

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.

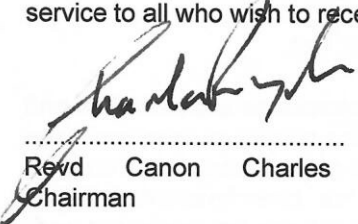
In short, loved ones are buried with an ecologically friendly manner in a managed woodland area. They leave behind them a nature reserve which enhances the environment rather than destroying it. They share in leaving behind something that will be of lasting benefit for our children, grandchildren and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

**ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 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.

**ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
81 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1YN

**ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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.



Karen Dyer FCCA

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

Date: 10/7/2024

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

		2024	2023
		Unrestricted	Total
		fund	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

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


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

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- 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 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 Capplomen - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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
	<u>118,108</u>	<u>151,673</u>

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
	<u>77,377</u>	<u>108,224</u>

4. SUPPORT COSTS

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

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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	<u>1,020</u>	<u>1,649</u>
	<u>30,153</u>	<u>29,060</u>

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.

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES		Unrestricted fund
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM		£
Donations and legacies		2,594
Other trading activities		<u>151,673</u>
Total		<u>154,267</u>
EXPENDITURE ON		
Raising funds		108,224
Charitable activities		
Support		25,896
Governance costs		<u>3,164</u>
Total		<u>137,284</u>
NET INCOME		16,983
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Total funds brought forward		<u>275,140</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD 31 March 2023		<u>292,123</u>
7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		
		Freehold land
		£
COST		
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024		<u>47,000</u>
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 March 2024		<u>47,000</u>
At 31 March 2023		<u>47,000</u>
8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	3,147	4,844
Other debtors	<u>422</u>	<u>1,681</u>
	<u>3,569</u>	<u>6,525</u>
9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	118	258
Accruals and deferred income	<u>12,323</u>	<u>14,661</u>
	<u>12,441</u>	<u>14,919</u>

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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	<u>292,123</u>	<u>12,157</u>	<u>304,280</u>

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	<u>119,687</u>	<u>(107,530)</u>	<u>12,157</u>

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	<u>275,140</u>	<u>16,983</u>	<u>292,123</u>

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	<u>154,267</u>	<u>(137,284)</u>	<u>16,983</u>

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	<u>275,140</u>	<u>29,140</u>	<u>305,280</u>

ST ALBANS WOODLAND BURIAL TRUST
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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	<u>273,954</u>	<u>(244,814)</u>	<u>29,140</u>

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	<u>12,157</u>	<u>16,983</u>

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