



St Albans Woodland  
Burial Trust

Registered Charity No. 1118216

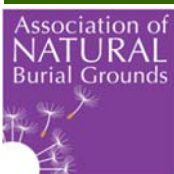
## Woodland Burial *The natural choice*



### St Albans Woodland Burial Ground 12 acres of beautiful Bedfordshire

Visitors to the woodland this year will see our new glade which has just been seeded. This will be the last glade to be developed in the original 2 acres of woodland, in which we first started in 2007.

Our woodland is now 12 acres in size and we will extend into new glades. The new expanded area has a wide diversity of tree species and it is an extremely exciting opportunity for us. We will be sending invitations for the consecration of the enlarged woodland to all Friends in the near future.



**St Albans Woodland Burial Trust (Registered Charity No. 1118216)**

Located via The College Equestrian Centre Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford. MK44 2JP. Administrator:

Mrs Linda Parry, c/o St Mark's Church Community Centre Tel/Fax +44 1234 342613 Email:  
office@woodlandburialtrust.com. Outside office hours contact 07922 053740 or 07973 113861.

For information visit our website [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)



*You may have noticed the that we have the first of our large owl boxes in place on the woodland. Our sincere thanks to Mick Ovenden for building the box and Rob & Roy Rickard for providing the poles and installing them. We hope to have the second box installed soon.*

## Why choose Woodland Burial ?

Each of us must make a choice, or have the choice made for us, of what will happen to our bodies when we die. Cremation is still the most common practice, often because it is taken for granted when it has not been properly considered beforehand. We all need to know that it is done at a terrible cost to the environment. Cremation is particularly damaging if you consider that a cremator needs to operate at extremely high temperatures for perhaps several hours for each cremation. A cremator uses roughly the same domestic energy demands as a single person for an entire month. Cremation is also responsible for much of the UK's mercury pollution as a result of dental fillings, other atmospheric dioxins and pollutants linked with cancer and other illnesses. There is growing pressure on government and local authorities to behave in an environmentally sustainable way, however the way to cut harmful emissions is to burn at higher temperatures! Burning bodies uses precious fuels and creates greenhouse gases, cremation is definitely not the answer for those care about their carbon footprint planet or those they leave behind!

The alternative choice for most people involves burial in municipal cemeteries. However this form of burial has resulted in vast amounts of land becoming

covered with long rows of graves. Many of these cemeteries are reaching capacity and the sight of vandalism and dilapidated headstones imported vast distances from India and China is a poor tribute to our loved ones. Often people are also surprised to learn that coffins destined for both cremation and ordinary burial are usually made of MDF, or chipboard bonded with formaldehyde resin, with plastic handles and synthetic veneers. We never use these for woodland burial since they are not environmentally friendly and do not naturally decompose in the ground. Most bodies buried in this way will also have been embalmed, a process where all blood and bodily fluids are replaced with a formaldehyde based fluid, this can enter watercourses and prevents natural decomposition. Woodland burial is increasingly the responsible choice for people who want to be laid to rest in a way that doesn't harm the environment. Often called green burial, natural burial, or environmentally friendly funerals, this is an obvious choice for those people who want their last footprint to be a green one. Those choosing a woodland burial will be asked to have coffins made of natural materials such as real wood, wicker, or bamboo. Instead of rows of tombstones, woodland burial grounds have wooden memorials and plant trees to create a nature reserve with birds and other forms of wildlife. We can now all make the choice to be buried in a woodland setting, as opposed to a modern cemetery. If you choose woodland burial you will usually save money, protect the environment and importantly make a lasting positive contribution towards a woodland nature reserve which will last for generations to come. Everybody is now able to choose woodland burial, those with a particular faith and those with no religious faith at all. They will all be united in one important truth, they will have chosen not to share in practices which cause damage to the environment. Instead they will share in leaving behind something that will be of lasting benefit for our children and grandchildren and for generations to come.

**Charles Royden**

Chair of St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

# Birds at St Albans Woodland

We are extremely grateful to volunteers from the RSPB who visited our woodland to observe and record species of birds. See if you can see the following and let us know if you see any others !

Goldcrest



*Britain's smallest bird weighs less than a 10p piece !*



Willow Warbler

*A migrant warbler like the chiffchaff, blackcap and whitethroat. Some will have come as far as Africa to breed at Keysoe*



Collared Dove



Great Spotted Woodpecker



Chiffchaff



Blackbird



Wood Pigeon



Song Thrush



Blackcap



Carrion Crow



Yellowhammer



Whitethroat



House Sparrow



Great Tit



Dunnock



Kestrel



Blue Tit



Green Woodpecker  
*Likes open glades*



Robin



Wren

**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  
St. Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford. MK41 7UY. Tel/Fax 01234 342613  
Email: [office@woodlandburialtrust.com](mailto:office@woodlandburialtrust.com) [www.woodlandburialtrust.com](http://www.woodlandburialtrust.com)



## From the Administrators Desk

*The Trust is grateful to Linda Parry who has been our Administrator for five years. she gives her time freely to the Trust as a volunteer.*

This year so far has been our busiest with many visitors and people coming to the woodland for burials, interment of ashes and to make reservations. It has been a pleasure meeting everybody and I am very appreciative of the kind words which I so often receive from those who come. Some of the highest praise for the woodland comes from funeral directors, ministers and celebrants. These people have wide professional experience of other places of burial and when they first visit they are simply astonished by the beauty of what has been created. The result is that our reputation is now extremely high and through word of mouth we have achieved a very high reputation for the woodland.

The Trust is a charity and we do not employ and staff to administer or deliver our services. I could not continue to provide the personal attention and service to visitors which I do without the support of many volunteers who help, sometimes very discreetly behind the scenes with important functions such as administration and finance. The charity is extremely well organised and our accounts and records are impeccable and registered promptly in a very professional manner. I am extremely grateful to many people who help in lots of ways behind the scenes to enable such a professional delivery of our administration. My particular thanks also to my husband Edward who is a constant support and who assists me with maintenance around the woodland and digging plots for interment of ashes.

This year we have had requests for more burials and interments of ashes than ever before. Of particular significance has been the increase in the number of reservations, which this year has exceeded our expectations considerably. This means that when you look at a glade, although the area may not be taken up fully with burials, there will be a large number of plots already reserved by families, perhaps with several plots together in an area.

Thank you to everybody I have met this year and the kind words which I have received. Occasionally it falls to me on behalf of the Trustees to remind folks not to plant their own shrubs, bulbs or flowers, or use things such as plastic containers. These rules seek to shape the vision for the woodland and I really do appreciate your co-operation and understanding.

This year we have agreed and fully funded the purchase of an additional 9 acres of land for the Trust, securing the opportunity for woodland burials for many years to come. All of the costs involved have been covered from income and we have not had to seek finance as we had expected. This is great news for the Trust and leaves us in a strong position to be able to manage and protect this amazing woodland for generations to come.

*Linda Parry*

*The table shows the figures of use for St Albans Woodland Burial Trust in each financial year since it was opened in 2007*

	Burials	Interment of ashes	Reservation for burials	Reservation for ashes
June2007– March2008	12	6	13	9
April 2008-March 2009	13	9	15	9
April 2009-March 2010	20	13	37	7
April2010-March2011	19	15	34	10
April 2011-March 2012	13	13	36	23
April 2012-March 2013	26	20	61	20
Total	103	76	196	78