

Grieving families invited to help create beautiful forest of trees in memory of late loved ones

10 October 2019



Salford families now have a space to plant memorial trees for their lost loved ones.

As part of the 'Life for a Life' scheme, residents are invited to plant trees at an 'organised forest' at medieval manor house Wardley Hall.

The Diocese of Salford and Life for a Life Charity hope the trees will grow into a beautiful forest overlooking the stunning Grade I-listed building.

It will be a place for residents to mourn and reflect.

The forest will be part of the Diocese of Salford's 'Laudato Si Centre' - an environmental project in response to Pope Francis' challenge for local people to take action on climate change.

A learning space for kids will also be built at the centre.

The first four trees were planted last week at the grand opening.



Bishop John hopes the forest and centre will make a positive impact (Image: Handover)

The Bishop of Salford, Rt Rev John Arnold, said: "People experience bereavement and loss in different ways.

"Memorial forests offer a particular way to cherish and remember lost loved ones.

"The forest is the Bishop's response to the Pope's call for members of the public to care for their environment.

"These plantations offer a quiet place of reflection and peace and can provide an alternative focal point in the journey of grief for an individual or a family.

"They also offer the opportunity to make a very positive impact for the care of our common home.

"A tree provides a lasting testimony of affection as it nourishes the air we breathe."

All the trees will be indigenous to the UK and able to absorb large amounts of carbon each year, producing high levels of oxygen.

As well as the Bishop of Salford, Rev John Arnold, the opening of the forest was attended by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant Paul Griffiths, the Ceremonial Mayor of Salford Charlie McIntyre and trustees from the organisations involved.



Vice Lord Lieutenant of GM Paul Griffiths after planting his tree (Image: Handover)

"What a privilege it is to be part of this wonderful and existing initiative and to be given the opportunity to partner with the Diocese of Salford in what is the 20th year celebrations of Life for a Life." Said Norman Armstrong-Kersh, Chief Executive of Life for a Life.

"This beautiful memorial forest will generate charitable funds, which will be donated back into the community for health related project to benefit so many people and at the same time greatly assist in developing and protecting the environment which is very important to us all."

Source: <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/grieving-families-invited-help-create-17053933>