ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE

Matters

STORIES | IMPACT | COMMUNITY

AUTUMN 2026



Making Moments Matter
A special wedding at our hospice

Reflections from Giles
Our retiring Chief Executive

Honouring Jim's Care
Barbara's lasting gift to us



Hello...

Welcome to your new-look Matters bringing you news and stories from across St Catherine's. Thank you to everyone who attended focus groups or provided feedback which helped inform these exciting changes to the length, size and design of the magazine.

We wanted to ensure that Matters continues to be relevant, fresh and engaging for our supporters and we hope you thoroughly enjoy reading the pages ahead. Please know that none of our work would be possible without the incredible support of people like you.

Thank you!

Philip Ingleby,
Chair of Trustees

Dates For Your Diary

Christmas Tree Collection
Bookings open from 15 November - Let us whisk away your tree in January!

Tree of Light
6 December - Hang your star to remember a loved one.

Reindeer Run
19 November and throughout December - Calling all little reindeers to get active for Santa!

Midnight Walk
26 June 2027 - Save the date for our flagship walk in Horsham.

Trek the Sahara
3-8 November 2027 - Take on this once-in-a-lifetime challenge.

To find out more visit stch.org.uk/events

What do you think of the new Matters? Please email us and let us know! communications@stch.org.uk



Thanks to the incredible support we received from our community, last year we:

Supported **1,756** patients in our community.

Made **3,609** visits to patients in their homes.

Cared for **264** patients on our Ward.

Received and responded to over **10,000** calls to our telephone Advice Line.

Provided **2,938** counselling sessions for patients and their loved ones.

Offered **1,347** patients and carers support from our Wellbeing Team.

Thank you for making this possible.















Making Moments Matter

When Andrew, a patient on our Ward, shared his wish to marry his long-term partner Jemma before he died, we worked together to make their special day possible.

Jemma shares what it meant to them and their family:

"Andrew and I had been engaged for a long time, and getting married was something that Andrew wanted to do. He spoke to Sue in the Wellbeing Team about whether it would be possible and the team turned the whole wedding around in about one week.

"Andrew was involved in the planning as much as possible. He spoke to the nurses on the Ward, it buoyed him along – because they were so excited about it, too.

"On the day, Andrew was able to be dressed in a suit, the staff sat him in a comfortable chair that could be wheeled into the room so that we could enter together.

> **He was happy and amongst friends, which is the memory that our children and I have taken away from it."** - *Jemma*

"Everyone was catered for thanks to the Kitchen Team; there was a lovely buffet of food to choose from. The effort that was made exceeded what we expected.

"I have happy memories from the day and how beautiful the room looked. You wouldn't have known we were in a hospice, which was important for our children. Our guests were happy to be there, and Andrew was so pleased that everyone had made it, and that his wish to finally be married was fulfilled."

To read Jemma's full story visit: stch.org.uk/jemmas-wedding

Giving That Goes Further

There are many ways to support our vital care, but some options are often overlooked. So, we're shining a spotlight on two lesser-known ways below:

Share Giving

If you own shares, you can transfer some to the hospice. This is one of the most tax-efficient forms of charitable giving, with potential Income Tax relief and Capital Gains Tax benefits.

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

A DAF is a charitable giving account. You can add cash, shares or other assets when it suits you, and recommend grants to your favourite charities over time. DAFs offer flexibility, convenience and potential tax benefits too.

Supporting St Catherine's helps me honour my late wife, Jenny, in a meaningful way. It gives me a sense of purpose and the reassurance that, through tax-efficient giving, my support makes an even greater impact for local people when it matters most."

- Supporter Terry



To find out more

about philanthropic ways of giving, please contact Bianca Donnelly on **01293 698373** or **biancadonnelly@stch.org.uk**

Our Award-Winning Volunteers



Volunteers are at the heart of St Catherine's, so it was wonderful to see some of them recognised at the Reigate and Banstead Volunteer Awards.

Sue Bracher

Was honoured for her staggering 41 years long service! From serving refreshments on our Ward in 1985, to assisting customers and sorting donations in our Horley Shop today, Sue's dedication and kindness make a real difference.

Lesley Ashworth

Received an Outstanding Commitment Award for her warm, selfless and optimistic nature, making her a wonderful volunteer colleague in the office.

Horley Shop Volunteers

Won a Volunteer Team Award. After a burst pipe devastated the shop in 2024, the volunteers (pictured above) worked together to clear and restore it. Since reopening, their commitment to fundraising continues.

Come and join our incredible team of over **1,000** volunteers who last year donated **124,800** hours of their time.

Visit: **stch.org.uk/volunteer** or call **01293 447351.**



Farewell Reflections from Giles

St Catherine's Chief Executive, Giles Tomsett, will retire at the end of January 2027. He shares his thoughts and reflections on his time:

"As I prepare to hang up my orange fleece for the final time, I feel deeply thankful that I have had the privilege of leading this incredible charity for 13 years.

"Whether you've worked for us, volunteered, donated, taken part in an event, left a gift in your Will or simply helped spread the word about our work, thank you."

"I came to this role following personal experience of friends who needed end of life care. I have learnt that the hospice sector is truly remarkable and that the St Catherine's engine is powered by supporters, staff and volunteers all working together with shared passion and drive to ensure the hospice delivers outstanding care at the toughest time of life.

"Thanks to you we have a wonderful new hospice, a new model for the delivery of specialist palliative care and while we still need a long-term, sustainable government funding model, we can confidently face the future enjoying the crucial support of our local community. I therefore have no doubt that St Catherine's will continue to thrive in the heart of the community long into the future, providing vital care for local people and their families when they need us most."



"Everything that we have achieved has only been possible because of teamwork."





I've left a gift in my Will because I want hospices like St Catherine's to flourish. They provide so many lovely caring touches that you just wouldn't get in hospital."

Honouring Jim's Care

Barbara has chosen to leave a gift in her Will after her husband Jim died in our care.

Barbara recalls: "A few days before Jim died, he had a surge of energy. When a Healthcare Assistant asked if there was anything he wanted, he said a bath and a glass of Guinness! So, she ran him a bath, gave him a head massage and then went to the nearest pub and returned with a Guinness.

The glass he drank from now sits beside Jim's photo at home as a reminder of that moment."

Last year 28 per cent of our voluntary income came from supporters like Barbara who kindly remember us in their Will.

To read Barbara's story visit:

stch.org.uk/barbaras-story

TREK THE SAHARA 2027

Are you looking for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure?

We're recruiting a small, exclusive team to Trek the Sahara for St Catherine's. Taking place from 3 to 8 November 2027, this unforgettable challenge across iconic landscapes promises rolling golden dunes, stunning sunsets and star-filled desert skies. It really is an adventure you'll remember forever.



Previous participant Anna said: **The Sahara Trek was incredible. The stunning scenery and amazing camaraderie made every step worthwhile, especially knowing we were supporting such an important charity."**

Tempted to walk the walk?

Come along to our information evening on Tuesday 3 November 2026 at 7pm.

Visit **stch.org.uk/sahara-2027**

Thank you

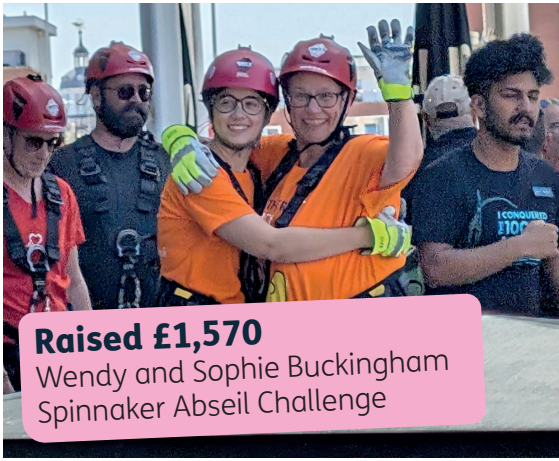
to our Fabulous Fundraisers!



Raised £5,330
Crowne Plaza Crawley staff fundraising and hosting our 2026 Volunteer Awards



Raised £451
Ifield Community College
12-Hour Charity Football Match



Raised £1,570
Wendy and Sophie Buckingham
Spinnaker Abseil Challenge



Raised £3,900
Liv and Mae Holmes
London Landmarks Half Marathon



Raised £1,856
Charlotte Simmons and Lisa James
London to Brighton Ultra Challenge

Visit us at: stch.org.uk, or call: 01293 447333

St Catherine's Hospice Crawley | @stcatherinescrawley

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