

Frequently Asked Questions (about the scattering or interment of ashes at The Tree Cathedral)

How does it work?

If you would like to find out more about arranging the scattering or interment of ashes at The Tree Cathedral you can call The Parks Trust on 01908 233600 or email info@theparkstrust.com. We will be happy to advise you of availability and dates.

The actual day to day arrangements will be handled by Milton Keynes Council's Bereavement Service who will be pleased to give you all the assistance you require and can put you in touch with local suppliers and service providers. You can contact them on 01908 568112 or email crownhill@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Alternatively your own funeral director can organise everything for you.

How much does it cost?

There are two areas where ashes can be interred. Within the Tree Cathedral itself costs £700 and the adjacent Cathedral Meadow costs £258. Ashes can be scattered at the Woodland Walk for £98.

These prices include an entry in our online book of remembrance.

Interments are available at weekends or public holidays at the discretion of the operator, at an additional charge.

What am I actually buying?

What you are buying from The Parks Trust is a right to be buried in your chosen area of the Tree Cathedral. The price includes grave digging and a very simple interment service led by a sexton but does not include any other service rites or ceremonies you may wish to conduct – you will need to speak to Milton Keynes Crematorium or your own funeral director about this.

What do we need to put the ashes in?

Because this is a natural burial site if you choose to have the ashes interred in a container it will need to be made of natural materials which will biodegrade to leave behind no harmful substances. This means that you will need to choose a simple pine, cardboard or papier mache container. Alternatively the ashes can be interred straight into the plot.

How do you know where your plot will be?

You can choose which area of the site you would prefer the plot to be in and when it is time for the burial, the exact position of the grave will be the next available plot in that area. The grave position is recorded on a plan of the site and this will be kept in a Site Register, open to the public, held by The Parks Trust.

What memorials are allowed there?

Because we want to preserve the natural landscape of The Tree Cathedral we regret that no permanent memorials such as gravestones, markers or other mementoes are allowed.

There are a number of other ways that you can make a lasting tribute through memorial benches, trees, bat and bird boxes or through the donation of bulbs. You can find out more by calling The Parks Trust on 01908 233600 or emailing info@theparkstrust.com.

On the day of the interment, or to mark an anniversary you are welcome to leave a bunch or posy of flowers by the plot (these will be collected after 7 days).

Who do we pay?

Your fee will need to be paid to Milton Keynes Council. You can contact them on 01908 568112 or email crownhill@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Do we dig the plot ourselves?

No, that is done by the grave-digger.

Does anyone come along to assist on the date we choose?

Yes, a representative of Crownhill Crematorium will meet you, the plot will be prepared in readiness for you and will be back-filled after the ceremony.

When can the services take place?

Services can take place Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm. Weekend and bank holiday services are available at an additional charge.

Will the family have access to the site/plot for the rest of our lives?

Yes, the Tree Cathedral is open 365 days a year.

Will the site remain as a natural burial site in the future?

Yes, there is no likelihood whatsoever that any other development will take place at The Tree Cathedral.

Will it be possible to buy adjacent plots?

Yes, it will be possible to reserve adjacent plots in advance.

We are not sure if we will be able to visit the site prior to obtaining a plot. Are there any photos we can access to cross reference with a site map?

We will be able to provide you with a site map, referencing where your plot is. On the day of the service photos will be taken of the site to provide a visual reference.

Is the Tree Cathedral green burial site only for local people?

The Tree Cathedral is open to everyone, from any location – not just Milton Keynes. The service is available for any age, creed, race or nationality. Additional charges may apply for non residents of Milton Keynes Borough.

Is car parking available on site?

The Tree Cathedral has a dedicated pay and display car park. On the day of the service you will be able to park in our overflow car park at no charge.