



### Why Choose St Albans Woodland Burial ?

We are a charity, this enables us to operate at low cost, not for charge for profit. People choose woodland burial because they value the opportunity to be buried in a beautiful woodland nature reserve, rather than a cemetery. Woodland burial in a natural setting is the very best way to care for the environment and avoids the many problems of both pollution and greenhouse gases associated with cremation. Professor David Bellamy said that woodland burial is a way of giving something back. Burial takes place in individual graves which can be marked with wooden memorials or a cross. Unlike commercial council cemeteries we ask that coffins are made from real wood or natural materials such as wicker, which will degrade over time. We do not like the now common practice of plastics used for coffins, or the increasingly synthetic finishes made to look like wood which are now placed over MDF and which can be so damaging to the environment.

St Albans Woodland Burial Ground is one of only two consecrated woodland burial grounds in the country. Most people are surprised to learn that council cemeteries are not consecrated and a grave space or a plot for ashes is only leased for a period of perhaps 40 or 70 years, after which the land can be used for other purposes. It is our privilege to be able to provide a final resting place which, by virtue of being consecrated, is the very best protection afforded in English law. We can be assured that loved ones really do rest in peace.

People choose our woodland for burial and also interment of ashes, and some have been so impressed that they have reserved a particular burial space. Our woodland burial ground is surrounded by 60 acres of planted woodland and open countryside. It is a haven of wildlife and you can expect to see a variety of birds and animals. You are always welcome and if you have a dog they will enjoy the freedom to run. Through consultation with the Forestry Commission and other professionals, we are creating something very special which will be preserved for generations to come.

The Administrator: Mrs Linda Parry. St. Mark's Church Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY.  
Tel/Fax 01234 342613 Email: office@woodlandburialtrust.com website www.woodlandburialtrust.com

#### We want you as our friend

We welcome you as a Friend of the Trust, five years membership is £25 and you will receive updates on progress at the woodland. Please complete the form and return it to us.

**I would like to become a Friend of the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust £25 (5yrs)**  
*If enclosing a cheque please pay to St Albans Woodland Burial Trust*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*These details will not be passed to any third party*

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Please Gift Aid my donations (Yes / No) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to: St Albans Woodland Burial Trust.** The Administrator: Mrs Linda Parry  
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## Woodland Burial *The natural choice*



**Regret not me beneath the sunny tree  
I lie uncaring slumbering peacefully  
And mourn not me beneath the yellowing tree  
For I shall mind not slumbering peacefully**  
*Thomas Hardy*

One year after the opening of the St Albans Woodland Burial Ground at Keysoe, you are invited to our Open Day. This will be a day to meet once again with friends we have met over the past year, and to welcome new ones. Refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon and there will be an opportunity to discover why Woodland Burial is not only essential the environment, but the very best way for our loved ones to rest in peace,

**Open Day June 7, 2.00pm — 5.00pm**



## Listening to what our Friends have to say ....

Our Administrator Mrs Linda Parry is always pleased to receive your comments. These two letters are typical of the kind comments which were received over the past year.

### Hello Linda

My daughter Joanne was clever, funny and had an exceptionally generous nature. She brought amazing joy into my life but, because of her illness, sadness as well. Losing her at the age of 35 has been devastating and has caused the most unbelievable pain.

She was passionate about the environment and looked after it with a vengeance always doing her utmost to try not add any more carbon footprints. Therefore, finding the right place to lay her to rest was of paramount importance. Discovering the Woodland Trust came about just as I was beginning to give up hope of finding the right location. The setting is beautiful and one which Joanne would have appreciated had she been alive especially as it's right next door to a riding school. Living and working in London means I can't get there as often as I would like, however, when I do go I find the peace and quiet extremely comforting and believe that Joanne would approve of her final resting place.'

### Dear Linda

On a Sunday morning in December 2006 my husband and I were listening to 'Melting Pot' on 3 Counties Radio when Ian Pierce, Rev Charles Royden and Janet Day were talking about the Woodland Burial ground at Keysoe. We had heard of this previously but thought the whole idea had been abandoned. Suddenly our interest was stirred as we listened to Ian, Charlie and Janet telling us about this wonderful place and how plans were afoot to open it early in 2007. Don and I discussed this together and decided this was for us, being country lovers and remembering sweet smelling meadows from our young days. So it was, we decided that we would come to our final resting place in the quiet and peaceful countryside at Keysoe. At that time we didn't take it any further.

Sadly three months later my dear Don died, what a blessing it was that together we had taken our decision, our family were also very much in favour of Keysoe.

It was a bright day in April when we laid Don to rest knowing we had fulfilled his wish.

Incidentally his was the first burial to take place there. Following on I was privileged to be at the

consecration ceremony which ensured that this ground will be a burial place for ever.

In the past ten months I and my family have visited many times and have noticed the progress which has made with the glade (isn't that a lovely name) such a beautiful place and the approaches to make it easier.

Our thanks must go to the Rev C Royden and his team for working so hard to make this burial ground what it truly is, a safe and peaceful resting place! It is somewhere where anyone may go and remember loved ones, whilst taking in the beauty of this special place.



## New Road brings better access.

This last year has been an exciting one as we develop and grow the woodland. This year we experienced some really wet days and as a result we decided to take forward plans for a new roadway leading right into the glade. This has many advantages which are appreciated for funeral and visitors alike. Funeral Directors

will be able to bring vehicles close to the graveside, alleviating the need to carry for more than a few metres. It is also of considerable advantage for people with disabilities to bring vehicles much nearer to the glade itself. The Trustees considered many different alternatives for construction of the road itself, including various new developments allowing grass to grow through a block construction. After several months of consideration through a variety of different weather conditions, we eventually decided upon a robust constructed road with solid foundations. A recycled brick base with a compounded hogan surface has been finished with a gravel layer to bring a result which we believe will be entirely suitable in all weather, whilst also being extremely pleasing to the eye. The finished surface will be seeded with grass and wild flowers, and allowed to take upon itself a natural appearance. Whilst this has involved a considerable investment, we believe that the finished roadway will bring considerable advantages for many years to come. We are grateful to Mr Bill Elliott for his outstanding workmanship and attention to detail in constructing the roadway.



## Woodland Burial - The traditional way

Woodland burial is very traditional and dates back for hundreds of years in England. The funeral shown above represents a most traditional and dignified burial, and is of special significance for Keysoe. The service was for Doris Eveline Garratt, a resident of Keysoe. The Minister was The Reverend Jane Bass, from Keysoe Parish Church and the horse drawn hearse was supplied by Liz from [www.carriagehire.co.uk](http://www.carriagehire.co.uk), Temple Farm, Keysoe, Beds. A fine traditional wicker coffin was used, made from Willow, one of the few truly environmentally renewable resources. The willow plant grows on the Somerset Levels and can be harvested annually from the same crown for up to 60 years.

## Find us on the World Wide Web

St Albans Woodland Burial Ground now has a new website which we keep up to date with all of the latest news. You can find us at [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)

