

A Time to Remember



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

**Saturday 6th December 2025
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 Linda Sherratt for singing, and John Webber for playing the organ.

Thanks are also extended to our CEO Professor Clive Kay for funding the refreshments and to King's College Hospital Charity for funding our organist.

The date for next years Baby and Children's Memorial Service will be Saturday 5th December 2026 at 10.30am and 2pm.

Welcome and Introduction

Professor Clive Kay, Chief Executive Officer

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 sadly died.

It is 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 brittled 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)

(Music for personal reflection)

Reading: Little Hands

Your little hands so soft and still, I held them in my own,
Whilst wishing we had more than just a handprint coming home.
I studied every nail and line and every inch of you,
And cried for all the things your little hands would never do.

I'd never get to clean your hands, there'd be no messy play,
I'd never see your fingers point to things you'd try to say.
I'd never hear the sound they'd make whilst splashing in the bath,
Or how they'd cover up your lips whilst trying not to laugh.

I wish so much I could have taught you how to write your name,
Or watched your little hands outstretched to play a catching game.
Your little hands would never feel a scrape or gain a scar,
Nor would they play an instrument or learn to drive a car.

Your precious little hands, forever left unchanging,
No exploring, falling, climbing, drawing and no ageing,
My only wish for you and I, is that we had more time,
Because I could have spent forever, with your little hands in mine.

Written by Lindsey



Reading: Dad's Hurt Too

People don't always see the tears a dad cries
His heart is broken too when his child dies
He tries to hold it together and tries to be strong
Even though his whole world has gone wrong

He holds his wife as her tears fall
And comforts her through it all
He goes through his day doing what he's supposed to do
But a piece of his heart has been ripped away too

When he's alone, he lets out his pain
And his tears come down like pouring rain
His world has crashed in around him
And a world that was once bright, has gone dim

He searches for answers but none are to be found
Hides behind a mask, when feeling down
He smiles through his tears and holds in his fears
But what you see on the outside is not always real

Dads don't always show how they really feel
So I'd like to ask a favour of you
The next time you see a mother hurting over the loss of her child
Please remember....Dad's hurting too.

Author Unknown

Solo: Linda Sherratt

Reading: As long as we can Dream

As long as we can dream, as long as we can think
As long as we have memory
We will love you
As long as we have eyes to see and ears to hear and lips to speak
We will love you
As long as we have a heart to feel, a soul stirring within us,
And imagination to hold you
We will love you.
As long as there is time,
As long as there is love and as long as we have breath to speak your
name
We will love you.

Author Unknown

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 you 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

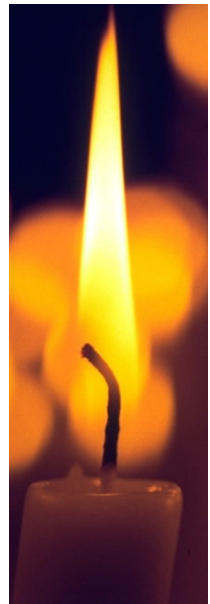
Frank Brown

Christmas Carol: 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 heavens 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 Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee 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

End



Remember Me

I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.

So as you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful sea
– remember me.

As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its grand majesty
– remember me.

As you look at a flower and admire its simplicity – remember me.
Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, your memories.

For if you think of me, I will never be gone.

Margaret Mead (adapted)



Support available

The Good Grief Trust

Help and hope in one place.

Web: www.thegoodgrieftrust.org

hello@thegoodgrieftrust.org

Cruse Bereavement Support

Providing information to anyone who has been affected by a death. Offering education, support, and information to anyone supporting bereaved people.

Tel: 0808 8081677

Web: www.cruse.org.uk

Samaritans

24-hour confidential emotional support for anyone in a crisis.

Helpline: 116 123 (24 hours)

Web: www.samaritans.org

AtaLoss

Providing the UK's signposting website for bereaved people, ensuring they and those supporting them find information and services appropriate to their loss.

Web: www.ataloss.org

The Silver Line (run by Age UK)

Friendship and support for older people.

Tel: 0800 4708090 (24 hours)

Web: www.thesilverline.org.uk

Compassionate Friends

Support and friendship for bereaved parents and their families.

Helpline: 0345 1232304 (Open 10am - 4pm, 7-10 pm every day of the year)

Web: www.tcf.org.uk

Email: helpline@tcf.org.uk

Child Bereavement UK

Rebuilding Lives Together

Tel: 0800 0288840

Web: helpline@childbereavementuk.org

Child Death Helpline

Tel: 0800 282 986 (Helpline)

Web: www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk

The Lullaby Trust (Formerly Study of Infant Deaths)

Tel: 0808 802 6868 Bereavement Support

Web: www.lullabytrust.org.uk

Winston's Wish

(Support for bereaved children & young people)

Tel: 0808 802 0021

Email: ask@winstonswish.org

St Christopher's Children and Young People's Bereavement Service (Candle)

Offers support for children and young people, provides specialist training and advice for schools, parents and professional carers supporting young people facing bereavement.

Tel: 0208 768 4533

Email: candle.bereavement@stchristophers.org.uk

Sands

Supports anyone who has been affected by pregnancy loss or the death of a baby before, during or shortly after birth.

Helpline: 0808 164 3332

Email: helpline@sands.org.uk



A memorial plaque has been placed at Honor Oak Crematorium in memory of babies born at King's College Hospital. 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.



Forthcoming events 2025

Salvation Army Christmas Carolling

Monday 15th December, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill

Friday 19th December, The Princess Royal University Hospital

Carols by Candle Light Services

5pm, Thursday 18th December, King's College Hospital,
Denmark Hill, Luke's Chapel

4pm, Tuesday 16th December, Princess Royal University Hospital, Chapel

Christmas Day

10am, 25th December, Church of England Christmas Eucharist

11am, 25th December, Catholic Christmas Mass

New Years Day

11am, 1st January 2026, Catholic Mass

For further details please contact the Chaplaincy Team

Email: kch-tr.chaplains@nhs.net

Tel: **020 3299 3522**

