

HOLYHEAD JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–2026

Introduction

The Holyhead Joint Burial Committee is responsible for the administration and management of Maeshyfyrd Cemetery, Holyhead.

The Committee is made up of representatives from Holyhead Town Council and Trearddur Community Council, with Holyhead Town Council contributing seven-eighths of the cost of the service and Trearddur Community Council contributing one-eighth.

The Committee is a precepting authority in its own right and ordinarily meets on a quarterly basis. The Town Clerk of Holyhead Town Council acts as Clerk/Supervisor to the Committee.

Maeshyfyrd Cemetery

Maeshyfyrd Cemetery provides an important service to the communities of Holyhead, Trearddur and the surrounding area.

The Committee recognises that the cemetery is not simply a public facility, but a place of considerable personal importance to families and visitors. Maintaining the cemetery to a high standard and providing a respectful and professional burial service therefore remains at the heart of the Committee's work.

Cemetery staff work at Maeshyfyrd five days a week, with funerals also taking place on some Saturday mornings when required.

Maintaining High Standards

Throughout 2025/26, the Committee has continued to place significant importance on the appearance, maintenance and overall standard of Maeshyfyrd Cemetery.

The day-to-day work undertaken by cemetery staff ensures that the grounds remain well maintained and that families visiting the cemetery are provided with a dignified and respectful environment.

The Committee is extremely fortunate to benefit from experienced and dedicated cemetery staff. The Council's published information records that the Sexton has served at Maeshyfyrd for more than 40 years, with the Assistant also having more than 20 years' service.

Their experience and commitment have played an important role in maintaining the high standards expected at Maeshyfyrd.

Burial Services

The Committee continues to work closely with funeral directors, families and other relevant organisations to ensure that burials are undertaken professionally, sensitively and with the dignity required.

The administration of interments, cemetery records, memorial matters and associated enquiries continues to be managed through the Town Hall.

The Committee also manages requests relating to the placement of benches within Maeshyfyrd Cemetery, with prior permission required before a bench can be installed.

Historic Burial Records

Maeshyfyrd Cemetery has a significant historical record, with the Committee's burial records dating back to 1876.

These records continue to provide an important resource for families, researchers and those tracing their family history. Searches of the historic burial records can be undertaken by the Council upon request and subject to the applicable search fee.

Governance and Accountability

The Holyhead Joint Burial Committee remains committed to operating in an open, responsible and accountable manner.

As a public body and precepting authority, the Committee maintains its own financial and governance arrangements. Relevant notices, audit information, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Committee minutes are made available through the Holyhead Town Council website. The Burial Board page currently provides public access to Committee minutes and audit notices, including a 2025 audit completion notice.

Financial Management

The Committee continues to carefully manage the resources available to it while ensuring that Maeshyfyrd Cemetery can be maintained to the standard expected by residents.

The cost of operating the service is shared between the two constituent councils, with:

Holyhead Town Council – 7/8 contribution
Trearddur Community Council – 1/8 contribution

The Committee will continue to review expenditure, cemetery fees and future requirements to ensure that the service remains financially sustainable while continuing to provide a high-quality service to the community.

Looking Ahead – 2026/27

During the coming year, the Committee will continue to focus on the effective management and maintenance of Maeshyfyrd Cemetery.

Key priorities will include maintaining the high standard of the cemetery grounds, continuing to provide a professional and compassionate service to bereaved families, maintaining accurate burial records, ensuring appropriate financial management and planning for the cemetery's longer-term operational and maintenance requirements.

The Committee will also continue to consider opportunities to improve the cemetery and its facilities where appropriate and where resources allow.

Thank You

The Holyhead Joint Burial Committee would like to place on record its thanks to the cemetery staff for their continued hard work and commitment throughout the year.

The Committee also wishes to thank funeral directors, contractors, Council officers, elected Members and all those who work with the Committee in providing this important service to the community.

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