



St Albans

Woodland Burial
Trust

Woodland Burial At Keysoe Bedfordshire

Administrator: Sam Ware
St. Marks Church Community Centre
Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY
Tel: (07436) 787 409 (01234) 342 613 or Out of Hours (07973) 113 861
Email: office@woodlandburialtrust.com
www.woodlandburialtrust.com

Woodland Burial — the natural choice

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust provides woodland burial in beautiful countryside at Keysoe, Bedfordshire. Surrounded by 60 acres of trees, this is an ideal setting for those who would like to choose burial in a manner which benefits the environment. This is not a commercial cemetery; the woodland is owned by a Charitable Trust. We are dedicated to providing the opportunity for burial in a way which does not pollute, but creates a nature reserve, a haven of natural beauty and wildlife.

Choosing woodland burial is a decision to be buried in harmony with nature, to enhance the environment rather than destroying it. We leave behind something that will be of lasting benefit for our children and grandchildren and for generations to come.

Consecration and what it means

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is special; it is one of only two consecrated woodland burial grounds in England, and is the only consecrated burial ground in this region which is available to the general public. At one time all churchyards in England were consecrated; this gave them the greatest protection available in British law and ensured that they were not built upon or subsequently used for another unsuitable purpose. Increasingly this protection is being taken away on council and privately owned cemeteries. Instead leases are sold on grave space for a limited amount of time.

Consecration does not make the soil more holy, but it does set this woodland aside as a sacred space for ever, it is the greatest protection afforded in English Law. You can therefore be assured that this woodland burial site will remain a natural woodland setting. It cannot be sold for another purpose and it will not fall into disrepair. Since the ground is consecrated by the Church of England as a sacred space, people who are buried here can lie in this land for ever, until nature runs its natural course. Consecrated woodland burial ensures that our loved ones really do 'Rest in Peace'

We respect people of different cultures, and beliefs and this woodland burial site is open to people of other faiths, and those with no religious faith at all. We simply ask that any graveside ceremony be dignified and respectful.



Explaining Woodland Burial

The following information will explain most questions which you may have about woodland burial and the way St Albans Woodland Burial Trust operates. If you wish to know anything further, please do not hesitate to contact our Administrator Sam Ware who will be pleased to help you.

Office Contact Details *(Not woodland location)*

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

Administrator: Sam Ware Direct Line (07436) 787 409

St. Mark's Church Community Centre

Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY

Tel: (01234) 342 613 or out of hours (07973) 113 861

Email: office@woodlandburialtrust.com

www.woodlandburialtrust.com

Registered Charity No. 1118216

What is woodland burial ?

Woodland burial is simply the choice to be buried in a woodland setting, as opposed to a traditional cemetery. We are growing a beautiful wood where birds animals and all nature can thrive, instead of creating serried ranks of tombstones. Our woodland is run by a non-profit making charity and is consecrated to come within the jurisdiction of the St Albans Diocese of the Church of England.

People choose consecrated woodland burial because they want the assurance which comes from choosing burial in land protected by the oversight of the church. They also prefer the fact that a woodland burial ground is managed in a way that will produce a woodland nature reserve for generations to come. In making this choice we give something back to our communities and contribute towards the conservation of our environment. This is the ultimate recycle.

The woodland is ideal for burial, however we recognise that some people will prefer cremation, we therefore also accept cremated remains. Since we are seeking to develop a beautiful natural woodland, we do ask that certain practices are observed which will help the environment. These are explained in this brochure, and include such things as trying to make sure that coffins and caskets are made from natural products which are bio-degradable, such as wood. If you choose woodland burial you will usually save money, protect the environment and importantly make a lasting contribution towards a woodland nature reserve which will last for generations to come.

Making Arrangements

Some people will be choosing a burial space following the death of a loved one, others will wish to make a reservation as a part of making their own preparations in advance. Whatever your personal situation, our administrator Sam Ware will be pleased to meet with you on site and show you the possibilities available. The following information will offer you some preliminary guidance.

Reservation

Some people will find reassurance in choosing to reserve their place in the woodland for burial. This can relieve the family of the burden of making arrangements later. Reservation not only secures a particular plot, it also guarantees that the cost of subsequent burial will be considerably reduced. It carries entitlement to a 50% reduction of the cost of a grave space at the time of burial. Please note that the remaining sum due will be 50% of the cost of the grave space at the time of burial, not at the time of reservation.

Double Graves

We do not bury in double depth graves for environmental reasons. However if you wish to be buried next to somebody else we will be pleased to arrange reservation of an adjacent grave.

Recording the location of burials

Graves are marked simply with a wooden plaque laid on the ground, and for those who wish, a tree near the grave can be dedicated as a living memorial to the loved one who lies nearby. As the burial takes place a discreet record is kept of the location of the grave and each year an accurate survey is maintained, ensuring the resting place of a loved one is never lost.

Ceremonies at the graveside

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is open to all people without discrimination. We welcome people of all faiths, and denominations and those with no religious faith at all. We ask that the form of any graveside ceremony must be dignified but not necessarily Christian. When graveside ceremonies are arranged, the form of service and the person conducting it, must be agreed by the Administrator who acts on behalf of the Trustees. St Albans Woodland Burial Trust will be pleased to offer advice concerning the ceremony and our own clergy are pleased to conduct services for you. Alternatively we can arrange for another minister or civil celebrant of your choice. After the service of committal, family and friends can spend as much time as they like at the graveside. The cost of your minister or celebrant must be agreed with them and is not the responsibility of the Trust.

Choice of coffins

We are pleased to accept all coffins which are biodegradable. Most funeral directors are able to advise you regarding the choice of a suitable coffin made from natural materials such as wood, wicker or bamboo.

Interment of cremated remains

Ashes can be buried in the woodland, either loose or in a biodegradable container. Suitable caskets are available for purchase from most funeral directors.

Flowers

Fresh cut flowers may be placed in or on the graves, please remove cellophane, ribbons and non bio-degradable wrapping. Artificial flowers are not permitted and with the exception of the Bio Pots the Trust can provide, no vases or containers should be left. The only permitted planting is that of British Native Plants. Please ask for details or refer to the 2019 edition of our Newsletter. The Trustees reserve the right to remove flowers placed on graves as part of routine care and maintenance.

Dogs

The woodland is a place where the public are welcomed, with public footpaths and rights of way. We encourage people to bring dogs and enjoy the woodland, we would of course expect all responsible dog owners to show respect.

Opening times.

The car park area and access road may be used from 7.30am until 10.00 pm 7 days a week Please note that there is no lighting when it gets dark.

The marking of graves with memorial plaques

Protection of the environment and wildlife conservation is important to the Trust. We are creating a place for nature, a beautiful natural woodland setting. It is therefore important that no memorials are used which are made from stone or non-biodegradable materials. All memorials must be specified and supplied by the Trust directly, so that we can ensure that the natural beauty of the woodland is preserved. The Trust has approved the fixing of an oak cross or plaque. These are ideal for a name and date, but any more than that, please consider an oak memorial. These have been selected by the Trustees since they will age naturally and are sympathetic to the woodland. Our administrator will be pleased to supply you with details.

Plaques do not need to be placed on the grave at the time of burial but can be laid at a subsequent time. No charge will be made for the erection of a memorial. Please note that the Trust does not take responsibility for the memorials once fitted.

Dedication of a tree

We are pleased to arrange for the dedication of an existing tree in memory of a loved one. This can be done at the time of a burial or at a later occasion. Should you wish to have an inscribed wooden memorial plaque place by the tree, this can be arranged by the Trust.

Embalming

Embalming can cause pollution by introducing formaldehyde to the soil. We therefore ask that bodies are not embalmed if possible. We understand that this may become necessary for hygienic reasons, such as when a repatriation has taken place, we ask that your funeral director informs the Trust beforehand.

Book of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance is an important way in which you can leave a beautiful and long lasting memorial. Entries can be made in the Book of Remembrance which is kept in the chapel of St Mark's Church, Bedford. The chapel is open during daylight hours and provides the facility for visitors to light prayer candles. Entries in the Book of Remembrance are arranged by the Trust, free of charge.

Health and Safety

The Trust is creating a natural woodland, it is therefore necessary to wear appropriate footwear and clothing when visiting the site or attending services. Please be especially careful to avoid trips and falls on grassy areas. Please contact us regarding accessibility - at certain times of the year the ground is less than ideal for those with mobility difficulties.

Refreshments and catering facilities

The College Equestrian Centre is adjacent to the woodland and people may welcome the opportunity to use the facilities and restaurant area. This can be booked for refreshments after services. Telephone number (01234) 708 400



Vases for use in the woodland

Whilst we recognise that many people value the opportunity to leave tokens on a grave, we have to remove these to preserve the nature of the natural woodland.

Regulations for the Woodland do allow the placement of natural floral tributes. Fresh flowers may be placed in or on the graves, we simply ask that you remove cellophane, ribbon or wrappings. This allows us to maintain our commitment to a natural setting and the flowers naturally degrade over time. The Trustees do reserve the right to remove flowers placed on graves as part of routine care and maintenance and the mowing of the glades may disturb flowers which are left.

Biodegradable

We have received requests for some for vases to be left on graves for flowers. Sadly vases are not allowed due to the problems that this poses when mowing the graves. However we have now produced a special biodegradable vase which can be set into the ground to act as a container for flowers. When set so that the top of the vase is level with the surface of the soil, the vase will not be caught by the blades of a mower.

The vase is made from bamboo and will naturally degrade over time, however our tests have shown that it has a good natural capacity to retain water over a period of time. When the vase has ceased to be effective a new vase can simply be fitted into the same location.

The Trust is pleased to make the vases available and the following charges will assist us in covering the cost

To buy and have the container sent to you by post
or positioned at the plot by us.

£20

Please do feel able to contact us if you are interested in these biodegradable vases.

Funeral Directors

Most people find the services of a funeral director helpful in making arrangements. St Albans Woodland Trust has worked closely with the following Funeral Services and they will be able to offer services which have already been approved by the Trust.

Neville Funeral Service, 48 Roff Avenue, Bedford. MK41 7TE
T: 01234 359529 F: 01234 327619

Molyneux Jones Family Funeral Directors 37 St Cuthberts Street, Bedford. MK40 3JG
T: 01234 363191 E: Malcolm@molyneuxjones.co.uk

Neville Funeral Service Luton, Marsh Road, Leagrave, Luton, Bedfordshire. LU3 2RZ
T: 01582 490005 F: 01582 493525

Neville Funeral Service Ampthill, The Old Church, Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Bedfordshire. MK45 2NT T: 01525 406132 F: 01525 840486

A L & G Abbott Funeral Directors 150 Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford. MK42 8BH
T: 01234 843222 F: 01234 841747 E: support@abbott-funerals.co.uk

George Squire & Sons, 24 Clifton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire. SG17 5AE
T: 01462 813258 F: 01462 850236

G Hall & Sons, Hemel Hempstead, 75 Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 1LF T: 01442 252395 F: 01442 218203

Phillips Funeral Services Ltd 68 Alma Road, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3BL
T: 01727 851006

A Abbot & Sons Ltd, Independent Family Funeral Directors, Bedford Road, Rushden Northamptonshire, NN10 0LZ
T: 01933 312142 / 01933 410365 F: 01933 410500 E: info@abbottfunerals.co.uk

E H Crouch. 23a Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6AQ T: 01462 893191

Clarabut & Plumbe. 11 Kingsway, Bedford, MK42 9BJ T: 01234 354547

Co-Op Funeral Directors. 100-102 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 1AE
T: 01707 659917

T.L Cobbold Funeral Directors. 11-13, New St St. Neots PE19 1AJ
T: 01480 476136

Alpha 4x4 Funerals Ltd. 8 Dove Lane, Harrold, Bedfordshire, MK43 7DF
T: 01234 720936 F: 01234 720936 E: info@4x4funerals.co.uk

Woodman& Sons Funeral Services. 3 Market Square, Biggleswade, SG18 8AP
T: 01767 315700

Chambers and Brighty. 5-9 Buckwell End, Wellingborough, Northants. NN84LR
T: 01933 222707

We will work very closely with funeral directors of your choice to make sure the wishes of the deceased and the family are met

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Charges From 1st September 2019

Name (In full)	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
Email	

Burial	Cost
1. Single grave space £850 <i>These charges relate only to the provision of grave space. They do not include fees for church services, ministers fees, charges levied by undertakers or the cost of preparing the ground.</i>	
2. Reservation of single grave space £425 <i>This carries entitlement to a 50% reduction of the cost of a grave space at the time of burial. The remaining sum due will be 50% of the cost of the grave space at the time of burial, not at the time of reservation.</i>	
3. Single grave space for cremated remains £320 <i>This excludes the current cost of £60 for all ground preparation</i>	
4. Double grave space for cremated remains £450 <i>This excludes the current cost of £80 for all ground preparation</i>	
5. Reservation of single grave space for cremated remains £160 <i>This carries entitlement to a 50% reduction of the cost of a grave space at the time of burial. The remaining sum due will be 50% of the cost of the grave space at the time of burial, not at the time of reservation. This excludes ground preparation</i>	
6. Bio Pot <i>(price includes installation or postage & packing) £20</i>	
7. Dedication of Memorial Tree £100 <i>A small inscribed plaque may be supplied by the Trust at additional cost</i>	
8. Provision of wooden plaque or cross <i>(Please ask for cost)</i>	
9. Use of amplification equipment £15	
10. Friends of St Albans Woodland Burial Trust £25	
Total cost	

Please make cheques payable to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust. Sam Ware,
St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, St. Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise,
Bedford. MK41 7UY.

I certify that the above particulars are true and correct to the best of my belief.
I agree to comply with any rules and regulations made by the Trustees.

Signed

Date

Please note that these charges apply when interment is made between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Weekend and extraordinary arrangements may incur an additional charge.

All charges are reviewed annually by the Trustees

Regulations Governing the Burial Ground

To ensure the serenity and dignity of burials at St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust, the following guidelines apply to all burials.

1. The planting of trees and other plants in the burial ground is not permitted and is strictly controlled by the Trust.
2. **No gardening or cultivation whatsoever is permitted.** This includes such things as the scattering of bark or chippings, and the introduction of any fencing or kerbs or additional grave marking and ornamentation.
3. No wildlife shall be introduced into the woodland.
4. Fresh flowers may be placed in or on the graves, but please remove cellophane, ribbon or wrappings. The Trustees reserve the right to remove flowers placed on graves as part of routine care and maintenance. **Artificial flowers are not permitted and no vases or containers other than Bio Pots (see 5 below) should be left.**
5. One Bio pot only, supplied by the Trust may be installed on each plot
6. It is requested that coffins and caskets be made of natural biodegradable material such as wood and preferably from renewable sources. The Trust must be advised prior to burial if for any reason the coffin does not meet these criteria.
7. It is requested that bodies should not be embalmed. The Trust should be advised prior to burial if this has taken place.
8. Graves may be marked by an oak cross or oak memorial supplied by the Trust. There will be no long term permanent markers such as gravestones or headstones. Only one memorial per person is permitted. **The Trust does not accept responsibility for loss or damage to memorials.**
9. Any maintenance of plaques, crosses, monuments or benches must have prior approval of the Trust
10. The graveside service must be dignified and follow a recognised form of service. The Administrator of the Trust must be advised beforehand and approve any ceremony and the person conducting it, on behalf of the Trustees.
11. No exhumations will be permitted under any circumstances except by lawful authority.
12. The Trustees maintain the right to vary the Rules and Regulations at any time.
13. No refunds are made.
14. The Trust reserves the right to remove any items left near any grave considered by any trustee to be inappropriate for woodland burial.

I hereby confirm that I have read and accept all the terms of conditions as outlined above.

Full Name

Signature

Date



Directions to St Albans Woodland Burial Ground

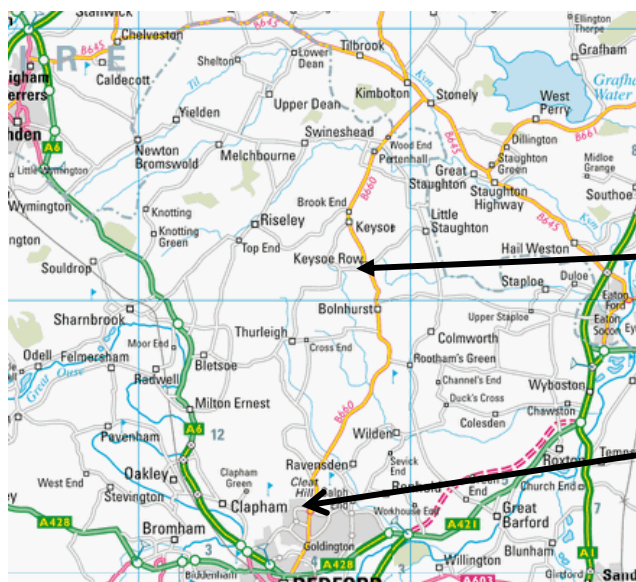
Sat Nav - Please use the postcode MK44 2JP

What 3 Words - Please use ///sifts.stealthier.roosts

Entrance is via The College Equestrian Centre
Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford. MK44 2JP

From Bedford the Total distance is just 7.86 miles, and takes 15 minutes

1. Leave Bedford on Kimbolton Road to the roundabout junction with Avon Drive and Wentworth Drive by Pheasant Public House.
2. Turn onto Kimbolton Road (B660) and head straightforward onto Cleat Hill (B660). Stay on for 6.15 miles.
3. On entering Keysoe Village follow signs for Equestrian Centre
4. You will see Keysoe Parish Church across fields on left
5. After entering 30mph speed limit prepare to turn left
6. Turn left at signpost for The College Equestrian Centre, onto Church Road, follow road past Keysoe Parish Church
7. On reaching College Equestrian Centre enter by second entrance on left
8. Follow track to St Albans Woodland Burial Ground



St Albans Woodland
Burial Ground
MK44 2JP

St Mark's Church Community Centre

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, Registered Office
St. Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY
Email: office@woodlandburialtrust.com
Tel: 07436 787 409 or (01234) 342 613 (or out of hours 07973 113861)

www.woodlandburialtrust.com
Registered Charity No. 1118216

Donate online with
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