



A Time to Remember



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

**Saturday 7 December 2024
at 2pm**

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 and Shivonne Simpson 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 Medirest for catering.

Practical Information

The date for next years Baby and Children's Memorial Service will be Saturday 6 December 2025 at 10.30am and 2pm.

Welcome and Introduction

A representative from the Trust Board: Tracey Carter, Chief Nurse & Executive Director of Midwifery, and The Reverend Phyllis Barnett, Chaplain, King's College Hospital.

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)

(Music for personal Reflection)

Reading: Memories of You

I remember everything about you,
your voice, your smile, your touch,
the way you walked, the way you talked,
the way you looked at me meant so much.

I remember the words you said to me,
some funny, some kind, some wise,
all of the things you did with me,
I see now with different eyes.

I remember moments we shared,
seems like only yesterday,
or maybe it was ages ago,
It's really hard to say

I know that you have left us now,
but one thing that can't be taken away,
your memory remains inside my heart,
and lights up my darkest days.

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

Solo: Shivonne Simpson

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 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

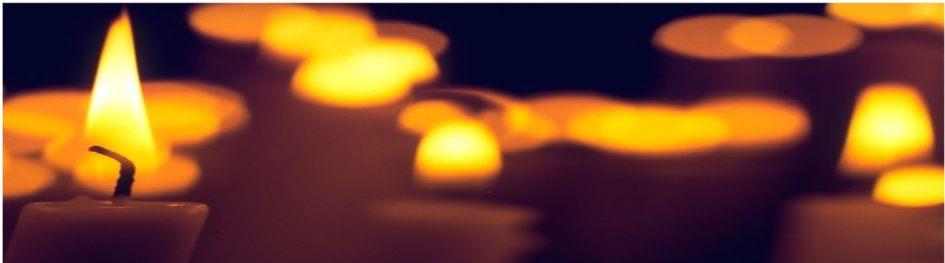
We offer our thanks for the doctors and nurses, midwives, chaplains and healthcare workers who have stood by us in our pain, and who have helped us to make sense of those things which can never really be explained. We pray also for the work of those dedicated to research into the causes of our loss.

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.

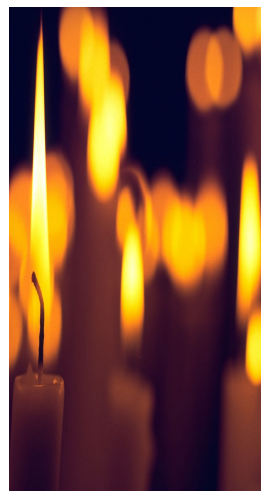
We will remember them.

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



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

Christmas Carol: The First Noel

The First Noel the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds

in fields as they lay;

In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

***Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.***

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.**



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 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.

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

Web: www.thegoodgrieftrust.org

Email: hello@thegoodgrieftrust.org

Child Bereavement UK

Rebuilding Lives Together

Web: helpline@childbereavementuk.org

Tel: 0800 0288840

Child Death Helpline

Tel: 0800 282 986 (Helpline)

Web: www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk

The Compassionate Friends

Tel: 0345 123 2304

Email: helpline@tcf.org.uk

Cruse Bereavement Care

Tel: 0808 808 1677 (Helpline & young persons' Helpline)

Web: www.cruse.org.uk

The Lullaby Trust (Formerly Study of Infant Deaths)

Tel: 0808 802 6868 Bereavement Support

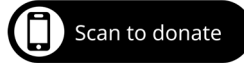
Web: www.lullabytrust.org.uk

Winston's Wish

(Support for bereaved children & young people)

Tel: 0808 802 0021

Web: 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
above and select Chaplaincy.

Alternatively donation plates are available
at the back of the chapel.

Thank you