



Care
Compassion
Understanding

Remember a loved one this Christmas with St Catherine's Hospice Tree of Light

Sunday 7 December 2008



Why is Tree of Light special?

Christmas is a special time of year for families and friends, but for many people who have lost someone close, it can be a time of sadness. We understand this and are here to help.

If you are thinking about a loved one who won't be with you this Christmas, our Tree of Light Service provides you and your family with the opportunity to reflect and remember someone special. Everyone is welcome, regardless of whether the loss is recent, some time ago, or if the person being remembered was cared for by St Catherine's or elsewhere.

Emily Russell's husband Mike died at St Catherine's in 2006 and Emily attended our Tree of Light service in 2007.

"It's helpful to have the service in the lead up to Christmas which can be a difficult time.

The hospice has no expectation that you have got over your loss. They understand your feelings and it makes you feel very safe, very accepted for who you are and that it's OK to still feel like a jelly wreck sometimes! The service allows you to have the space to remember whilst knowing that everyone else there understands.

You are allowed to feel comfortable, to think about the person who is important to you and to do so amongst a community of other people in the same position as you."



Emily and Mike Russell

Remembering a loved one

Many people find that sponsoring a light on our tree is also a positive way to remember a loved one or friend. All names sponsored will be entered into our Book of Remembrance which will be displayed at the main service at K2.

In recognition of your donation, you will receive confirmation that your light will be shining on our tree. You will also receive a “candle” decoration. You might like to hang this at home or place it on the special trees before the main St Catherine’s service at K2. If you are attending an alternative service, we will be pleased to hang the decoration on your behalf.

The Tree of Light will be lit during the service and will then shine outside the hospice throughout the Christmas period. Trees holding the candle decorations and

the Book of Remembrance will also be on view in the hospice building.

Emily said, ‘putting a candle on the tree felt right – the knowledge that the trees with their lights were going back to the hospice is comforting. The fact that the hospice had gone to the trouble to organise moving the trees was a powerful message – this showed we were not forgotten, St Catherine’s shared this experience with us, a time that was very difficult, and they’re still here for us. We are not left adrift.

By joining me in sponsoring a light we can all keep our precious memories alive. Like me, you will also know that the money raised will help St Catherine’s support even more local people in need.’

To attend, simply complete the RSVP slip, indicating which service you would like to join and return it to us by 19th November 2008.

The main Tree of Light service will be held from 4pm on 7th December at K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley. Additional smaller services will be at:

St Mark’s Church (with Reigate Methodist and St Phillip’s Church),
Reigate at 6pm on 30th November

All Saints Church (with Haven Baptist and Worth Abbey Roman Catholic Church),
Crawley Down at 6pm on 7th December

Christ Church URC, Pound Hill at 6.30pm on 7th December

St Mark’s Church, Horsham at 6.30pm on 7th December

St Bartholomew’s Church, Horley at 6.30pm on 7th December

Trafalgar Road Baptist Church, Horsham at 6pm on 7th December

St Swithun’s Church, East Grinstead at 6.30pm on 7th December

St John’s Church, Felbridge at 6.30pm on 14th December

We look forward to seeing you and your family.

Gift Aid

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Make your gift worth more

If you are a UK taxpayer, ticking the Gift Aid box means that for every £1, we can claim an additional 28p from HM Revenue and Customs and it costs you nothing!

Please just read and sign the statement below

I am a UK taxpayer and I would like St Catherine's Hospice to treat all donations I have made for the six years prior to this year and all donations I make in future as gift aid donations, until I notify you otherwise.

Signature:

Date:

Tree of Light Service *RSVP*

I/We will be attending the Tree of Light Service at K2 on Sunday 7th December, 2008 from 4pm

Or

I/We will be attending the service at:

Numbers that will be attending:

To allow us time to prepare the Books of Remembrance and plan refreshments please return this form by 19th November 2008 to:

Catherine Ely
St Catherine's Hospice
Malthouse Road
Crawley
RH10 6BH





Tree of Light Service at K2

- 4pm** Music on arrival and opportunity to hang candle decorations
- 4.30pm** Service begins including carols, readings, time for reflection and lighting the Tree of Light
- 5.30pm** Service ends followed by refreshments and the opportunity to speak to our bereavement team

For more information on the service, please visit our website www.stch.org.uk

St Catherine's Hospice

St Catherine's Hospice is a charity dedicated to providing specialised end of life care and support to local people, their families, friends and carers.

For 25 years we have been providing high quality hospice care, free of charge, to people living in Crawley, Horsham, Mid-Sussex and South East Surrey.

Hospice care is based on the belief that each person is more than their illness, and each of us has unique physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs.

St Catherine's responds to the needs of each individual. We are committed to relieving pain and anxiety, and to helping people achieve the best possible quality of life.

St Catherine's critically relies on voluntary donations and legacies. Our care is only made possible thanks to the generosity of supporters and volunteers. Each year we need to raise more than £4.8million of voluntary income to fund our work.

www.stch.org.uk

St Catherine's Hospice

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