

FUNERAL RITUALS AND WAR MEMORIALS

A ritual is a symbolic activity made by people to celebrate life's most important events; in particular a funeral rite is a ceremony made to express our feelings, thoughts and beliefs about the death of a loved one.

The funeral ritual helps us acknowledge the reality of death, gives testimony to the life of the deceased, encourages the expression of grief in a way consistent with the culture's values, provides support to mourners, allows for the embracing of faith and beliefs about life and death, and offers continuity and hope for the living.

In the past's wars, the most part of soldiers' families couldn't celebrate a real funeral because the body of the soldiers didn't come back in their country so they built war memorials.

A memorial is a building, monument or statue made to celebrate something or someone, in particular a war memorial is made to celebrate a war, a victory or who died in a war. But the original meaning of the war memorial was to exalt the war. After the first world war, the memorials had a change: indeed on lots of them, in British towns were written the names of the local soldiers who died in the name of their country.

The oldest war memorial in the United Kingdom was Oxford University's All Souls College to celebrate the Hundred Years War. Common soldiers that were dead during a war were almost never buried. In addition pacifist memorials were built for the first time after the tragic event. An important example can be found in the tomb of the unknown soldier in Westminster Abbey which represents any British fallen soldier during the Great War and became a symbol of hope for the living.

These are some of the most important War Memorials in the UK. One example of this, is The Cenotaph, in the center of London, is the national War Memorial to the British losses in the WW1. It was originally built with wood and plaster and it was designed as a temporary cenotaph for a national Peace Day Celebration and the Peace Parade, held in London in 1919. Last but not least are The Thankful Villages also called "Doubly Thankful Villages", Animals in war memorial, is a symbol to remind all the animals went to war, The National Memorial Arboretum, located in the heart of England and UK War Memorial Archive.

The war memorials are very important for the people, because those that have lost their family's members in the first World War have a place where they will be remembered.