



St Albans

# Woodland Burial Trust

**Woodland Burial in  
Keysoe, Bedfordshire**

## **Office Address**

**St. Mark's Church Community Centre  
Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY**

**Tel (01234) 342 613 (07436) 787 409 or (07973) 113 861**

**Email: [office@woodlandburialtrust.com](mailto:office@woodlandburialtrust.com) [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)**

*Registered Charity No. 1118216*

*Revised September 2023*



## Location of St Albans Woodland Burial Ground

Woodland Road, via Keysoe International Equestrian Centre  
Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford. MK44 2JP



**St Albans Woodland Burial Ground, Keysoe**

An environmentally friendly resting place, we welcome  
those of any faith, or none at all,

## **A Message from the Trustees**

Welcome to St Albans Woodland Burial Trust. Whether you are considering reservation of a space in the woodland or going through the very painful process of arranging a funeral following a bereavement, we assure you of our desire to do our best to help and support you. We are a charity not a commercial cemetery and as Trustees we are all volunteers who believe in the importance of providing the best we can for those who choose our woodland as a resting place.

### **Woodland Burial — the natural choice**

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust provides woodland burial in beautiful countryside at Keysoe, Bedfordshire. Surrounded by trees, this is an ideal setting for those who would like to choose burial in a manner which benefits the environment. 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.

The Bishop of Bedford consecrated our burial ground in 2007. The Church of England as the established church is granted special powers under English law for a Bishop to consecrate burial ground set the land aside for burials in perpetuity. The legal force of this means that the land is protected for all time for this sacred use. Not even a Bishop can deconsecrate churchyards it can only be removed by legislation from an Act of Parliament or Measure of the General Synod of the



Church of England having the effect of an Act of Parliament. This provides the greatest protection available in English law to ensure that our woodland cannot be built upon, or subsequently used for another unsuitable purpose. At one time all churchyards in England were consecrated, but 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, usually between 30 and 70 years.'

Consecration does not make the soil more holy, but it does set this woodland aside as a sacred space for ever. You may not have any religious belief at all but everybody can be assured that this woodland burial site will always 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.

### **What is woodland burial ?**

Woodland burial is simply the choice to be buried in a woodland setting, as opposed to a cemetery. We are growing a beautiful wood where birds animals and all nature can thrive for generations to come, instead of creating serried ranks of tombstones. 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 environmentally friendly, such as wood. We do not welcome chipboard, mdf or veneers! 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**

In keeping with the best practice of all woodland burial grounds 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 memorial made and installed by our designated wood craftsman, and they are finished with a light oil (no varnish or harsh chemicals). You can choose between a cross, a plaque or memorial post.

## **Ceremonies at the graveside**

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is open to all people without any 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 made from environmentally friendly materials. 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. We do not welcome chipboard, mdf or veneers!

## **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 any non bio-degradable wrapping. Artificial flowers are not permitted and with the exception of the Bio Pots provided by the Trust, 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 each day from 8.00am until 6.00pm or later depending on the security officers at Keysoe International Equestrian Centre. The Equestrian centre café is often open until late evening. The woodland can however be accessed by public rights of way at any time by parking on Keysoe Row West and using the footpaths. 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 recording a name and date. If you wish to have more information or an inscription then 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 placed by the tree, this can be arranged by the Trust. If you wish to arrange for the planting of a new tree then please discuss this with our Administrator.

## **Embalming**

Embalming can cause pollution by introducing chemicals into the soil. We therefore ask that bodies are not embalmed if at all 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 to request permission.

## **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**

Keysoe International 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. Contact [www.keysoe.com](http://www.keysoe.com) T: (01234) 708400 E: [info@keysoe.com](mailto:info@keysoe.com)

## **Items left at graves**

When choosing St Albans Woodland Burial people know that the trustees carefully ensure that the woodland is looked after. We ensure that certain rules are in place to keep the glades looking natural and not like a graveyard. 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. Any labels, ornaments, ribbons, messages, cards, toys and pebbles will be removed as will any plant that is not a native wild flower. This helps keep the woodland looking good and it is also in keeping with our environmental commitment. We do understand that occasionally visitors do not appreciate these conditions and so we do operate a policy of removing items from graves.

## **Cut Flowers**

We allow fresh flowers to be placed in or on the graves, or in the bamboo vase Bio Pots supplied by the trust. However we ask that you remove cellophane, ribbon or other non biodegradable wrappings. Of course artificial flowers are not permitted and no vases or containers should be left apart from the Bio Pots supplied by the Trust and these will be removed.

## **Planting**

No gardening or cultivation of individual graves is allowed and no grave marking or ornamentation unless specifically authorised by the Trust. The Trust allows for planting of native British wild flowers in wild areas, but remember that if these are planted on the grave then they will be destroyed when the grave is mown or strimming takes place. Many flowers are also eaten by deer and rabbits! We ask for British flowers because they not only have natural colours but they are more beneficial for bio-diversity and support local insects. Please do not create a border around a grave, manicured graves are not acceptable and all graves are mown. A list of acceptable wild flowers is available on the Trust website or by request.

## **Bio Pots - Vases for use in the woodland**

We have received requests for vases to be left on graves for flowers. Sadly vases and containers 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 charge will assist us in covering the cost to buy and have the container sent to you by post £20 or positioned at the plot by us. Please do feel able to contact us if you are interested in these biodegradable vases.

## **St Albans Woodland Burial Trust (“the Trust”) Regulations of Use**

We ask that all visitors to the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground (“the Burial Ground”) adhere to our regulations of use which are designed to ensure that our ethos of a natural burial ground is maintained.

## **General Regulations**

1. St Albans Woodland Burial Ground is open 365 days a year with unrestricted access between 8am and 6.00pm. Please note that at certain times, access to individual graves may be restricted, for instance, when an adjacent grave is being dug.
2. All visitors enter the site at their own risk and take care on uneven, muddy or slippery ground. Please wear appropriate, sturdy footwear.
3. We reserve the right to close all or part of the Burial Ground at any time in the interests of public safety.
4. Please give due consideration, privacy and respect to any funeral, memorial or burial

services taking place. Please turn off any mobile phones.

5. The planting of trees and other plants in the burial ground is not permitted and is strictly controlled by the Trust.
6. No wildlife shall be introduced into the woodland.
7. Please do not pick, cut or prune flowers, trees or shrubs at the Burial Ground. All maintenance work is to be carried out by the Trust. No planting is permitted of trees, bulbs, flowers, seeds, unless expressly approved by the Trust. Please appreciate that we are creating and maintaining a natural environment.
8. Please do not try to attach anything on to any trees or shrubs on site. Please do not deface trees.
9. Please remove all litter from the site.
10. Dogs are welcome but must be under control and please ensure that you clear up after your dog.
11. No children under 16 years of age are allowed on site without an accompanying adult.
12. *Disabled Access*: every effort has been made to ensure that access is as easy as possible for disabled visitors. However, due to the natural topography of the site, assistance may be needed.

### **Grave Plots and Burials Regulations**

1. Only one body may be interred in one grave.
2. Only biodegradable coffins, urns or shrouds from sustainable resources shall be used. Coffins and caskets are only accepted when made of natural biodegradable material such as wicker and solid wood, preferably from renewable sources. Veneered MDF or chipboard is not acceptable and the Trust must be advised prior to burial if the coffin does not meet these criteria. There should be no varnish, plastic handles or plastic plaques. Professional funeral directors should be aware of the requirements for natural burial.
3. 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 Trust.
4. Graves may only 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.
5. 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.
6. Any maintenance of plaques, crosses, monuments or benches must have prior approval of the Trust.
7. Personal possessions may be interred with a body, as long as they are made of natural materials.
8. No exhumations will be permitted under any circumstances except by lawful authority.
9. A body that has been embalmed, or otherwise treated with noxious and toxic chemicals, cannot be interred at the Burial Ground unless under exceptional circumstances and specifically authorised by the Trustees.
10. Interments cannot take place at the Burial Ground until the death has been legally registered and the appropriate documentation received by the Trust at least 48 hours in advance of the Interment.
11. Cremated remains cannot be scattered at the Burial Ground but must be interred in biodegradable caskets or boxes, or poured directly into the grave plot.
12. Please do not place any ornaments, toys, photographs or other memorials on graves. Only fresh flowers may be left on site using one Bio-pot only, supplied by the Trust on each plot. No cellophane, containers, such as vases, pots, bottles or baskets are permitted. The Trust reserves the right to remove any items left near any grave considered by any trustee to be inappropriate for woodland burial.
13. Flower arrangements may be placed on graves at the time of a funeral or memorial service. They will be removed by the Trust after a few days to ensure that any non-

biodegradable matter is taken from the Burial Ground and does not interfere with the natural environment. Artificial flowers, oasis and plastic trays are not permitted.

14. Trees planted at the Burial Ground by the Trust as living memorials are guaranteed by the Estate for 5 years; if a tree dies during this period it will be replaced once by the Trust in the appropriate season. After that time, the woodland will begin to develop naturally and will be managed by the Trust accordingly.
15. The Trustees maintain the right to vary the Rules and Regulations at any time.

## **St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Terms and Conditions**

We love our woodland and we want it to be looked after as a place of comfort for generations to come. The following terms and conditions are to help ensure that the woodland remains a beautiful natural place and is kind to nature as well as those who mourn. We will do our best to manage and look after it and we want to make sure that those who join us have the same concerns. We do not have plastic flowers or ornaments and so if they are left they will be removed. Coffins are made of natural materials and grave posts and crosses are made of wood so that over time what we leave here will return to nature just like us. The woodland is a living thing and it will grow and decay and change over time, trees will grow and some will need to be removed so that others can take their place. This is the circle of life and death and we are fortunate for a time to be a part of it. We hope that you will feel able to join us

### **1. Application Form**

1.1 By submitting the Booking Form and paying the appropriate fee you are agreeing to purchase an Exclusive Right of Burial from us, subject to these terms and conditions.

### **2. Issue of Confirmation**

2.1 Upon receipt of a correctly completed Booking Form and the payment of the appropriate fee we will issue you with a confirmation of your booking.

### **3. Variation**

3.1 The Exclusive Right of Burial may not be varied or amended. We may, at our absolute discretion, agree to variations to the Exclusive Right of Burial that you request in writing. We may, at our absolute discretion, agree to a written request by you to purchase an alternative arrangement in place of the Exclusive Right of Burial (ie a change in the selected area of the site, or a change in the type of plot you have purchased). Such agreement will be subject to such additional terms (including without limitation, terms relating to payment) as we reasonably require. You must send any existing or duplicate Certificate you have received from us when you make such a request.

### **4. Availability**

4.1 The passage of time and/or changes in circumstances may unavoidably affect the availability of certain arrangements e.g. the selected burial area and/or plot.

4.2 In the event that you or your Representatives do not agree to such alternative arrangements, then we will cancel the Exclusive Right of Burial and will return all monies paid to us within 28 days of notification of cancellation, following which we will have no further obligation to provide rights of Burial.

4.3 There will be a cancellation fee of £150 (or as applicable at the time of cancellation).

### **5. Cancellations and Refunds**

5.1 If we are unable to provide the burial plot(s) because of circumstances outside our control, e.g. changes in legislation, unsuitable ground conditions, strikes, floods, fire; then we reserve the right to cancel the Exclusive Right of Burial and to repay all monies you have paid to us, back to you or to your representatives, following which we will have no further obligation to provide the Right of Burial.

5.2 Exclusive Right of Burial to specific plots cannot be sold or transferred without our written consent. Any consent granted will incur an administration fee applicable at that time. New owners must agree and sign the Terms and Conditions.

### **6. Provision of the Right of Burial**

6.1 For the avoidance of doubt, we are under no obligation to give any refund should you or your Representatives decide not to receive the Burial Right to which you are entitled.

6.2 We are not obliged to provide any Exclusive Right of Burial until the Price is fully paid. Accordingly, after death, the relevant representatives must supply:

6.2.1 the Applicant's or Grantee's 'Registrar or Coroner's Authority to Bury' Certificate and

6.2.2 pay the Burial Registration Fee before any Right of Burial is provided.

### **7. Notifying us**

7.1 You or your representatives must notify us in writing and deliver it personally, send it by first class post to our registered address or by email to [office@woodlandburialtrust.com](mailto:office@woodlandburialtrust.com) before the funeral arrangements are publicly announced. We must have at least three working days' notice in advance of the interment.

## **8. Responsibility for Claims**

8.1 Note that it is the sole responsibility of you or your representatives to claim the Right of Burial.

## **9. Conditions Relating to the Grave**

9.1 We will provide reference markers to be used to locate the position of the grave and we will have sole discretion in the selection of planting, landscaping and maintenance of the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground. Only biodegradable coffins, urns or shrouds from sustainable resources shall be used. No embalmed remains can be interred, unless under exceptional circumstances and specifically authorised by the Trustees. All burial or interment vessels including fixtures, fittings, linings and pillows must be made of environmentally friendly materials. (This excludes use of chipboard and veneers.)

9.2 The price of interment does not include any memorials or tree planting. Individuals buying a pre-purchase plot must appreciate that if their plot is not occupied for many years, their neighbour's trees may have developed to the extent that the canopy may have closed in. The burial can still take place but there may not be enough light for their own memorial tree to flourish and an alternative area for the tree will be offered

9.3 Trees located near to or adjacent plots may be removed by the Trust for reasons including decay, disease or required woodland management at the sole discretion of the Trust

## **10. Notice of Interment**

10.1 Notice of Interment must be given on our printed Interment Form and must be completed properly and in full. Responsibility for any errors and omissions rests with the person submitting the Notice. We must receive Notice at least three clear working days before the date of interment.

10.2 All charges and fees connected with the interment must be paid within 28 days of date of invoice. Plaques and crosses must also be settled within 28 days of invoice. Only memorials specified and approved by the Trust are accepted, no other memorials, mementos, kerbs, vases, wreaths, or other forms of memorial or marker will be permitted.

## **11. Grave Digging**

11.1 For reasons of health and safety, only the Nominated Grave Digger by the Trust shall dig graves. The Exclusive Right of Burial will not cover any charges imposed for digging and back-filling the grave by the Nominated Grave Digger. This fee is charged separately and must be paid by you or your representatives at the charge decided by the Trust at the time.

11.2 The digging and back filling of a grave may be carried out by prior arrangement under supervision of the Trust and at the family's own risk and liability.

## **12. Unclaimed Right of Burial**

12.1 If the Exclusive Right of Burial has not been claimed by the 50th anniversary of your Date of Purchase ("the Period"), or upon our being made aware that you or the Grantee may have died, then we may write to you at your last known address to establish that it is still your intention to claim the Exclusive Right of Burial. If we do not hear from you to the contrary within 56 days of such a letter, then we shall be entitled to consider that you have chosen not to claim the Exclusive Right of Burial and we may, at our discretion, cancel the Exclusive Right of Burial and may retain the monies.

## **13. Additional Charges**

13.1 We reserve the right to impose reasonable additional charges to reflect the impact of any regulatory change, taxation and legislative requirements relating to our provision of the Exclusive Right of Burial and Burial Registration Fee.

## **14. Miscellaneous**

14.1 You enter St Albans Woodland Burial Ground at your own risk. We cannot accept any liability whatsoever for the loss or damage to any vehicle, its contents or your possessions save to the extent that it is proved to be caused by the negligence, or wilful default of us, our staff or agents.

14.2 You and your representatives shall be responsible for complying with all statutes, laws, regulations, codes of practice as may be amended from time to time and may reasonable instructions from us which relate to the site.

14.3 You and your representatives shall be responsible for all persons present at St Albans Woodland Burial Ground with your consent (including children and dogs) and shall ensure that at all times they behave in a suitable and appropriate manner and shall be suitably supervised.

## **15. Waiver**

15.1 The failure of either party at any time to enforce any of the Terms, provisions or conditions of the agreement, or to exercise any right under it, shall not constitute a waiver or affect that party's rights thereafter.

## **16. General**

16.1 These Terms and Conditions, together with the payment and your application form, constitute the agreement between us and you regarding the Exclusive Right of Burial to which they refer. They do not affect your statutory rights. A person who is not party to this agreement (including, without limitation, the Grantee or their Representatives) shall have no right under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce any term of this agreement. This shall not affect any right or remedy of any person arising otherwise than under that Act. If any part of the agreement proves ineffective the remainder shall not be prejudiced. This agreement shall be governed by English Law. There is no interest payable to you in respect of the Price or of the monies used to purchase your Exclusive Right of Burial whether fully paid, cancelled or redeemed.

## 17. Indemnity

17.1 You and your representatives shall be responsible for and indemnify and keep us indemnified against any loss (including consequential or economic loss) or damage which you and your representatives may sustain or suffer by or as a result of a breach of the Terms of this Contract, including but without prejudice to the foregoing generality, a breach of Conditions 11, 12 and 15 hereof.

## 18. Data Protection

We agree that in relation to the personal data we process in connection with the Agreement, such processing will be undertaken by us, our staff and our agents in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and any subsequent and applicable data protection legislation.

## 19. Complaints

19.1 If you have any complaint in relation to your Exclusive Right of Burial or payment, please write to us at our office address, St. Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY. We will acknowledge your complaint within 5 working days and then endeavour to resolve the complaint within a further 28 days.

19.2 If the matter is not resolved within 28 days of receipt of a written complaint, we agree to resolve the dispute in good faith through mediation. We will attempt to agree upon the appointment of a mediator, upon receipt, of a written notice to concur in such appointment. Should we fail to agree within fourteen days, either of us, upon giving written notice, may apply to the President or the Vice President, for the time being, of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, for the appointment of a mediator.

## Charges for St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

Terms and conditions and all charges are shown on our website [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)

Single woodland burial. *This charge relates only to the provision of grave space. It does not cover fees for church services, ministers fees, charges levied by undertakers or the cost of preparing the ground.*

£990

Preparation of grave space for woodland burial Cost may vary between

£400-£550

Interment of cremated remains in plot, *(excluding ground preparation, currently £60)*

£380

Interment of two sets of cremated remains into double grave space  
*(excluding ground preparation, currently £80)*

£520

Oak wood memorials — Price on application

*Please ask*

Bio Pots, biodegradable vase. *(Price includes installation or postage and packaging).*

£20

To become a friend of the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

£25

To dedicate an existing tree in memory of a loved one  
*(Excludes the cost of any plaque)*

£120

Reservation of grave space *(This may be reserved for £495, which guarantees the grave space with the remaining 50% to be paid at the current cost when the final payment is made. Or £990 which is for fully paid grave space with no increase).*

Reservation of single grave space for cremated remains *(This may be reserved for £190, which guarantees the grave space with the remaining 50% to be paid at the current cost when the final payment is made. Or £380 which is for fully paid grave space with no increase).*

**Please note** that these charges apply when interment is made between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday. An additional fee may be applied for burials outside of these hours and extraordinary arrangements may incur an additional charge. All charges are reviewed annually by the Trustees. Please make cheques payable to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust and sent to The Administrator, St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, St. Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY.  
Bank transfer details will be provided on you invoice.

## St Albans Woodland Burial Trust Booking (1 October 2023)

<b>Name</b> <i>(Including title in full)</i>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Burial</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>1. Single grave space £990</b> <i>Charges relates only to the provision of grave space and does not include fees for church services, ministers fees, charges levied by undertakers or the cost of preparing the ground</i>	
<b>2. Reservation of single grave space £495</b> <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 charge.</i>	
<b>3. Single grave space for cremated remains £380</b> <i>This excludes the current cost of £60 for all ground preparation</i>	
<b>4. Double grave space for cremated remains £520</b> <i>This excludes the current cost of £80 for all ground preparation</i>	
<b>5. Reservation of single grave space for cremated remains £190</b> <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 charge.</i>	
<b>6. Bio Pot, Environmental Vase £20</b> <i>(Price includes installation or postage &amp; packing)</i>	
<b>7. Dedication of an existing memorial tree £120</b> <i>(Plaque at additional cost)</i>	
<b>8. Provision of a wooden plaque or cross</b> <i>(Please enquire - costs which vary)</i>	
<b>9. Friends of St Albans Woodland Burial trust £25</b>	
<b>Total Cost</b>	

Please make cheques payable to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust  
 Postal Address - St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, St Mark's Church Community Centre,  
 Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY  
 Bacs payment may be made, information will be detailed on your invoice.

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 any extraordinary arrangements may incur an additional charge.  
 All Charges reviewed annually by the Trustees*

## **Grave Plots and Burials Regulations**

1. Only one body may be interred in one grave.
2. Only biodegradable coffins, urns or shrouds from sustainable resources shall be used. Coffins and caskets are only accepted when made of natural biodegradable material such as wicker and solid wood, preferably from renewable sources. Veneered MDF or chipboard is not acceptable and the Trust must be advised prior to burial if the coffin does not meet these criteria. There should be no varnish, plastic handles or plastic plaques. Professional funeral directors should be aware of the requirements for natural burial.
3. 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 Trust.
4. Graves may only 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.
5. 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.
6. Any maintenance of plaques, crosses, monuments or benches must have prior approval of the Trust.
7. Personal possessions may be interred with a body, as long as they are made of natural materials.
8. No exhumations will be permitted under any circumstances except by lawful authority.
9. A body that has been embalmed, or otherwise treated with noxious and toxic chemicals, cannot be interred at the Burial Ground unless under exceptional circumstances and specifically authorised by the Trustees.
10. Interments cannot take place at the Burial Ground until the death has been legally registered and the appropriate documentation received by the Trust at least 48 hours in advance of the Interment.
11. Cremated remains cannot be scattered at the Burial Ground but must be interred in biodegradable caskets or boxes, or poured directly into the grave plot.
12. Please do not place any ornaments, toys, photographs or other memorials on graves. Only fresh flowers may be left on site using one Bio-pot only, supplied by the Trust on each plot. No cellophane, containers, such as vases, pots, bottles or baskets are permitted. The Trust reserves the right to remove any items left near any grave considered by any trustee to be inappropriate for woodland burial.
13. Flower arrangements may be placed on graves at the time of a funeral or memorial service. They will be removed by the Trust after a few days to ensure that any non-biodegradable matter is taken from the Burial Ground and does not interfere with the natural environment. Artificial flowers, oasis and plastic trays are not permitted.
14. Trees planted at the Burial Ground by the Trust as living memorials are guaranteed by the Estate for 5 years; if a tree dies during this period it will be replaced once by the Trust in the appropriate season. After that time, the woodland will begin to develop naturally and will be managed by the Trust accordingly.
15. The Trustees maintain the right to vary the Rules and Regulations at any time.

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

**Full Name and Title**

**Signature**

**Date**

## **Funeral Directors**

If you would like to know about funeral directors in your area with whom we work closely and who understand woodland burial at our woodland, please telephone and we will be pleased to discuss this with you.

Donate online with  
**JustGiving™**



St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is a registered charity supported by a group of dedicated volunteers. If you would like to donate to the Trust to help us look after the woodland you may do so by JustGiving, please visit our website [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)