ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1118216

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06027734
Registered	2007-03-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Marks Church & Community Centre Calder Rise Bedford MK41 7UY
Phone	01234342613
Email	office@woodlandburialtrust.com
Website	www.woodlandburialtrust.com

Activities

Objects: TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AND FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND EDUCATION WOODLAND SITES FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD, TO DEVELOP AND PRESERVE THE SITES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A SEMI-NATURAL WOODLAND ENVIRONMENT, TO ENSURE A DIVERSITY IN WOODLAND STRUCTURE TO SAFEGUARD NOTABLE SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES AND TO SUPPORT FINANCIALLY AND OTHERWISE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN MINISTERS ENGAGED IN MINISTRY OR PROVIDING SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO THE DYING AND THE BEREAVED.

Activities: To provide and maintain for the benefit of the public woodland sites for the burial of the dead

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE BEDFORDSHIRE
- Bedford
- Central Bedfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£151,698	£143,257	-	-
2024-03-31	£119,687	£107,530	-	-
2023-03-31	£154,267	£137,284	-	-
2022-03-31	£171,987	£170,400	-	-
2021-03-31	£163,089	£118,723	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
AVRIL MARGARET WILLIAMS		
Archdeacon David John Middlebrook		2021-05-16
Barry Southam		2021-11-14
Councillor Charles Royden		
JAMES WILLIAMS		
JANET ROSEMARY DAY		
KATHRYN HELEN ANNE ABRAHAM		
MICHAEL JOHN COOPER		
REV DR GRAHAM ROBERT CAPPLEMAN		

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ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1118216

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06027734 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1118216

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FOR

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Since its opening in early 2007 and consecration by the Bishop of Bedford in June 2007, the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust continues to see a constant and growing requirement for the care, services and support we offer to the dying and the bereaved.

Originally woodland burial at the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust took place in 2 acres of a peaceful wooded area of the countryside just outside the village of Keysoe in Bedfordshire. In 2014 a significant extension of the Trust's land was made with an additional 9.04 acres being purchased for the provision of additional glades, burial and interment spaces. Burials take place in ground which is specifically set aside and consecrated for the purpose of lying loved ones to rest and the additional land will give space for this activity for a number of years to come. We are pleased that woodland burial at the site continues to be open to people of all faiths, denominations, and none. Being consecrated by the Church of England as a sacred space, people who are buried there can lie in this land for ever, until nature runs its natural course.

Graves are marked simply with a wooden plaque or cross or a memorial post, and for those who wish, a tree near the grave can be dedicated as a living memorial to their loved one. The burial is dignified, without rush and in harmony with the nature and ecology of the land in which the deceased are laid. After the service of committal, family and friends can spend as much time as they need at the graveside and are encouraged to visit as frequently as they would like.

As the burial takes place a discrete record is kept of the location of the grave and over a rolling period an accurate survey is maintained, ensuring the lying place of a loved one is never lost.

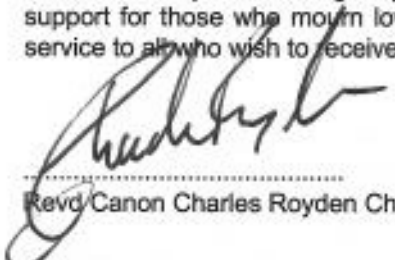
In short, loved ones are buried with an ecologically friendly manner in a managed woodland area. They leave behind them a nature reserve which enhances the environment rather than destroying it. They share in leaving behind something that will be of lasting benefit for our children, grandchildren and for generations to come.

Since the Trust started operations there has been a continued and increasing demand for the services the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust offers. For the financial year ending 31 March 2025, 59 burials and 52 interments of ashes and loose dispersal of ashes have taken place. In addition to this, 64 reservations for burials and 31 reservations for the interment or loose dispersal of ashes have been made and a number of memorial plaques and trees have been dedicated on the woodland site. All our activities continue to show strong demand for the offerings of the Woodland Burial Trust, and in total 693 burials and 504 interments of ashes have taken place since the Woodland Burial Ground was opened, and we have 1052 reservations. During the year 1 new glade was opened, and additional plots were added to existing glades increasing capacity by 143 plots.

Spiritual support has been offered to the family and friends of the deceased and appropriate training undertaken by those engaged in this work.

During the current year of operations, maintenance work has continued across many glades both recently opened and those which have matured. The planting of trees and hedges has continued as the Woodland is developed in an appropriate manner with trees of different species again being planted this year. There has been significant investment in improving access to some of the glades and installing pipes to improve drainage.

As we look to the future the need to provide dignified burials in consecrated ground which is managed in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner continues to increase, as does the need to provide support for those who mourn loved ones departed. We look forward to continuing to offer and provide this service to all who wish to receive it in the years ahead.



.....
Revd Canon Charles Royden Chair

Date 15/06/2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust's Annual Report and Financial Statements which covers our activities for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust was created at a time of emerging awareness of the importance of sustaining the environment in an ecological friendly manner coupled with an increasing demand on society to meet the spiritual needs of the bereaved. Since our inception we have continued to operate against the backdrop of this need for spiritual and ecological support and care throughout the bereavement process.

Our key aims continue to be to provide and maintain for the benefit of the public and for the advancement of Christian faith and education, woodland sites for the burial of the dead. We wish to develop and preserve such sites to provide a semi-natural woodland environment and to ensure diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities. We seek to support financially, or otherwise Christian churches and Christian ministers engaged in ministry or providing services and support to the dying and the bereaved.

In short, the trust exists to offer woodland burials in consecrated ground in a dignified and ecologically and environmentally sympathetic manner.

We act with integrity, respect, and dignity towards all people.
We respect people of all cultures, faiths, and beliefs.
We respect people of all physical and mental abilities.
We aim to provide an appealing natural choice alternative to conventional burial or cremation.
We aim to provide an ecologically friendly and environmentally sustainable burial service.
We aim to provide a burial service which is cost effective and high quality.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The directors report that in the year ended 31 March 2025 income from the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust activities was £151,698, up by 27% on the previous year. This income was received from the operations of the Trust, and from a small number of donations. Additionally, funds in interest bearing savings accounts and a bond generated £4,400 of interest. Details of these are shown in the financial statements. Key expenses in the current year of operations were incurred against, ongoing operations, continued glade improvements and site maintenance. Expenditure increased by 21% before the impact of major works. Overall expenditure increased by 33% and thus whilst income has increased the ratio between income to expenditure has reduced due to the significant investment made on access to glades and drainage improvements.

A surplus of £8,441 from operational activities was achieved, a reduction of 31% on the previous year.

At the financial year end, the unrestricted reserves stand at £312,721 (2024: £304,280).

Alongside the annual fee review, we reviewed the overall financial position of the Trust in September 2024 and recognised that, with costs increasing, particularly in terms of site maintenance, there was a need to significantly increase our charges. Charges were increased by 25% with effect from 1 January 2025

The Trust continues to maintain a prudent balance to fund ongoing day-to-day operations and cash flow and maintenance of the site and access. During the year, the level of funds held in the current account continued to be reviewed and we agreed that the current account should aim to maintain a balance of approximately 6 months of budgeted expenditure, with any surplus funds being moved into interest bearing accounts. An instant access interest bearing savings account and a 95-notice day account were opened this year and an interest-bearing bond account matured in January 2025, and the funds were reinvested into another 1-year bond.

Once again, we would like to thank all those who have made donations, and especially those individuals who have made personal donations.

The Trust's website (www.woodlandburialtrust.com) continues to receive significant traffic and is an increasing means of communication and advertisement for the Trusts Services and source of enquiries.

The Trust's objectives were achieved through the activities of the Trust, namely the provision of a woodland burial site for those people and families wishing to be buried in consecrated ground in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner. Support has been provided for the family and friends of the bereaved and training and support has been provided for those engaged in the work of services and support to the dying and the bereaved. Through active management of the woodland, the site has been developed and preserved to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which thus ensures diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities.

During the year the Trust's key policies, including Safeguarding, were reviewed and confirmed.

FUTURE PLANS

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust remains open to future developments within the context of its Memorandum of Association and the vision and objectives of the Trust. It is envisaged that the next year of operation will continue to focus on the core activities through use of the land available, and the optimisation of management of the entire site and associated services such as care and support for the bereaved and planning for the future. The Trust continues to liaise with the owners of the Keysoe International Equestrian Centre, adjacent to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, and over which the Trust has legal access rights through its existing arrangements and activity-based payments. The Trustees have been kept informed of development plans and any impact this has on access to the Woodland, which may require further investment.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisation

The Trustees are the directors of the company. Trustee meetings are held at regular intervals throughout the year for the direction and management of the trust and its business.

At the first annual general meeting all the nominative trustees retired from office, and at every subsequent annual general meeting one-third of the nominative trustees are subject to retirement by rotation or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third shall retire from office. Trustees may offer themselves for reappointment. No person other than a trustee retiring by rotation shall be appointed or reappointed as a trustee at any general meeting unless he is nominated by the Chair, the Revd Charles Royden.

Day-to-day administration of the Trust's operation is undertaken by the Trust's administrator, Sam Ware, supported by a team of volunteers. During the year Kathryn Morse has continued to support the Trust's administration and data analysis and undertakes the role of Treasurer.

Trustees and Directors

A full list of trustees and directors are shown below. All the trustees and directors have been active for all the period of operation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Independent Examiners

During the year, the Trustees appointed MDG Business Associates Limited to act as independent examiners.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
06027734 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1118216

Registered Office
St Mark's Church Community Centre
Calder Rise
Brickhill
Bedford
MK41 7UY

Trustees
K H A Abrahams
G R Cappleman
M J Cooper
J Day
C T Izzard
D Middlebrook
C Royden - Chair
B Southam
A M Williams
J Williams

Company Secretary
G R Cappleman

Independent Examiner
Paul Durkin FCCA
MDG Business Associates Limited
Room 73 Wrest Park
Silsoe
MK45 4HR

Bankers
National Westminster Bank Plc
81 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1YN

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objects

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is required by charity and company law to act within the objectives of its Memorandum of Association.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust's objects, as laid out in the Memorandum of Association are:

- to provide and maintain for the benefit of the public and for the advancement of Christian faith and education, woodland sites for the burial of the dead.
- to develop and preserve the sites to provide a semi-natural woodland environment.
- to ensure a diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities.
- to support financially or otherwise Christian churches and Christian ministers engaged in ministry or providing services and support to the dying and the bereaved.

Public benefits

The directors confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The directors have referred to this guidance when reviewing the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust aims and objectives, and in planning the future activities of the Trust.

Principle 1: The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust provides a woodland burial site for the burial of the dead in an ecological and environmentally sensitive manner. It develops and maintains the site to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which safeguards notable species and communities. It supports those engaged in providing services and support for the bereaved.

Principle 2: The woodland burial site is open to people of all faiths and those of no faith and can be used by those outside the immediate geographic area of Bedfordshire. It offers affordable and dignified burials to all those who wish to be buried there.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Financial Basis of Operations

The Trust makes charges for burials, interment of ashes, scattering of ashes, grave digging, and for memorial trees and plaques. These charges are then used for the expenses of operations, chiefly the costs incurred with the operations of the Trust such as expenses on grave preparation, plaques and crosses, maintenance costs such as woodland management and administration, and activity-based payments to the owner of Keysoe International. In the current year of operations income has also been received from donations.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 15/06/2025 and signed on its behalf by:

G R Gapplemann - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Albans Woodland Burial Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act or section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act: or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Paul Durkin FCCA

MDG Business Associates Limited
Room 73
Wrest Park
Silsoe
MK45 4HR

Date: 18 June 2025

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted fund £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies		799	1,579
Other trading activities	2	146,499	118,108
Interest		4,400	
Total		151,698	119,687
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	3	109,175	77,377
Charitable activities			
Support	4	30,732	28,343
Governance costs		3,350	1,810
Total		143,257	107,530
NET INCOME		8,441	12,157
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		304,280	292,123
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		312,721	304,280

The notes form part of these financial statements

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted fund	2024 Total funds
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	47,000	47,000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	2,150	3,569
Cash at bank		281,186	266,152
		283,336	269,721
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(17,615)	(12,441)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		265,721	257,280
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		312,721	304,280
NET ASSETS		312,721	304,280
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	10	312,721	304,280
TOTAL FUNDS		312,721	304,280

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

(c) These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on...15/06/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
G R Gapplemen - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is in Pounds Sterling (£), which is the functional currency of the charity.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets
Included within fixed assets is freehold land which is held at cost and no depreciation will be provided.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Burials	64,158	55,871
Interment of ashes	14,315	9,415
Reservations	61,250	47,041
Memorial plaques, crosses, and trees	5,616	4,894
Bio container	1,160	887
	146,499	118,108

3. RAISING FUNDS

Raising funds, included in the above, are as follows:

Raising funds	2025	2024
	£	£
Grave digger, plaques and crosses, celebrant fees	30,016	28,493
Commission	35,903	28,765
Events and refreshments	-	200
Site maintenance	29,544	19,425
Site Major works	12,644	
Honorarium	1,000	-
Sundries	68	494
	109,175	77,377

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Support	30,732		30,732
Governance costs	1,128	2,222	3,350
	31,860	2,222	34,082

4. SUPPORT COSTS - Continued

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages	22,384	21,160
Pensions	485	448
Rent	1,800	1,550
Insurance	436	427
Subscriptions	988	905
Telephone	137	133
Postage and stationery	1,085	876
Mileage Allowance	1,725	1,615
Computer expenses	212	118
Professional fees	1,128	790
Bank Charges	455	313
General Expenses	1,025	798
Independent Examiner fee	2,222	1,020
	34,082	30,153

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year Honoraria payments of £500 (2024 - £0) was paid to a trustee in relation to their role as trust administrators. Additionally, an honorarium of £500 was paid to volunteer treasurer.

There were no further trustees' remuneration or benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Trustees' expenses
There were no trustee' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor the year ended 31 March 2024.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	£
Donations and legacies	1,579
Other trading activities	118,108
Total	119,687
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	77,377
Charitable activities	
Support	28,343
Governance costs	1,810
Total	107,530
NET INCOME	12,157
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	292,123
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD 31 March 2024	304,280

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land
	£
COST	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2025	47,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	47,000
At 31 March 2024	47,000

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,140	3,147
Other debtors	10	422
	2,150	3,569

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	96	118
Accruals and deferred income	17,519	12,323
	17,615	12,441

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24	Net Movement in Funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	304,280	8,441	312,721
TOTAL FUNDS	304,280	8,441	312,721

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	151,698	(143,257)	8,441
TOTAL FUNDS	151,698	(143,257)	8,441

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23	Net Movement in Funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	292,123	12,157	304,280
TOTAL FUNDS	292,123	12,157	304,280

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	119,687	(107,530)	12,157
TOTAL FUNDS	119,687	(107,530)	12,157

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.23	Net Movement in Funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	292,123	20,598	312,721
TOTAL FUNDS	292,123	20,598	312,721

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	271,385	(250,787)	20,598
TOTAL FUNDS	271,385	(250,787)	20,598

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There are no transactions with related parties to be disclosed under the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

12. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

There were 10 members as at 31 March 2025 (2024: 10).

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	250	350
Donations	549	1,229
	799	1,579
Other trading activities		
Burials	64,158	55,871
Interment of ashes	14,315	9,415
Reservations	61,250	47,041
Memorial plaques, crosses, and trees	5,616	4,894
Bio containers	1,160	887
	146,499	118,108
Interest		
Bank and Bond Interest	4,400	-
Total incoming resources	151,698	119,687
EXPENDITURE		
Direct costs		
Grave digger, plaques and crosses, celebrant fees	30,016	28,493
Commission	35,903	28,765
Events and refreshments	-	200
Site maintenance	29,544	19,425
Site Major Works	12,644	-
Honorarium	1,000	-
Sundries	68	494
	109,175	77,377
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	22,384	21,160
Pensions	485	448
Rent	1,800	1,550
Insurance	436	427
Subscriptions	988	905
Telephone	137	133
Postage and stationery	1,085	876
Mileage allowance	1,725	1,615
Computer expenses	212	118
Professional fees	1,128	790
Bank charges	455	313
General Expenses	1,025	798
	31,860	29,133
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	2,222	1,020
Total resources expended	143,257	107,530
Net Income	8,441	12,157

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1118216

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06027734 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1118216

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FOR

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Since its opening in early 2007 and consecration by the Bishop of Bedford in June 2007, the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust continues to see a constant and growing requirement for the care, services and support we offer to the dying and the bereaved.

Originally woodland burial at the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust took place in 2 acres of a peaceful wooded area of the countryside just outside the village of Keysoe in Bedfordshire. In 2014 a significant extension of the Trust's land was made with an additional 9.04 acres being purchased for the provision of additional glades, burial and interment spaces. Burials take place in ground which is specifically set aside and consecrated for the purpose of lying loved ones to rest and the additional land will give space for this activity for a number of years to come. We are pleased that woodland burial at the site continues to be open to people of all faiths, denominations and none. Being consecrated by the Church of England as a sacred space, people who are buried there can lie in this land for ever, until nature runs its natural course.

Graves are marked simply with a wooden plaque or cross or a memorial post, and for those who wish, a tree near the grave can be dedicated as a living memorial to the loved one who lies nearby. The burial is dignified, without rush and in harmony with the nature and ecology of the land in which the deceased are laid. After the service of committal, family and friends can spend as much time as they need at the graveside and are encouraged to visit as frequently as they would like.

As the burial takes place a discrete record is kept of the location of the grave and over a rolling year an accurate survey is maintained, ensuring the lying place of a loved one is never lost.

In short, loved ones are buried with an ecologically friendly manner in a managed woodland area. They leave behind them a nature reserve which enhances the environment rather than destroying it. They share in leaving behind something that will be of lasting benefit for our children, grandchildren and for generations to come.

Since the Trust started operations there has been a continued and increasing demand for the services the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust offers. For the financial year ending 31 March 2024, 51 burials and 41 interments of ashes and loose dispersal of ashes have taken place. In addition to this, 55 reservations for burials and 22 reservations for the interment or loose dispersal of ashes have been made and a number of memorial plaques and trees have been dedicated on the woodland site. All our activities continue to show strong demand for the offerings of the Woodland Burial Trust, and in total 614 burials and 444 interments of ashes have taken place since the Woodland Burial Ground was opened and we have 998 reservations. During the year 2 new glades were opened increasing capacity by 160 plots.

Spiritual support has been offered to the family and friends of the deceased and appropriate training undertaken by those engaged in this work.

During the current year of operations, maintenance work has continued across many glades both recently opened and those which have matured. The planting of trees and hedges has continued as the Woodland is developed in an appropriate manner with trees of different species again being planted this year. There has been no significant investment required this year.

As we look to the future the need to provide dignified burials in consecrated ground which is managed in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner continues to increase, as does the need to provide support for those who mourn loved ones departed. We look forward to continuing to offer and provide this service to all who wish to receive it in the years ahead.

.....
Revd Canon Charles Royden
Chairman

Date 7/July/2024

The Trust's website (www.woodlandburialtrust.com) continues to receive significant traffic and is an increasing means of communication and advertisement for the Trusts Services and source of enquiries.

The Trust's objectives were achieved through the activities of the Trust, namely the provision of a woodland burial site for those people and families wishing to be buried in consecrated ground in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner. Support has been provided for the family and friends of the bereaved and training and support has been provided for those engaged in the work of services and support to the dying and the bereaved. Through active management of the woodland, the site has been developed and preserved to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which thus ensures diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities.

During the year the Trust's key policies, including Safeguarding, were reviewed and confirmed.

FUTURE PLANS

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust remains open to future developments within the context of its Memorandum of Association and the vision and objectives of the Trust. With significant glade development having been undertaken on the site it is envisaged that the next year of operation will focus on the core activities of the Woodland Burial Trust through use of the land available, and the optimisation of management of the entire site and associated services such as care and support for the bereaved and planning for the future. On 11 December 2020 ownership of the equestrian centre, adjacent to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, and over which the Trust has legal access rights, changed hands. The Trust continues to work with the new owners through its existing arrangements and activity-based payments but may also evaluate future options. The Trustees have been kept informed of development plans by Keysoe International and any impact this has on access to the Woodland, which may require further investment.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisation

The Trustees are the directors of the company. Trustee meetings are held at regular intervals throughout the year for the direction and management of the trust and its business.

At the first annual general meeting all the nominative trustees retired from office, and at every subsequent annual general meeting one-third of the nominative trustees are subject to retirement by rotation or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third shall retire from office. Trustees may offer themselves for reappointment. No person other than a trustee retiring by rotation shall be appointed or reappointed as a trustee at any general meeting unless he is nominated by the Chairman, the Revd Charles Royden.

Day-to-day administration of the Trust's operation is undertaken by the Trust's administrator, Sam Ware, supported by a team of volunteers. During the year Kathryn Morse has continued to support the Trust's administration and data analysis and in October 2023 took on the role of Treasurer.

Trustees and Directors

A full list of trustees and directors are shown below. All the trustees and directors have been active for all the period of operation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
06027734 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1118216

Registered office
St Mark's Church Community Centre
Calder Rise
Brickhill
Bedford
MK41 7UY

Trustees
G R Cappleman
K H A Abrahams
M J Cooper
J Day
C T Izzard
C Royden - Chairman
A M Williams
J Williams
D Middlebrook B
Southam

Company Secretary
G R Cappleman

Independent Examiner
Karen Dyer FCCA
GKP (Ampthill) Limited
Chartered Accountants
3 Doolittle Yard
Froghall Road
Ampthill
Bedfordshire
MK45 2NW

Bankers
National Westminister Bank Plc
81 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1YN

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objects

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is required by charity and company law to act within the objectives of its Memorandum of Association.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust's objects, as laid out in the Memorandum of Association are:

- to provide and maintain for the benefit of the public and for the advancement of Christian faith and education, woodland sites for the burial of the dead.
- to develop and preserve the sites to provide a semi-natural woodland environment.
- to ensure a diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities.
- to support financially or otherwise Christian churches and Christian ministers engaged in ministry or providing services and support to the dying and the bereaved.

Public benefits

The directors confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The directors have referred to this guidance when reviewing the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust aims and objectives, and in planning the future activities of the Trust.

Principle 1: The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust provides a woodland burial site for the burial of the dead in an ecological and environmentally sensitive manner. It develops and maintains the site to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which safeguards notable species and communities. It supports those engaged in providing services and support for the bereaved.

Principle 2: The woodland burial site is open to people of all faiths and those of no faith and can be used by those outside the immediate geographic area of Bedfordshire. It offers affordable and dignified burials to all those who wish to be buried there.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Financial Basis of Operations

The Trust makes charges for burials, interment of ashes, scattering of ashes, grave digging, and for memorial trees and plaques. These charges are then used for the expenses of operations, chiefly the costs incurred with the operations of the Trust such as expenses on grave preparation, plaques and crosses, maintenance costs such as woodland management and administration, and activity-based payments to the owner of Keysoe International. In the current year of operations income has also been received from donations.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 7 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
G R Cappleman - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Albans Woodland Burial Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act or section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act: or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Dye

Karen Dyer FCCA

GKP (Ampthill) Limited
Chartered Accountants
3 Doolittle Yard
Froghall Road
Ampthill
Bedfordshire
MK45 2NW

Date: 10/7/2024

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted fund £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies		1,579	2,594
Other trading activities	2	118,108	151,673
Total		119,687	154,267
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	3	77,377	108,224
Charitable activities			
Support	4	28,343	25,896
Governance costs		1,810	3,164
Total		107,530	137,284
NET INCOME		12,157	16,983
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		292,123	275,140
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		304,280	292,123

The notes form part of these financial statements

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted fund	2023 Total funds
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	47,000	47,000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	3,569	6,525
Cash at bank		266,152	253,517
		269,721	260,042
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(12,441)	(14,919)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		257,280	245,123
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		304,280	292,123
NET ASSETS		304,280	292,123
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	10	304,280	292,123
TOTAL FUNDS		304,280	292,123

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

(c) These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 7 July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
G R Cappleman - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is in Pounds Sterling (£), which is the functional currency of the charity.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets
Included within fixed assets is freehold land which is held at cost and no depreciation will be provided.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Burials	55,871	69,164
Interment of ashes	9,415	16,681
Reservations	47,041	56,361
Memorial plaques, crosses, and trees	4,894	7,827
Bio container	887	1,640
	118,108	151,673

3. RAISING FUNDS

Raising funds, included in the above, are as follows:

Raising funds	2024	2023
	£	£
Grave digger, plaques and crosses, celebrant fees	28,493	34,080
Commission	28,765	49,150
Events and refreshments	200	2,268
Site maintenance	19,425	22,195
Honorarium	-	70
Sundries	494	461
	77,377	108,224

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Support	28,343		28,343
Governance costs	790	1,020	1,810
	29,133	1,020	30,153

4. SUPPORT COSTS - Continued

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages	21,160	19,437
Pensions	448	397
Rent	1,550	1,200
Insurance	427	814
Subscriptions	905	825
Telephone	133	126
Postage and stationery	876	750
Mileage Allowance	1,615	1,919
Computer expenses	118	205
Professional fees	790	1,515
Bank Charges	313	223
General Expenses	798	-
Independent Examiner fee	1,020	1,649
	30,153	29,060

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year Honoraria payments of £0 (2023 - £70) were paid to trustees in relation to their role as trust administrators.

There were no further trustees' remuneration or benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses
There were no trustee' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor the year ended 31 March 2023.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	£
Donations and legacies	2,594
Other trading activities	151,673
Total	154,267
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	108,224
Charitable activities	
Support	25,896
Governance costs	3,164
Total	137,284
NET INCOME	16,983
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	275,140
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD 31 March 2023	292,123

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land
	£
COST	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	47,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	47,000
At 31 March 2023	47,000

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,147	4,844
Other debtors	422	1,681
	3,569	6,525

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	118	258
Accruals and deferred income	12,323	14,661
	12,441	14,919

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23	Net Movement in Funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	292,123	12,157	304,280
TOTAL FUNDS	292,123	12,157	304,280

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	119,687	(107,530)	12,157
TOTAL FUNDS	119,687	(107,530)	12,157

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22	Net Movement in Funds	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	275,140	16,983	292,123
TOTAL FUNDS	275,140	16,983	292,123

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	154,267	(137,284)	16,983
TOTAL FUNDS	154,267	(137,284)	16,983

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.22	Net Movement in Funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	275,140	29,140	304,280
TOTAL FUNDS	275,140	29,140	305,280

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	273,954	(244,814)	29,140
TOTAL FUNDS	273,954	(244,814)	29,140

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There are no transactions with related parties to be disclosed under the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

12. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

There were 10 members as at 31 March 2024 (2023: 10).

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	350	1,351
Donations	1,229	1,243
	1,579	2,594
Other trading activities		
Burials	55,871	69,164
Interment of ashes	9,415	16,681
Reservations	47,041	56,361
Memorial plaques, crosses, and trees	4,894	7,827
Bio containers	887	1,640
	118,108	151,673
Total incoming resources	119,687	154,267
EXPENDITURE		
Direct costs		
Grave digger, plaques and crosses, celebrant fees	28,493	34,080
Commission	28,765	49,150
Events and refreshments	200	2,268
Site maintenance	19,425	22,195
Honorarium	-	70
Sundries	494	461
	77,377	108,224
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	21,160	19,437
Pensions	448	397
Rent	1,550	1,200
Insurance	427	814
Subscriptions	905	825
Telephone	133	126
Postage and stationery	876	750
Mileage allowance	1,615	1,919
Computer expenses	118	205
Professional fees	790	1,515
Bank charges	313	223
General Expenses	798	-
	29,133	27,411
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	1,020	1,649
Total resources expended	107,530	137,284
Net Income	12,157	16,983

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1118216

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06027734 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1118216

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FOR

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

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ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Since its opening in early 2007 and consecration by the Bishop of Bedford in June 2007, the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust continues to see a constant and growing requirement for the care, services and support we offer to the dying and the bereaved. The growth has been particularly pronounced over the last financial year.

Originally woodland burial at the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust took place in 2 acres of a peaceful wooded area of the countryside just outside the village of Keysoe in Bedfordshire. In 2014 a significant extension of the Trust's land was made with an additional 9.04 acres being purchased for the provision of additional glades, burial and interment spaces. Burials take place in ground which is specifically set aside and consecrated for the purpose of lying loved ones to rest and the additional land will give space for this activity for a number of years to come. We are pleased that woodland burial at the site continues to be open to people of all faiths, denominations and none. Being consecrated by the Church of England as a sacred space, people who are buried there can lie in this land for ever, until nature runs its natural course.

Graves are marked simply with a wooden plaque or cross, and for those who wish, a tree near the grave can be dedicated as a living memorial to the loved one who lies nearby. The burial is dignified, without rush and in harmony with the nature and ecology of the land in which the deceased are laid. After the service of committal, family and friends can spend as much time as they need at the graveside and are encouraged to visit as frequently as they would like.

As the burial takes place a discrete record is kept of the location of the grave and each year an accurate survey is maintained, ensuring the lying place of a loved one is never lost.

In short, loved ones are buried with an ecologically friendly manner in a managed woodland area. They leave behind them a nature reserve which enhances the environment rather than destroying it. They share in leaving behind something that will be of lasting benefit for our children, grandchildren and for generations to come.

Since the Trust started operations there has been a continued and increasing demand for the services the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust offers. For the financial year ending 31 March 2023, 62 burials and 58 interments of ashes and loose dispersal of ashes have taken place. In addition to this, 57 reservations for burials and 45 reservations for the interment or loose dispersal of ashes have been made and a number of memorial plaques and trees have been dedicated on the woodland site. All our activities continue to show strong demand for the offerings of the Woodland Burial Trust, and in total 580 burials and 412 interments of ashes have taken place since the Woodland Burial Ground was opened. Benches have also been purchased by families of the bereaved and placed in the woodland, the placement of which is being carefully managed.

Spiritual support has been offered to the family and friends of the deceased and appropriate training undertaken by those engaged in this work. A 'Friends Newsletter' is issued annually to keep subscribers updated on our activities and developments.

During the current year of operations, development work has continued across many glades both recently opened and those which have matured. In addition to this, necessary work was undertaken on the pathways to facilitate access. This required investment from the Trusts resources but continues to ensure improved accessibility and operations. This work has been positively received by those who visit the woodland site. The planting of trees and hedges has continued as the Woodland is developed in an appropriate manner with trees of different species again being planted this year. This is in addition to the regular maintenance which has taken place on the site and access routes, coupled with continued active management of the woodland area.

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

As we look to the future the need to provide dignified burials in consecrated ground which is managed in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner continues to increase, as does the need to provide support for those who mourn loved ones departed. We look forward to continuing to offer and provide this service to all who wish to receive it in the years ahead.

.....
Revd Canon Charles Royden
Chairman

Date 6. August 2023

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust's Annual Report and Financial Statements which covers our activities for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust was created at a time of emerging awareness of the importance of sustaining the environment in an ecological friendly manner coupled with an increasing demand on society to meet the spiritual needs of the bereaved. Since our inception we have continued to operate against the backdrop of this need for spiritual and ecological support and care throughout the bereavement process.

Our key aims continue to be to provide and maintain for the benefit of the public and for the advancement of Christian faith and education, woodland sites for the burial of the dead. We wish to develop and preserve such sites in order to provide a semi-natural woodland environment and to ensure diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities. We seek to support financially or otherwise Christian churches and Christian ministers engaged in ministry or providing services and support to the dying and the bereaved.

In short, the trust exists to offer woodland burials in consecrated ground in a dignified and ecologically and environmentally sympathetic manner.

We act with integrity, respect and dignity towards all people
We respect people of all cultures, faiths and beliefs
We respect people of all physical and mental abilities
We aim to provide an appealing natural choice alternative to conventional burial or cremation
We aim to provide an ecologically friendly and environmentally sustainable burial service
We aim to provide a burial service which is cost effective and high quality

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The directors are pleased to report that in the year ended 31 March 2023 income from the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust activities was £154,267, down 10% on the previous year. This income was received from the operations of the Trust, and from a small number of donations. Details of these are shown in the financial statements. Key expenses in the current year of operations were incurred against the upgrade of the pathways, significant tree planting, ongoing operations, continued glade development and site and access maintenance. During the year biodegradable flower pots continue to have been made available and have been well received. 10% of the proceeds from these pots are earmarked for reinvestment in the trees and flora for the site. Professional advice on planting and bio-diversity continues to be used by the Trust.

The statement of financial activities shows a surplus of £16,983 from operational activities, significantly up on the previous year, but reflects the intended maintenance and is fully in line with plans. The Trust continues to maintain a prudent balance to fund ongoing day-to-day operations and cash flow and maintenance of the site and access.

Once again, we would like to thank all those who have made donations, and especially those individuals who have made personal donations including those who have completed gift aid forms where appropriate to enable tax to be reclaimed from these donations.

The Trust's website (www.woodlandburialtrust.com) continues to receive significant traffic and is an increasing means of communication and advertisement for the Trusts Services and source of enquiries.

The Trust's objectives were achieved through the activities of the Trust, namely the provision of a woodland burial site for those people and families wishing to be buried in consecrated ground in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner. Support has been provided for the family and friends of the bereaved and training and support has been provided for those engaged in the work of services and support to the dying and the bereaved. Through active management of the woodland, the site has been developed and preserved in order to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which thus ensures diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities.

During the year the Trust's key policies, including Safeguarding, were reviewed and confirmed.

FUTURE PLANS

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust remains open to future developments within the context of its Memorandum of Association and the vision and objectives of the Trust. With significant glade development having been undertaken on the site it is envisaged that the next year of operation will focus on the core activities of the Woodland Burial Trust through use of the land available, and the optimisation of management of the entire site and associated services such as care and support for the bereaved and planning for the future. On 11 December 2020 ownership of the equestrian centre, adjacent to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, and over which the Trust has legal access rights, changed hands. The Trust continues to work with the new owners through its existing arrangements and activity based payments but may also evaluate future options.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisation

The Trustees are the directors of the company. Trustee meetings are held at regular intervals throughout the year for the direction and management of the trust and its business.

At the first annual general meeting all the nominative trustees retired from office, and at every subsequent annual general meeting one-third of the nominative trustees are subject to retirement by rotation or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third shall retire from office. Trustees may offer themselves for reappointment. No person other than a trustee retiring by rotation shall be appointed or reappointed as a trustee at any general meeting unless he is nominated by the Chairman, the Revd Charles Royden.

Day-to-day administration of the Trust's operation is undertaken by the Trust's administrator, Sam Ware, supported by a team of volunteers. During the year Kathryn Morse has supported the Trust's administration and data analysis.

Trustees and Directors

A full list of trustees and directors are shown below. All of the trustees and directors have been active for all of the period of operation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
06027734 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1118216

Registered office
St Mark's Church Community Centre
Calder Rise
Brickhill
Bedford
MK41 7UY

Trustees
G R Cappleman
K H A Abrahams
M J Cooper
J Day
C T Izzard
C Royden - Chairman
A M Williams
J Williams
D Middlebrook
B Southam

Company Secretary
G R Cappleman

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner
Stephen Mason BSc FCA
GKP (Ampthill) Limited
Chartered Accountants
First Floor
5 Doolittle Yard
Froghall Road
Ampthill
Bedfordshire
MK45 2NW

Bankers
National Westminister Bank Plc
81 high Street
Bedford
MK40 1YN

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT
OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES
Charitable Objects

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is required by charity and company law to act within the objectives of its Memorandum of Association.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust's objects, as laid out in the Memorandum of Association are:

- to provide and maintain for the benefit of the public and for the advancement of Christian faith and education
  woodland sites for the burial of the dead
- to develop and preserve the sites in order to provide a semi-natural woodland environment
- to ensure a diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities
- to support financially or otherwise Christian churches and Christian ministers engaged in ministry or providing
  services and support to the dying and the bereaved

Public benefits

The directors confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The directors have referred to this guidance when reviewing the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust aims and objectives, and in planning the future activities of the Trust.

Principle 1: The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust provides a woodland burial site for the burial of the dead in an ecological and environmentally sensitive manner. It develops and maintains the site to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which safeguards notable species and communities. It supports those engaged in providing services and support for the bereaved.

Principle 2: The woodland burial site is open to people of all faiths and those of no faith and can be used by those outside the immediate geographic area of Bedfordshire. It offers affordable and dignified burials to all those who wish to be buried there.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
Financial Basis of Operations

The Trust makes charges for burials, interment of ashes, scattering of ashes, grave digging, and for memorial trees and plaques. These charges are then used for the expenses of operations, chiefly the costs incurred with the operations of the Trust such as capital expenses on coffins, plaques and crosses, maintenance costs such as grave digging, woodland management and administration, and activity based payments to the landowner who donated the land to the Trust. In the current year of operations income has also been received from donations.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 6 August 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

G R Cappleman - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Albans Woodland Burial Trust ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act or section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Stephen Mason BSc FCA

GKP (Ampthill) Limited
Chartered Accountants
First Floor
5 Doolittle Yard
Froghall Road
Ampthill
Bedfordshire
MK45 2NW

Date: .....

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted fund £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies		2,594	1,583
Other trading activities	2	151,673	170,406
Total		154,267	171,989
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	3	108,224	140,043
Charitable activities			
Support		25,896	28,086
Governance costs		3,164	2,272
Total		137,284	170,401
NET INCOME		16,983	1,588
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		275,140	273,552
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		292,123	275,140

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted fund £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	7	47,000	47,000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	6,525	4,638
Cash at bank		253,517	226,635
		260,042	231,273
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(14,919)	(3,133)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		245,123	228,140
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		292,123	275,140
NET ASSETS		292,123	275,140
FUNDS	10		
Unrestricted funds		292,123	275,140
TOTAL FUNDS		292,123	275,140

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 6 August 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

G R Copplestone Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is in Pounds Sterling (£), which is the functional currency of the charity.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets
The only asset held by the charity is freehold land. The trustees will carry out an annual impairment review of the carrying value and adjust the accounts accordingly. The land will not be subject to an annual depreciation charge.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

continued...

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Burials	69,164	76,850
Internment of ashes	16,681	14,525
Reservations	56,361	71,310
Memorial plaques, bench trees	7,827	6,501
Bio container	1,640	1,220
	151,673	170,406

3. RAISING FUNDS

Raising funds, included in the above, are as follows:

Raising funds	2023	2022
	£	£
Grave digger, plaques and crosses	34,080	25,729
Commission	49,150	35,155
Events and refreshments	2,268	841
Site maintenance	22,195	77,793
Honorarium	70	60
Sundries	461	465
	108,224	140,043

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Support	25,896	-	25,896
Governance costs	1,515	1,649	3,164
	27,411	1,649	29,060

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Support costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages	19,437	20,699
Pensions	397	391
Rent	1,200	1,200
Insurance	814	814
Subscriptions	825	1,798
Telephone	126	120
Postage and stationery	750	1,067
Mileage Allowance	1,919	1,801
Computer expenses	205	175
Professional fees	1,515	1,132
Bank Charges	223	21
Independent Examiner fee	1,649	1,140
	29,060	30,358

continued...

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year Honoraria payments of £70 (2022 - £60) were paid to trustees in relation to their role as trust administrators.

There were no further trustees' remuneration or benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	1,583
Other trading activities	170,406
Total	171,989
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	140,043
Charitable activities	
Support	28,086
Governance costs	2,272
Total	170,401
NET INCOME	1,588
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	273,552
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	275,140

continued...

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land £
COST	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	47,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	47,000
At 31 March 2022	47,000

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	4,844	4,500
Other debtors	1,681	38
Prepayments and accrued income	-	100
	6,525	4,638

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	258	209
Accruals and deferred income	14,661	2,924
	14,919	3,133

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	275,140	16,983	292,123
TOTAL FUNDS	275,140	16,983	292,123

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	154,267	(137,284)	16,983
TOTAL FUNDS	154,267	(137,284)	16,983

continued...

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	273,552	1,588	275,140
TOTAL FUNDS	273,552	1,588	275,140

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	171,989	(170,401)	1,588
TOTAL FUNDS	171,989	(170,401)	1,588

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	273,552	18,571	292,123
TOTAL FUNDS	273,552	18,571	292,123

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	326,256	(307,685)	18,571
TOTAL FUNDS	326,256	(307,685)	18,571

continued...

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There are no transactions with related parties to be disclosed under the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

12. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee as a consequence the member liability is limited to £1. There were 10 (2022: 11) members as at 31 March 2023.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	1,351	2
Donations	1,243	1,581
	2,594	1,583
Other trading activities		
Burials	69,164	76,850
Internment of ashes	16,681	14,525
Reservations	56,361	71,310
Memorial plaques, bench trees	7,827	6,501
Bio container	1,640	1,220
	151,673	170,406
Total incoming resources	154,267	171,989
EXPENDITURE		
Direct costs		
Grave digger, plaques and crosses	34,080	25,729
Commission	49,150	35,155
Events and refreshments	2,268	841
Site maintenance	22,195	77,793
Honorarium	70	60
Sundries	461	465
	108,224	140,043
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	19,437	20,699
Pensions	397	391
Rent	1,200	1,200
Insurance	814	814
Subscriptions	825	1,798
Telephone	126	120
Postage and stationery	750	1,067
Mileage allowance	1,919	1,801
Computer expenses	205	175
Professional fees	1,515	1,132
Bank charges	223	21
	27,411	29,218
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	1,649	1,140

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Total resources expended	137,284	170,401
Net income	16,983	1,588

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1118216

Accounts



St Albans Woodland
Burial Trust

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022
FOR
ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06027734 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1118216

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

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ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

Since its opening in early 2007 and consecration by the Bishop of Bedford in June 2007, the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust continues to see a constant and growing requirement for the care, services and support we offer to the dying and the bereaved. The growth has been particularly pronounced over the last financial year.

Originally woodland burial at the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust took place in 2 acres of a peaceful wooded area of the countryside just outside the village of Keysoe in Bedfordshire. In 2014 a significant extension of the Trust's land was made with an additional 9.04 acres being purchased for the provision of additional glades, burial and interment spaces. Burials take place in ground which is specifically set aside and consecrated for the purpose of lying loved ones to rest and the additional land will give space for this activity for a number of years to come. We are pleased that woodland burial at the site continues to be open to people of all faiths, denominations and none. Being consecrated by the Church of England as a sacred space, people who are buried there can lie in this land for ever, until nature runs its natural course.

Graves are marked simply with a wooden plaque or cross, and for those who wish, a tree near the grave can be dedicated as a living memorial to the loved one who lies nearby. The burial is dignified, without rush and in harmony with the nature and ecology of the land in which the deceased are laid. After the service of committal, family and friends can spend as much time as they need at the graveside and are encouraged to visit as frequently as they would like.

As the burial takes place a discrete record is kept of the location of the grave and each year an accurate survey is maintained, ensuring the lying place of a loved one is never lost.

In short, loved ones are buried with an ecologically friendly manner in a managed woodland area. They leave behind them a nature reserve which enhances the environment rather than destroying it. They share in leaving behind something that will be of lasting benefit for our children, grandchildren and for generations to come.

Since the Trust started operations there has been a continued and increasing demand for the services the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust offers. For the financial year ending 31 March 2022, 63 burials and 29 interments of ashes and loose dispersal of ashes have taken place. In addition to this, 82 reservations for burials and 35 reservations for the interment or loose dispersal of ashes have been made and a number of memorial plaques and trees have been dedicated on the woodland site. All our activities continue to show strong demand for the offerings of the Woodland Burial Trust, and in total 519 burials and 338 interments of ashes have taken place since the Woodland Burial Ground was opened. Benches have also been purchased by families of the bereaved and placed in the woodland, the placement of which is being carefully managed.

Spiritual support has been offered to the family and friends of the deceased and appropriate training undertaken by those engaged in this work. A 'Friends Newsletter' is issued annually to keep subscribers updated on our activities and developments.

During the current year of operations, significant and necessary development work has taken place across many glades both recently opened and those which have matured. In addition to this planned, major and necessary upgrade work was undertaken on the pathways to facilitate access. This required significant investment from the Trusts resources but has greatly improved accessibility and operations and has been very positively received. The significant planting of trees and hedges had continued as the Woodland is developed in an appropriate manner with several hundred trees of different species again being planted this year. This is in addition to the regular maintenance which has taken place on the site and access routes, coupled with continued active management of the woodland area.

As we look to the future the need to provide dignified burials in consecrated ground which is managed in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner continues to increase, as does the need to provide support for those who mourn loved ones departed. We look forward to continuing to offer and provide this service to all who wish to receive it in the years ahead.

.....

Revd Canon Charles Royden

Chairman

12th June 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022. The trustees have adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust's Annual Report and Accounts which covers our activities for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust was created at a time of emerging awareness of the importance of sustaining the environment in an ecological friendly manner coupled with an increasing demand on society to meet the spiritual needs of the bereaved. Since our inception we have continued to operate against the backdrop of this need for spiritual and ecological support and care throughout the bereavement process.

Our key aims continue to be to provide and maintain for the benefit of the public and for the advancement of Christian faith and education, woodland sites for the burial of the dead. We wish to develop and preserve such sites in order to provide a semi-natural woodland environment and to ensure diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities. We seek to support financially or otherwise Christian churches and Christian ministers engaged in ministry or providing services and support to the dying and the bereaved.

In short, the trust exists to offer woodland burials in consecrated ground in a dignified and ecologically and environmentally sympathetic manner.

- We act with integrity, respect and dignity towards all people
- We respect people of all cultures, faiths and beliefs
- We respect people of all physical and mental abilities
- We aim to provide an appealing natural choice alternative to conventional burial or cremation
- We aim to provide an ecologically friendly and environmentally sustainable burial service
- We aim to provide a burial service which is cost effective and high quality

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
06027734 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1118216

Registered office
St Mark's Church Community Centre
Calder Rise
Brickhill
Bedford
MK41 7UY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees
Mrs Kathryn Abrahams
The Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman
Mr Michael Cooper
Mrs Janet Day
Mr Christopher Izzard
The Ven Dave Middlebrook
The Revd Charles Royden
Mrs Avril Williams
Mr James Williams

Company Secretary
The Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman

Independent examiner
W R Kingston FCA
Keens Shay Keens Limited
Chartered Accountants
2nd Floor Exchange Building
16 St Cuthberts Street
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK40 3JG

Principal officers
Chairman - Revd Charles Royden
Company Secretary - Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman
Company Treasurer - Mrs Janet Day
Company Administrator - Mrs Samantha Ware

Bankers
NatWest Business Services
Floor 1
81 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1YN

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a Memorandum and Articles of Association and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisation

The Trustees are the directors of the company. Trustee meetings are held at regular intervals throughout the year for the direction and management of the trust and its business.

At the first annual general meeting all the nominative trustees retired from office, and at every subsequent annual general meeting one-third of the nominative trustees are subject to retirement by rotation or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third shall retire from office. Trustees may offer themselves for reappointment. No person other than a trustee retiring by rotation shall be appointed or reappointed as a trustee at any general meeting unless he is nominated by the Chairman, the Revd Charles Royden.

Day-to-day administration of the Trust's operation is undertaken by a team of volunteers.

Trustees and Directors

A full list of trustees and directors is shown earlier in this report. All of the trustees and directors have been active for all of the period of operation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objects

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is required by charity and company law to act within the objectives of its Memorandum of Association.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust's objects, as laid out in the Memorandum of Association are:

- to provide and maintain for the benefit of the public and for the advancement of Christian faith and education woodland sites for the burial of the dead
- to develop and preserve the sites in order to provide a semi-natural woodland environment
- to ensure a diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities
- to support financially or otherwise Christian churches and Christian ministers engaged in ministry or providing services and support to the dying and the bereaved

Public benefits

The directors confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The directors have referred to this guidance when reviewing the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust aims and objectives, and in planning the future activities of the Trust.

Principle 1: The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust provides a woodland burial site for the burial of the dead in an ecological and environmentally sensitive manner. It develops and maintains the site to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which safeguards notable species and communities. It supports those engaged in providing services and support for the bereaved.

Principle 2: The woodland burial site is open to people of all faiths and those of no faith and can be used by those outside the immediate geographic area of Bedfordshire. It offers affordable and dignified burials to all those who wish to be buried there.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Financial Basis of Operations

The Trust makes charges for burials, interment of ashes, scattering of ashes, grave digging, and for memorial trees and plaques. These charges are then used for the expenses of operations, chiefly the costs incurred with the operations of the Trust such as capital expenses on coffins, plaques and crosses, maintenance costs such as grave digging, woodland management and administration, and activity based payments to the landowner who donated the land to the Trust. In the current year of operations income has also been received from donations.

Review of Activities

The directors are pleased to report that in the period ended 31 March 2022 income from the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust activities was £171,987, up 5% on the previous year. This income was received from the operations of the Trust, and from a small number of donations. Details of these are shown in the accounts below. Key expenses in the current year of operations were incurred against the upgrade of the pathways, significant tree planting, ongoing operations, continued glade development and site and access maintenance. During the year biodegradable flower pots continue to have been made available and have been well received. 10% of the proceeds from these pots are earmarked for reinvestment in the trees and flora for the site. Professional advice on planting and bio-diversity continues to be used by the Trust.

The statement of financial activities shows a surplus of £1,587 from operational activities, significantly down on the previous year, but reflects the increased and intended maintenance and is fully in line with plans. The Trust continues to maintain a prudent balance to fund ongoing day-to-day operations and cash flow and maintenance of the site and access.

Once again, we would like to thank all those who have made donations, and especially those individuals who have made personal donations including those who have completed gift aid forms where appropriate to enable tax to be reclaimed from these donations.

The Trust's website (www.woodlandburialtrust.com) continues to receive significant traffic and is an increasing means of communication and advertisement for the Trusts Services and source of enquiries.

The Trust's objectives were achieved through the activities of the Trust, namely the provision of a woodland burial site for those people and families wishing to be buried in consecrated ground in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner. Support has been provided for the family and friends of the bereaved and training and support has been provided for those engaged in the work of services and support to the dying and the bereaved. Through active management of the woodland, the site has been developed and preserved in order to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which thus ensures diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities.

During the year the Trust's key policies, including Safeguarding, were reviewed and confirmed.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust remains open to future developments within the context of its Memorandum of Association and the vision and objectives of the Trust. With significant glade development having been undertaken on the site it is envisaged that the next year of operation will focus on the core activities of the Woodland Burial Trust through use of the land available, and the optimisation of management of the entire site and associated services such as care and support for the bereaved and planning for the future. On 11 December 2020 ownership of the equestrian centre, adjacent to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, and over which the Truest has legal access rights, changed hands. The Trust continues to work with the new owners through its existing arrangements and activity based payments but may also evaluate future options.

POLICY AND CHARITY GOVERNANCE

Rates and Taxation

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is a registered charity but has received 80% Mandatory Rate Relief and 20% Discretionary Rate Relief (Total 100%) from Bedford Borough Council. .

Independent Examiner

Wayne Kingston, who is a director of the accountancy practice Keens Shay Keens Limited, has been appointed as the Independent examiner for the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust. His report appears on page 7 of the accounts.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

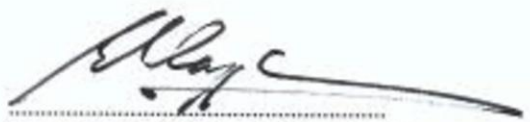
The trustees (who are also the directors of St Albans Woodland Burial Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman
Company Secretary

12th June 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 set out on pages eight to thirteen.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view ' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities under FRS 102.

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

W R Kingston FCA
Keens Shay Keens Limited
Chartered Accountants
2nd Floor Exchange Building
16 St Cuthberts Street
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK40 3JG

12th June 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted fund £	2021 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income		1,581	540
Activities for generating funds	2	170,406	162,549
Total incoming resources		171,987	163,089
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of generating funds			
Costs of generating voluntary income		140,042	92,143
Governance costs	3	2,272	1,580
Other resources expended		28,086	25,000
Total resources expended		170,400	118,723
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		1,587	44,366
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		273,552	229,186
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		275,139	273,552

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted fund £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	47,000	47,000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash in hand		226,635	228,778
Debtors	6	4,637	938
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(3,133)	(3,163)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		228,139	226,552
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		275,139	273,552
NET ASSETS		275,139	273,552
FUNDS	8		
Unrestricted funds		275,139	273,552
TOTAL FUNDS		275,139	273,552

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 12th June 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman
Company Secretary and Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Subsequent to the year end, the global health crisis caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a significant impact on all businesses. The directors have assessed the potential impact of this uncertain situation on the company and do not consider that it will lead to any subsequent impairment of the reported amount of the value of assets. Contingency plans have been put in place in order to mitigate the negative effects of any period of interrupted trading.

Incoming resources
All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended
Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets
The only asset held by the charity is freehold land. The trustees will carry out an annual impairment review of the carrying value and adjust the accounts accordingly. The land will not be subject to an annual depreciation charge.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	2021	2021
	£	£
Burials	76,850	66,950
Internment of ashes	14,525	8,295
Reservations	71,310	80,140
Memorial plaques, benches and trees	6,501	5,795
Bio container	1,220	800
Other	-	569
	170,406	162,549

The notes form part of these financial statements

3. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent Examiner's Fee	1,140	1,152
Professional fees	1,132	428
	2,272	1,580

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year Honoraria payments of £60 (2021 - £Nil) were paid to trustees in relation to their role as trust administrators.

There were no further trustees' remuneration or benefits for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

During the year reimbursed expenses of £Nil (2021 - £Nil) were paid to the trustees.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land
	£
COST	
At 1st April 2021 and 31 March 2022	47,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st March 2022	47,000
At 31st March 2021	47,000

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	4,500	-
Other debtors	137	938
	4,637	938

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	3,133	3,163

The notes form part of these financial statements

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 01.04.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.03.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	273,552	1,587	275,139
TOTAL FUNDS	273,552	1,587	275,139

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	171,987	(170,400)	1,587
TOTAL FUNDS	171,987	(170,400)	1,587

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There are no transactions with related parties to be disclosed under the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

10. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee as a consequence the member liability is limited to £1. There were 10 (2021: 11) members as at 31 March 2022.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Donations	1,581	540
Activities for generating funds		
Burials	76,850	66,950
Internment of ashes	14,525	8,295
Reservations	71,310	80,140
Memorial plaques, bench trees	6,501	5,795
Bio container	1,220	800
Other	-	569
	170,406	162,549
Total incoming resources	171,987	163,089
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Commission	35,155	41,940
Grave digger	21,425	23,120
Plaques and crosses	4,304	4,378
Events and refreshments	841	110
Sundry	465	487
Site maintenance	77,793	22,108
Honorarium	60	-
	140,042	92,143
Governance costs		
Accountancy	1,140	1,152
Professional fees	1,132	428
	2,272	1,580
Support costs		
Other		
Insurance	814	-
Rent	1,200	1,200
Telephone	120	130
Printing, postage and stationery	1067	467
Mileage allowance	1,801	1,501
Computer expenses	175	272
Subscriptions and donations	1,798	1,073
Employers pension contributions	391	357
Salaries and Employers National Insurance	20,699	20,000
	28,086	25,000
Total resources expended	170,401	118,723
Net income	1,587	44,366

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1118216

Accounts

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021 FOR ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 06027734 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1118216

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021



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ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Since its opening in early 2007 and consecration by the Bishop of Bedford in June 2007, the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust continues to see a constant and growing requirement for the care, services and support we offer to the dying and the bereaved. The growth has been particularly pronounced over the last financial year.

Originally woodland burial at the St Alban's Woodland Burial Trust took place in 2 acres of a peaceful wooded area of the countryside just outside the village of Keysoe in Bedfordshire. In 2014 a significant extension of the Trust's land was made with an additional 9.04 acres being purchased for the provision of additional glades, burial and interment spaces. Burials take place in ground which is specifically set aside and consecrated for the purpose of lying loved ones to rest and the additional land will give space for this activity for a number of years to come. We are pleased that woodland burial at the site continues to be open to people of all faiths, denominations and none. Being consecrated by the Church of England as a sacred space, people who are buried there can lie in this land for ever, until nature runs its natural course.

Graves are marked simply with a wooden plaque or cross, and for those who wish, a tree near the grave can be dedicated as a living memorial to the loved one who lies nearby. The burial is dignified, without rush and in harmony with the nature and ecology of the land in which the deceased are laid. After the service of committal, family and friends can spend as much time as they need at the graveside and are encouraged to visit as frequently as they would like.

As the burial takes place a discrete record is kept of the location of the grave and each year an accurate survey is maintained, ensuring the lying place of a loved one is never lost.

In short, loved ones are buried with an ecologically friendly manner in a managed woodland area. They leave behind them a nature reserve which enhances the environment rather than destroying it. They share in leaving behind something that will be of lasting benefit for our children, grandchildren and for generations to come.

Since the Trust started operations there has been a continued and increasing demand for the services the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust offers. For the financial year ending 31 March 2021, 67 burials and 41 interments of ashes and loose dispersal of ashes have taken place. In addition to this, 88 reservations for burials and 25 reservations for the interment or loose dispersal of ashes have been made and a number of memorial plaques and trees have been dedicated on the woodland site. All our activities show another increase over the previous year, and in total 454 burials and 309 interments of ashes have taken place since the Woodland Burial Ground was opened. Benches have also been purchased by families of the bereaved and placed in the woodland. In past years our open days have attracted people from many different parts of the country, a further testimony to the public demand for such burial sites and further open days are planned, when current conditions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic, allow them to take place in a safe manner.

Spiritual support has been offered to the family and friends of the deceased and appropriate training undertaken by those engaged in this work. A 'Friends Newsletter' is issued annually to keep subscribers updated on our activities and developments.

During the current year of operations, significant and necessary development work has taken place across many glades both recently opened and those which have matured. The planting of trees and hedges had continued as the Woodland is developed in an appropriate manner with several hundred trees of different species being planted this year. This is in addition to the regular maintenance which has taken place on the site and access routes, coupled with continued active management of the woodland area.

As we look to the future the need to provide dignified burials in consecrated ground which is managed in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner continues to increase, as does the need to provide support for those who mourn loved ones departed. We look forward to continuing to offer and provide this service to all who wish to receive it in the years ahead.

Revd Canon Charles Royden

Chairman

16th May 2021

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021. The trustees have adopted the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust's Annual Report and Accounts which covers our activities for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust was created at a time of emerging awareness of the importance of sustaining the environment in an ecological friendly manner coupled with an increasing demand on society to meet the spiritual needs of the bereaved. Since our inception we have continued to operate against the backdrop of this need for spiritual and ecological support and care throughout the bereavement process.

Our key aims continue to be to provide and maintain for the benefit of the public and for the advancement of Christian faith and education, woodland sites for the burial of the dead. We wish to develop and preserve such sites in order to provide a semi-natural woodland environment and to ensure diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities. We seek to support financially or otherwise Christian churches and Christian ministers engaged in ministry or providing services and support to the dying and the bereaved.

In short, the trust exists to offer woodland burials in consecrated ground in a dignified and ecologically and environmentally sympathetic manner.

- We act with integrity, respect and dignity towards all people
- We respect people of all cultures, faiths and beliefs
- We respect people of all physical and mental abilities
- We aim to provide an appealing natural choice alternative to conventional burial or cremation
- We aim to provide an ecologically friendly and environmentally sustainable burial service
- We aim to provide a burial service which is cost effective and high quality

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
06027734 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1118216

Registered office
St Mark's Church Community Centre
Calder Rise
Brickhill
Bedford
MK41 7UY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees
Mrs Kathryn Abrahams
The Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman
Mr Michael Cooper
Mr John Day
Mrs Janet Day
Mr Christopher Izzard
Mrs Linda Parry
Mr Edward Parry
The Revd Charles Royden
Mrs Avril Williams
Mr James Williams

Company Secretary
The Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman

Independent examiner
C W Little FCA
Keens Shay Keens Limited
Chartered Accountants
2nd Floor Exchange Building
16 St Cuthberts Street
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK40 3JG

Principal officers
Chairman - Revd Charles Royden
Company Secretary - Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman
Company Treasurer - Mrs Janet Day
Company Administrator - Mrs Samantha Ware

Bankers
NatWest Business Services
Floor 1
81 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1YN

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a Memorandum and Articles of Association and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisation

The Trustees are the directors of the company. Trustee meetings are held at regular intervals throughout the year for the direction and management of the trust and its business.

At the first annual general meeting all the nominative trustees retired from office, and at every subsequent annual general meeting one-third of the nominative trustees are subject to retirement by rotation or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third shall retire from office. Trustees may offer themselves for reappointment. No person other than a trustee retiring by rotation shall be appointed or reappointed as a trustee at any general meeting unless he is nominated by the Chairman, the Revd Charles Royden.

Day-to-day administration of the Trust's operation is undertaken by a team of volunteers.

Trustees and Directors

A full list of trustees and directors is shown earlier in this report. All of the trustees and directors have been active for all of the period of operation.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objects

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is required by charity and company law to act within the objectives of its Memorandum of Association.

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust's objects, as laid out in the Memorandum of Association are:

- to provide and maintain for the benefit of the public and for the advancement of Christian faith and education woodland sites for the burial of the dead
- to develop and preserve the sites in order to provide a semi-natural woodland environment
- to ensure a diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities
- to support financially or otherwise Christian churches and Christian ministers engaged in ministry or providing services and support to the dying and the bereaved

Public benefits

The directors confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The directors have referred to this guidance when reviewing the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust aims and objectives, and in planning the future activities of the Trust.

Principle 1: The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust provides a woodland burial site for the burial of the dead in an ecological and environmentally sensitive manner. It develops and maintains the site to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which safeguards notable species and communities. It supports those engaged in providing services and support for the bereaved.

Principle 2: The woodland burial site is open to people of all faiths and those of no faith and can be used by those outside the immediate geographic area of Bedfordshire. It offers affordable and dignified burials to all those who wish to be buried there.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Financial Basis of Operations

The Trust makes charges for burials, interment of ashes, scattering of ashes, grave digging, and for memorial trees and plaques. These charges are then used for the expenses of operations, chiefly the costs incurred with the operations of the Trust such as capital expenses on coffins, plaques and crosses, maintenance costs such as grave digging, woodland management and administration, and activity based payments to the landowner who donated the land to the Trust. In the current year of operations income has also been received from donations.

Review of Activities

The directors are pleased to report that in the period ended 31 March 2021 income from the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust activities was £163,089, up 18% on the previous year. This income was received from the operations of the Trust, and from a small number of donations. Details of these are shown in the accounts below. Key expenses in the current year of operations were incurred against ongoing operations, continued glade development and site and access maintenance. During the year biodegradable flower pots continue to have been made available and have been well received. 10% of the proceeds from these pots are earmarked for reinvestment in the trees and flora for the site. Professional advice on planting and bio-diversity continues to be used by the Trust.

The statement of financial activities shows a surplus of £44,366 from operational activities, up 11% on the previous year, which reflects the increased income from operations whilst taking into account investments in glade redevelopment and is fully in line with plans. The Trust continues to maintain a prudent balance to fund ongoing day-to-day operations and cash flow and maintenance of the site and access.

Once again, we would like to thank all those who have made donations, and especially those individuals who have made personal donations including those who have completed gift aid forms where appropriate to enable tax to be reclaimed from these donations.

The Trust's website (www.woodlandburialtrust.com) continues to receive significant traffic and is an increasing means of communication and advertisement for the Trusts Services and source of enquiries.

The Trust's objectives were achieved through the activities of the Trust, namely the provision of a woodland burial site for those people and families wishing to be buried in consecrated ground in an environmentally and ecologically sustainable manner. Support has been provided for the family and friends of the bereaved and training and support has been provided for those engaged in the work of services and support to the dying and the bereaved. Through active management of the woodland, the site has been developed and preserved in order to provide a semi-natural woodland environment which thus ensures diversity in woodland structure to safeguard notable species and communities.

During the year the Trust's key policies, including Safeguarding, were reviewed and confirmed.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust remains open to future developments within the context of its Memorandum of Association and the vision and objectives of the Trust. With significant glade development having been undertaken on the site it is envisaged that the next year of operation will focus on the core activities of the Woodland Burial Trust through use of the land available, and the optimisation of management of the entire site and associated services such as care and support for the bereaved and planning for the future. On 11 December 2020 ownership of the equestrian centre, adjacent to the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust, and over which the Truest has legal access rights, changed hands. The Trust continues to work with the new owners through its existing arrangements and activity based payments but may also evaluate future options.

POLICY AND CHARITY GOVERNANCE

Rates and Taxation

The St Albans Woodland Burial Trust is a registered charity and had previously received 80% Mandatory Rate Relief and 20% Discretionary Rate Relief (Total 100%) from Bedford Borough Council. The current 20% Discretionary Rate Relief was terminated at 31 March 2021 and Application for Discretionary Rate Relief for 2022 has been made.

Independent Examiner

Charles Little, who is a director of the accountancy practice Keens Shay Keens Limited, has been appointed as the Independent examiner for the St Albans Woodland Burial Trust. His report appears on page 7 of the accounts.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of St Albans Woodland Burial Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....

Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman
Company Secretary

16th May 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

St Albans Woodland Burial Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 set out on pages eight to thirteen.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The charity's trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view ' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities under FRS 102.

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



C W Little FCA
Keens Shay Keens Limited
Chartered Accountants
2nd Floor Exchange Building
16 St Cuthberts Street
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK40 3JG

16th May 2021

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted fund £	2020 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income		540	512
Activities for generating funds	2	162,549	137,435
Total incoming resources		163,089	137,947
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of generating funds			
Costs of generating voluntary income		92,143	78,192
Governance costs	3	1580	924
Other resources expended		25,000	18,768
Total resources expended		118,723	97,884
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		44,366	40,063
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		229,186	189,123
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		273,552	229,186

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
AT 31ST MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted fund £	2020 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	47,000	47,000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash in hand		228,778	185,133
Debtors	6	938	47
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(3,163)	(2,994)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		226,552	182,186
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		273,552	229,186
NET ASSETS		273,552	229,186
FUNDS	8		
Unrestricted funds		273,552	229,186
TOTAL FUNDS		273,552	229,186

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 16th May 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....

Revd Dr Graham R (Sam) Cappleman
Company Secretary and Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Subsequent to the year end, the global health crisis caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a significant impact on all businesses. The directors have assessed the potential impact of this uncertain situation on the company and do not consider that it will lead to any subsequent impairment of the reported amount of the value of assets. Contingency plans have been put in place in order to mitigate the negative effects of any period of interrupted trading.

Incoming resources
All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended
Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets
The only asset held by the charity is freehold land. The trustees will carry out an annual impairment review of the carrying value and adjust the accounts accordingly. The land will not be subject to an annual depreciation charge.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Burials	66,950	56,800
Internment of ashes	8,295	12,930
Reservations	80,140	59,300
Memorial plaques, benches and trees	5,795	7,320
Bio container	800	930
Other	569	155
	162,549	137,435

3. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accountancy	1,152	924
Professional fees	428	-
	1,580	924

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year Honoraria payments of £Nil (2020: £1,000) were paid to trustees in relation to their role as trust administrators.

There were no further trustees' remuneration or benefits for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

During the year reimbursed expenses of £Nil (2020: £2,192) were paid to the trustees.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land
	£
COST	
At 1st April 2020 and 31 March 2021	47,000
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st March 2021	47,000
At 31st March 2020	47,000

6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	938	47

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors	3,163	2,994

The notes form part of these financial statements

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 01.04.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.03.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	229,186	44,366	273,552
TOTAL FUNDS	229,186	44,366	273,552

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	163,089	(118,723)	44,366
TOTAL FUNDS	163,089	(118,723)	44,366

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There are no transactions with related parties to be disclosed under the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015).

10. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee as a consequence the member liability is limited to £1. There were 11 (2020: 11) members as at 31 March 2021.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Donations	540	512
Activities for generating funds		
Burials	66,950	56,800
Internment of ashes	8,295	12,930
Reservations	80,140	59,300
Memorial plaques, bench trees	5,795	7,320
Bio container	800	930
Other	569	155
	162,549	137,435
Total incoming resources	163,089	137,947
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Commission	41,940	34,107
Grave digger	23,120	19,070
Plaques and crosses	4,378	5,342
Events and refreshments	110	-
Sundry	487	703
Site maintenance	22,108	17,970
Honorarium	-	1,000
	92,143	78,192
Governance costs		
Accountancy	1,152	924
Professional fees	428	-
	1,580	924
Support costs		
Other		
Insurance	-	814
Rent	1,200	1,200
Telephone	130	130
Printing, postage and stationery	467	1,507
Mileage allowance	1,501	1,436
Computer expenses	272	80
Subscriptions and donations	1,073	750
Employers pension contributions	357	17
Salaries and Employers National Insurance	20,000	12,794
	25,000	18,768
Total resources expended	118,723	97,884
Net income	44,366	40,063