

Consecration of Markyate's New Cemetery

On the morning of November 22nd 2023 the Parish Council was delighted to welcome The Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, The Bishop Of St Albans to the village, along with John Baldwin, Registrar of the Diocese. They were joined by Cllr Herbert Chapman, Chairman of Markyate Cemetery Committee, Terry Douris, Chairman of Hertfordshire Council, Rev Burke, Rev Drury, several Parish Councillors and some members of the public too.

The bishop expressed his happiness at being invited to conduct the consecration ceremony and told those assembled it is a service he rarely gets to undertake, this being only his fifth or sixth consecration. Councillor Chapman spoke of the importance to the people of Markyate of being able to lay their loved ones to rest and to visit them in the place they called home.

The service included a walk of the boundary of the consecrated area with the bishop reading the ceremonial words. Reverend Burke read from 1 Thessalonians 4 before the registrar presented the Deed for Consecration for signature and read the Sentence of Consecration. Those assembled recited the Lord's Prayer, followed by a final blessing from the bishop.



Everyone was pleased to retreat from the cold into the Y2K Hall for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat.



The Bishop of St Albans, the Diocesan Registrar, Councillors, Rev Burke, Rev Drury and members of the public following the service.

The Bishop of St Albans leading the service at Markyate Cemetery.