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## Derbyshire's new £4.5m crematorium and memorial park to open

By **Derby Telegraph** | Posted: January 01, 2015

By ROBIN JOHNSON



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Amber Valley Memorial Park and Crematorium is about to open. Manager Graham Winfield is pictured in the crematorium. Pictures: Geoff Girvan-Merryweather

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A DERBYSHIRE memorial park and crematorium costing millions of pounds is set to open for business tomorrow.

Amber Valley Memorial Park and Crematorium, in Derby Road, between Alfreton and Swanwick, will provide cremation and burial services in a parkland setting.

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The £4.5 million development will feature a chapel that will be able to seat up to 100 people, with additional space for about 100 people to stand.

Funded by Amber Valley Memorial Ltd, the work, which started in March, has been overseen by crematoria and cemetery operator Memoria.

Memoria has taken on four staff including Graham Winfield, who has been appointed as manager of the memorial park.

It has been created in response to a need for more cremation services in the area. According to Memoria, some 180,000 people live near to Amber Valley Memorial Park and Crematorium.

Of these, 94,000 will have previously lived over 30 minutes away from their nearest crematorium but will now be able to benefit from having a new facility much closer to home. Howard Hodgson, chairman of Memoria, said: "We identified a critical need for cremation and burial services in the area and believe that families will appreciate the opportunity to receive distinguished services in a beautiful setting."

Mr Hodgson said that the new facility would allow bereaved families to take their time when paying their respects to loved ones.

Mr Hodgson said: "The Amber Valley Memorial Park will help to alleviate the significant pressure on time slots, which is evident locally, by reducing waiting times for families who until now have not had a choice in the matter."

Service times will be available at one-hour intervals but can be extended further upon request, preventing any overlap of services or funeral cortege congestion.

Services can be of any religious denomination or non-religious. Late evening and weekend times can be arranged and the chapel will also be available for memorials and other services.



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Inside, the chapel has been fitted out with a Wesley music system, hearing loop to assist with hearing difficulties, organ, public address system, two plasma eulogy screens that can also be used to show personal photographs and a web cam for people who are unable to attend.

Mr Hodgson said: "We realise that we are unable to eradicate the pain of bereavement.

"However, we also know that it is our duty to be as efficient, kind, respectful and polite as humanly possible.

"The new memorial park will achieve this through the quality of service of our dedicated staff."

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