arrangements.

Before placing an order we would strongly recommend that you have seen a design and estimate for the costs of the creation and placement of the memorial.



Many thanks to The Lettering Arts Trust for use of their photographs.  
[www.letteringartstrust.org.uk](http://www.letteringartstrust.org.uk)

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MEMORIAL STONES



a simple guide

## WHAT IS A MEMORIAL STONE?

A memorial stone is usually at a grave but can also be placed in other locations of significance.

Some people find it comforting to have a physical place they can visit after someone dies, and placing a memorial stone is one way of creating a meaningful focal point.

Memorial stones offer a point of focus, and some people find it easier to feel connected to the person that has died if there is a memorial stone in place.

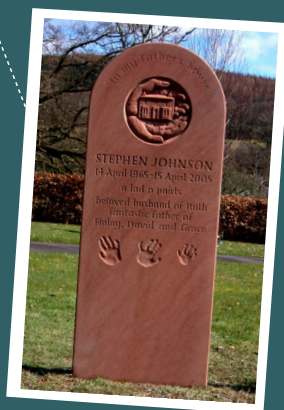
For most people, the process of choosing the stone and wording can be very powerful and important.

## LOCATION

**If you are choosing a memorial stone to mark the location of a grave then this can generally only be placed six-months after the burial has taken place.**

This is because it takes time for the ground to settle and become stable enough to support the weight of the stone.

However, we recommend that you start planning your memorial stone as soon as you feel ready, to allow yourself and the mason time to create a stone which is exactly as you would like it to be.



## MATERIALS

Memorial stones can come in a variety of different materials, but are often made out of stones such as marble, granite or sandstone as these are relatively weather resistant.

You might find it helpful to visit the location that you wish to place your memorial stone to see the stones which are already there. Some people would prefer that their choice is in keeping with the other headstones, whereas other would prefer something which stands out from the rest.

Most places have some rules and restrictions about what is possible (often to help with maintenance of the site) and it is important to know what it allowed before making any choices.

You could approach the agency in charge of the site for more information to clarify these details (or get in touch with us and we can do this for you).

## SHAPE

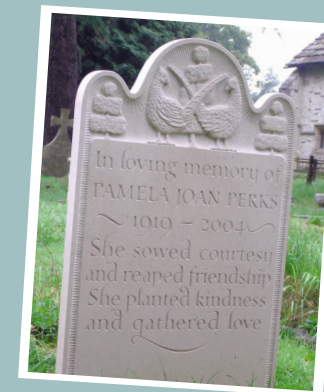
Memorial stones can be made in a variety of shapes and sizes. The images in this booklet show you a sample of what is available but there are many possibilities that are not represented here.

## WORDS

**Many people choose to include a person's full name and include the dates of their birth and death.**

Words on a memorial stone are often called an epitaph. These words maybe a favourite saying, religious or non-religious quote or a much-loved family phrase.

As with the choice of material and shape, some cemeteries have restrictions on the font, type or number of words permitted.



## IMAGES AND ADDITIONS



**Many memorial stones include images. These may have personal, cultural or religious significance, or you might just find them beautiful and consoling.**

Common symbols found on memorial stones include angels, religious symbols (such as crosses), and doves.

In some locations it is also permitted to have flower holders included in the stone, or for dedicated spaces for ashes to be included in the design of the stone.