



Cemetery Symbols

Here is a list that may help you to understand the 'Symbols on Stones' when exploring a cemetery. Each gravestone tells a story! Remember to show respect by only taking pictures or using clean hands to touch a gravestone.

*Angel: protection, guide to Heaven, prayer

*Anchor: another symbol for a cross; person could have been a sailor or killed at sea. A broken chain on the anchor means the 'end of life'.

*Book: prayers, a person's story, the Bible, teaching, writing, long or short life story

*Broken column: short life

*Celtic cross: eternity

*Dove: peace, innocence

*Hand: pointing up means your soul is going to Heaven; if the finger is pointing down, Heaven is reaching for you!

*Handshake: welcome to Heaven, marriage, long friendship

*Ivy: friendship, strength, truth

*Lion: courage, bravery, guardian of safety

*Oak tree or oak leaf: strength, honor, long life

*Tree trunk: used for a family; each branch is usually dedicated to members of the same family.

*Weeping willow: tears, grief OR immortality

*Wreath: victory, eternity