

A Time to Remember



For babies and children whose lives
have been cut short before or after birth

Saturday 2 December 2023
at 10.30am

St Luke's Chapel
Denmark Hill, London

We hope you will find some comfort from the words, music and silence that make up our time together.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the contribution of the many people who have given of their time to help prepare and support this ceremony of remembrance.

The Chaplaincy would like to express their thanks to Shivonne Simpson and Linda Sherratt for singing, and John Webber for playing the organ

Practical Information

The date for next years Baby and Children's Memorial Service will be Saturday 7 December 2024 at 10.30am and 2pm.

Welcome and Introduction

A representative from the Trust Board: Angela Helleur, site CEO of PRU and South Sites

The Reverend Phyllis Barnett, King's College Hospital Chaplain

We come here today in remembrance, to honour our children who have touched and enriched our lives.

It is a bittersweet moment, for in the midst of life we have been confronted with death. We may be at different stages in our grieving and experiencing a multitude of feelings as we approach this ceremony. While coming from many different backgrounds and beliefs, we are united by our love for our precious children who have died.

Therefore through words, music, and action we shall remember them.

Lighting the Candles of Grief, Memory and Hope

A Candle of Grief

When grief runs so deep and tears fall like rain
Why light a candle when grief's all that remains?
And grief is so real that tears can't be shut
So we light a candle to acknowledge our hurt
It is because we love and delighted in who you were, and would become,
that we feel such sorrow
So as we walk the path of pain and grief, may we slowly move towards
healing, peace and strength.

A Candle of Memory

When memories are hard and we're brittle by pain
Why light a candle to remember again?
And the hurt is so deep that we shrink from its touch
But we light a candle because we love so much
And in the lighting, that love is renamed
In remembering gently, love is claimed
We light this candle in remembrance of you.

A Candle of Hope

In the hopeless days when despair grips tight
Why light a candle when nothing is right?
And the darkness is deep as deep as the tomb
So we light a candle to light up the gloom
And in the lighting as we are lit by the flame
Bathed in God's love we hope to hope again



© Rev Brian Taylor, Chaplain Dudley Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (adapted)

Reading: Still

In the beginning, you were still.

Before you were moving we felt you, we knew you, we spoke to you, we loved you, then you grew and you moved, you kicked and you turned, you wriggled and you hiccupped. We felt you, we knew you, we spoke to you, we loved you, we made plans for you, we were excited for you, we were ready for you, we eagerly awaited the moment of that first cry from you.

But then you stopped moving, you became still once again. Yet we still felt you, we still knew you, we still spoke to you, we still loved you. We yearned for you and hoped for you. We prayed for you and bargained for you. We loved you and needed you, and dreamed that perhaps you would still cry, but when you were born you were still.

Yet still our eyes saw you and they see you still,

Still, our arms held you and they hold you still.

Still, our voices spoke to you and they speak to you still.

Still, our hearts loved you and they love you still.

Still, our hearts cried for you and they cry for you still.

Tears of sadness, tears of love, tears of wishing time hadn't stood still for you. You are still our precious child, we are still your parents. With what we still have we carry on, we still have love, we still have you, you are still in our hearts forever.

Claire McGee (adapted)

Solo: Shivonne Simpson

Reading: My Daddy's Grief

If you ask my Dad how he feels
He'll probably be as quiet as the midnight air
Because of this horrible pain he tries to bare
And If you ask him and he just quietly sighs
Look harder, you'll see the pain in his eyes

Even if he does happen to tell you he's coping
Then that just surely means.....He is hoping
If he happens to mutter, I'm surviving today
Then trust me, you know he's really not Ok

He has been so very quiet since that awful day
It's just so hard for him to find the words to say
He really thinks he has to be stronger than steel
But he is just very fragile, suffering this ordeal

He feels like he has to hide away all those tears
Just suck it all in, and show no one his fears
I'm his child in heaven, and he's hurting so bad
He gets up and goes every day, even though he's sad

He watches my mummy cry and holds her so tight
He always tears up, but holds back with all of his might
If you ask, how are you today? and he says I'm just fine
He's really not; he needs a hug, that's definitely a sure sign

His heart is burdened with such terrible doubts
I know he loves me very much and he thinks of me each day
But his poor heart is so broken, so please help him find a way
To find peace, comfort and a voice to shed his grief and pain

For without it, he cannot start to heal and lighten grief's stain
Also tell him its ok to lose it, break down and shed those tears
Because it takes more strength to cry, then to hold back the fears
I love you daddy, I'm always here with you, we're never far apart
So for me, could you begin to heal and open up your heart.

In Loving Memory of my Angel Boy, Matthew Hunter Vinson
Author JP Vinson Written February 7, 2013

Reading: Light a Candle for you

And I will light a candle for you.
To shatter all the darkness and bless the times we knew.
Like a beacon in the night
The flame will burn bright and guide us on our way.
Today I light a candle for you.
The seasons come and go, and I'm weary from the change.
I keep on moving on, you know it's not the same.
And when I'm walking all alone
Do you hear me call your name?
Do your hear me sing the songs we used to sing?
You filled my life with wonder, touched me with surprise,
Always saw that something special deep within your eyes.
And through the good times and the bad,
We carried on with pride.
I hold onto the love and life we knew.
And I will light a candle for you.
To shatter all the darkness and bless the times we knew.
Like a beacon in the night
The flame will burn bright and guide us on our way.
Today I light a candle for you

Paul Alexander

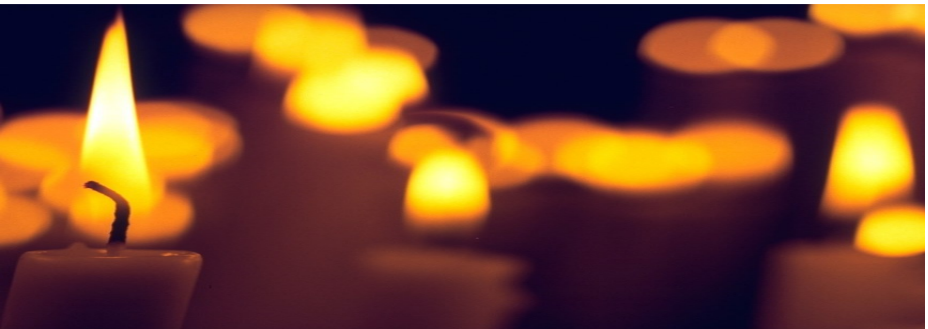
Solo: Linda Sherratt

Lighting our Candles of Remembrance

We hold in our hearts our babies and children who have died, may they rest in peace.

As we come to light these candles, the mystery of life and death is before us. As we come to light these candles, we carry in our hearts our cherished and loved children, who are very much part of us.

These candles symbolise a variety of meaning for each of us, remembrance, hope, grief, peace, thankfulness....



A Time of Prayer and Meditation

We remember with sadness and thanksgiving all our children who we no longer see, but who hold their unique place within our family and home. We pray for them today and for one another.

To you gentle and compassionate God, we entrust these children so precious in your sight. Be with each one of us as we remember those who have died recently and in past years. We entrust them to your love, to be held in your presence, where there is no sorrow, no weeping, no pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with you for ever and ever.

Silence

We pray for our families - for grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends - whose lives have also been touched and changed by the loss of our children.

Silence

We give thanks for all those who have cared for us, who have listened to our needs and who have dried our tears. We especially give thanks for the work of the many organisations and professional bodies who care for the bereaved. We ask that as they have helped us, so may they continue to be blessed in all that they do.

Silence

We offer our thanks for all who have stood by us in our pain, the doctors and nurses, midwives, healthcare workers and chaplains, who offer comfort, as we try to make sense of those things, which can never really be explained. We pray also for the work of those dedicated to research into the causes of our loss.

Silence

As we bring our own needs today, may we draw strength from one another. Strangers perhaps, but also friends, because together we shared the path of sorrow. We draw strength, too, from our children, because, in so short a time they have given us much. We have lost much; but

there is much that is so precious that no one can ever
take away from us.

May we have strength for each new day

To weep when we should weep

To accept the comfort that memories bring

And to face the future with courage.

May we know God's peace, so that we can bring peace to others.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Affirmation of our Remembrance

When we are weary and in need of strength.

When we are lost and sick at heart.

We will remember them.

When we have a joy we crave to share.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make.

We will remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter.
At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring.
We will remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer.
At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn.
We will remember them.

At the rising of the sun and at its setting.
We will remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live.
For they are now a part of us.
As we remember them.

Adapted from a Jewish Funeral Prayer

Sometimes

Sometimes, when the sun goes down, it seems it will never rise again... but it will

Sometimes, when you feel alone, it seems your heart will literally break in two... but it won't.

And sometimes, it seems it's hardly worthwhile carrying on... but it is.

For sometimes, when the sun goes down,
It seems it will never rise again,
But it does

Frank Brown

Hymn: Away in a manger

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes
I love You, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
Until morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask You to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Your tender care
And fit us for heaven
To live with You there



Blessing

Bless, O God, the road that is before us

Bless, O God, the friends and family that surround us

Bless, O God, your love that is within us

Bless, O God, the light that leads us home

May the God of peace himself grant you peace,

at all times and in all ways. **Amen**



A memorial plaque has been placed at Honor Oak Crematorium in memory of babies born at King's. There is also a memorial plaque at West Norwood Cemetery situated near to the main gate, and a plaque at F.A. Albin & Sons in their Memorial Garden. Please feel free to ask for more details, telephone the Chaplain's office on 020 3299 3522 or email on kch-tr.chaplains@nhs.net.

Support available

The Good Grief Trust

Help and hope in one place

www.thegoodgrieftrust.org

hello@thegoodgrieftrust.org

Child Bereavement UK

Rebuilding Lives Together

Web: helpline@childbereavementuk.org

Tel: 0800 0288840

Child Death Helpline

0800 282 986 (Helpline) www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk

The Compassionate Friends

0345 123 2304 helpline@tcf.org.uk

Cruse Bereavement Care

0808 808 1677 (Helpline & young persons' Helpline)

www.cruse.org.uk

The Lullaby Trust (Formerly Study of Infant Deaths)

0808 802 6868 Bereavement Support www.lullabytrust.org.uk

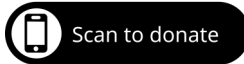
Winston's Wish

(Support for bereaved children & young people)

08088 020 021 ask@winstonswish.org







If you would like to make a donation of any amount towards the cost of our memorial services, please use the link here and select Chaplaincy
Thank you