King's college hospital charity

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A Time to Remember



Saturday 7th November 2026 at 2pm

King's College Hospital
Princess Royal University Hospital
Orpington Hospital

Saint Luke's Chapel
Denmark Hill, London

King's College Hospital welcomes you to
'A Time to Remember'

We hope you will find comfort from the words, music and silence as we gather for this service of remembrance.

Acknowledgements

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

The Chaplaincy Team would like to express their sincere thanks to Linda Sherratt, Kings College Hospital Choir and John Webber for their musical contribution to our service today

Gratitude is also extended to our Chief Executive Matthew Trainer, for kindly funding the refreshments provided after the service, thanks also to King's College Hospital Charity for funding the printing of the Order of Service.

Practical information

The date for next year's Adult Memorial Service will be Saturday 6th November 2027 at 2pm.



Welcome and Introduction

Trust Board Executive
Reverend Phyllis Barnett, Chaplain

We gather here today to remember, celebrate and give thanks for those we love, who have touched and enriched our lives.

It is a bittersweet moment, in the midst of life, we have been confronted with the death of those we love.

As we gather today, we may be at different stages in our grieving and experiencing a multitude of feelings as we approach this ceremony.

While we may come from many different backgrounds and beliefs we are united by our love for those we love, who have died.

It is through words, music and action, that we shall remember and celebrate 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 sorrow remains?
The pain is so real, and the tears cannot hide,
so we light this candle with our grief by our side.
For because we have loved, and delighted in who you were,
and in all you might have become, we feel this loss so deeply.
As we walk this path of sorrow and pain,
may healing and peace come gently again.

A Candle of Memory

When memories are tender and touched still by pain,
why light a candle to remember again?
The ache can be deep, and the longing so much,
yet we light this candle, held close by love's touch
And in its soft glow, we remember with love
those who are missed and never forgotten.
We light this candle in remembrance of you.

A Candle of Hope

In the hopeless days when despair holds tight,
why light a candle when little feels right?
When the darkness is deep and the road seems long,
we light this candle to help us stay strong.
And in its lighting, as we gaze on the flame,
may hope find a way to rise once again.
Held in God's love, and bathed in His light,
may we find strength for tomorrow, and peace for tonight.

Personal reflection (while music is played)

Reading: In our hearts and minds

We stand motionless,
consumed in grief.
Sorrow has arrived,
as an unwanted thief.



We've all gathered here,
in remembrance and love.
Our questions pointing,
at the grey sky above.

Why did you go,
why did you leave?
Life without you,
is so hard to conceive.

Our hearts are damaged,
and scarred severely.
We miss you,
much more than just 'dearly'.

For having you in our lives,
we've all been blessed.
But the time had arrived,
for you to find rest.

We promise to cherish,
our memories of you.
You shall live in our hearts,
and in all that we do.

Unknown author

Reading: For this moment

For this moment,
we do not need to be strong.
We do not need to explain our grief
or find the right words for our loss.
We simply remember.

We remember the person,
We remember their face,
We remember their voice,
We remember their story
We remember that every life
is more than its final chapter.
And we give thanks
for all that was shared,
all that was given,
all that remains with us still.

Today, we come together to remember,
To remember lives that mattered,
and the countless moments,
both ordinary and extraordinary,
that made each life unique.
There may be sadness today,
because when someone has been precious to us,
their absence is deeply felt.
But alongside the sadness,
there can also be gratitude.
Gratitude for having known them
Gratitude for laughter remembered and moments shared
Gratitude for love received, love given, and for love that became part of our story.

Author unknown

Musical reflection: Kings College Hospital Choir

Reading: The Spirit

The Spirit is neither born, nor does it die at any time.
It does not come into being or cease to exist.
It is unborn, eternal, permanent and primeval.
The Spirit is not destroyed when the body is destroyed.
Weapons do not cut this Spirit,
Fire does not burn it,
Water does not make it wet,
and the wind does not make it dry.
It is eternal, all pervading, changeless and immovable.
It is beyond space and time

Bhagavad Gita 2:20

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

Soloist: Linda Sherratt

A Time to Remember

We invite you, to bring to mind a precious memory of your loved one. In peace we hold them in our hearts, and all those who have died, may they rest in eternal peace.

As we come to light these candles the mystery of life and death is before us, and we give thanks for those we carry in our hearts, because they are very much part of our story.

Candles symbolise an array of meaning, so we light this candle for you… In remembrance, With hope, With thankfulness, With love.



Musical reflection and candle lighting

Prayer and reflection

As we remember those who have died, we give thanks for their lives; for all they were, for all they gave, and for the difference they made in the lives of others.

We give thanks for the love we shared with them, for the relationships that enriched our lives, for moments of joy, kindness and laughter, and for the memories we continue to carry in our hearts.

We give thanks for their strength in times of adversity and illness, and for the courage they showed along life's journey. Freed now from pain and distress, may they rest in peace.

Silence

As those who remain, we are united in our loss and remembrance. Comfort all who grieve and strengthen us to support one another with compassion and understanding.

When the way ahead feels uncertain, grant us courage and hope. Help us to cherish the past, while finding strength to embrace the future.

Silence

We give thanks for the skill, dedication and care of the staff at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, Princess Royal University Hospital and Orpington Hospital.

For all who care for those approaching the end of life, grant compassion in their service, wisdom in their decisions, and gentleness in their care.

May they always honour the dignity of each person and recognise the preciousness of every life.

Silence

We give thanks for all who work in medical research, seeking new understanding, treatments and cures.

Grant them wisdom, insight and perseverance, that through their work suffering may be eased, health restored, and hope offered to future generations.

May their discoveries continue to bring comfort, healing and renewed possibilities to many.

Amen

You are invited, to join us, in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples.

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

Reading: With love we continue

Love has a remarkable way
of continuing.
It lives in the stories we tell,
In the things we find ourselves saying
because they once said them.
It lives in familiar places,
in treasured memories,
and sometimes in the smallest things
that suddenly bring someone close again.

Every life remembered here today
has touched other lives.
And perhaps that is where hope begins.
In knowing that something of those we love
travels onwards with us.

So may our memories not only take us back,
but gently lead us forward.
May they inspire us to love more freely,
to speak more kindly,
to notice one another,
to cherish the ordinary moments,
and never to underestimate
the difference one human life can make.

And when we leave this place today,
We remember.
We give thanks.
We carry them with us.
And, with love, we continue.

Hymn: Abide with me

Solo: Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens: Lord with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day:
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see:
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

All **I need thy presence every passing hour;**
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ill's have no weight, and tears no bitterness,
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy Cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord abide with me.



Blessing and farewell

Let us give thanks for those who, with love shared our sorrow and offered help and support.

Let us go out into the world.
glad that we have loved,
free to weep for the ones whom we have lost,
free to hold each other in our human frailty,
empowered to love in full.
and to affirm the hope of human existence.

Amen



There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues.

They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love.

Washington Irving

Support available

Cruse Bereavement Support
Tel: 0808 8081677
Web: www.cruse.org.uk
Providing information to anyone who has been affected by a death. Offering education, support, and information to anyone supporting bereaved people.

Samaritans
Helpline: 116 123 (24 hours)
Web: www.samaritans.org
We're Here to Listen — We Support Anyone Who Needs Help. Whatever You're Going Through. Get in Touch About Anything That's Troubling You No Matter How Big or Small. You Talk, We Listen. 24/7 Confidential Support. Mental Health Charity. 24-hour confidential emotional support for anyone in a crisis.

AtaLoss
Web: www.ataloss.org
Guiding you through grief with information and helplines tailored to your needs.

The Silver Line (run by Age UK)
Tel: 0800 4708090 (24 hours)
Web: www.thesilverline.org.uk
Friendship and support for older people.

Compassionate Friends
Helpline: 0345 1232304
Open Mon – Thurs 10am – 4pm, 7pm – 9pm, Fri 10am – 4pm
Web: www.tcf.org.ukhelpline@tcf.org.uk
Support and friendship for bereaved parents and their families.

The Good Grief Trust
Web: www.thegoodgrieftrust.org
hello@thegoodgrieftrust.org
Help and hope in one place

Help for young people and children

Child Bereavement UK
Tel: 0800 0288840
Web: www.childbereavementuk.org
Rebuilding Lives Together
Charity that offers support to young people who have experienced bereavement.



If you would like to support the work of King's College Hospital Chaplaincy Team, please scan the QR code to make a donation. Your generosity helps us to continue offering these times of Remembrance to patients, families and staff.

Forthcoming events

Interfaith Week Sunday 8th - Sunday 15th November

To strengthen interfaith relations, increase understanding between different faith and non-religious communities, and highlight the contributions of these groups to society. The theme for 2026 is "Lighting the way for a shared future"

Tuesday 11th November Armistice Service / Remembrance

10:50am Cross-site Remembrance Services, in our hospital chapels, commemorating the men, women and children who died as a result of conflict.

Saturday 5th December - Baby and Children's Memorial Service

10:30am and 2pm Babies and Children's Memorial Ceremony
'A Time to Remember' Denmark Hill Site

Salvation Army Christmas Carolling

King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill: 9th December
The Princess Royal University Hospital, 22nd December

Carols by Candle-Light Services

Thursday 17th December 5pm King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, St Luke's Chapel
Tuesday 15th December 4pm Princess Royal University Hospital, Restaurant

Christmas Day Services

Church of England Christmas Eucharist 10am
Roman Catholic Christmas Mass 11am

For further details please contact the chaplaincy.
Email: **kch-tr.chaplains@nhs.net**
Tel: **020 3299 3522**

Produced October 2026