

YOUR SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



**THIS IS
HOSPICE
CARE** ♥

Leave a Gift in your Will and help it
live on **for all, for now, forever.**

Leaving a gift in your Will to Saint Michael's Hospice is a meaningful way to ensure our compassionate care continues for those who need us most, both now and in the future. Right now, 1 in 3 of our patients receive care thanks to these generous gifts, highlighting the powerful difference your kindness can make to those in our community in need of end-of-life care and emotional wellbeing support.

We're proud to be part of a nationwide campaign led by Hospice UK, uniting hospices across England, Scotland, and Wales to shine a light on the impact of gifts in Wills. Launching on 17 February 2025, the campaign features a powerful TV advert illustrating the profound support hospices provide to patients and their families when they need us most. The message of the campaign is simple:

'Help Hospice care live on for all, for now, forever.'

As part of the campaign, we are showcasing the incredible work and impact our hospice makes in our community, with real stories, real people and real moments that were made possible at Saint Michael's Hospice thanks to gifts left in Wills. Read Lesley and Steve's story on this page and in full by scanning the QR below:

Scan the QR code or visit saintmichaelsospice.org/wedding to read more about Lesley and Steve's wedding day.



REMEMBERING STEVE



Photo credit: Claire McClean, Wedding photographer

Lesley and Steve met by chance later in life when their paths crossed whilst working at the Knaresborough Vaccination Centre during the pandemic. Their romance slowly blossomed through friendship and laughter and it was apparent early in their relationship that they had each found their soulmate.

With big plans to share their lives, go on adventures, and build a home, Lesley and Steve's 'forever' was heartbreakingly cut short when Steve died at Saint Michael's Hospice on 31 July 2024.

Getting married was very important to both Lesley and Steve and something they had often talked about before Steve's diagnosis, Lesley said:

"Neither of us had ever felt like this about anybody else. It's not like we were young teenagers and had not experienced relationships. We knew we had something so special."

With their loving families around them, Lesley and Steve tied the knot at Saint Michael's Hospice, a precious memory that Lesley will cherish forever.





“Attending Saint Michael’s Wellbeing Drop-in was the most life-changing moment.”

David Terry, pictured with his wife Joceyln

After David Terry’s beloved wife Jocelyn died at our Hospice in October last year, he struggled with feeling incredibly low. With the help of our Wellbeing team and drop-in sessions, he’s found connection with others that has made his grief bearable and given hope.

“My feeling, at first, was that someone dealing with their own grief shouldn’t have to be constantly passing me tissues as I told Jocelyn’s story and cried. But they listened and they understood. Listening to them tell me their feelings following the death of a loved one, about being sad and lonely, but also, very importantly, about their staying hopeful and positive for the future, was truly inspiring.

“I can’t say enough good things about Saint Michael’s really- everybody at every level was amazing. I’ve got nothing but admiration for people providing end of life care every day.”

Our Wellbeing Drop-ins take place at our Hospice every Friday, 10.15am-12.15pm for anyone affected by terminal illness or bereavement.

Our Wellbeing Drop-ins are entirely reliant on community donations, receiving no statutory funding. Thank you for helping people like David to manage their grief.



“Everyone at Saint Michael’s listens and understands what I’m going through. They are all so lovely and caring.”

Julian Coulthard, pictured with his tapestry gift

Julian Coulthard, age 52, has been receiving our Breathing Space team’s support to manage symptoms of breathlessness. He describes the way in which Saint Michael’s has helped him feel relaxed and reassured.

“I have found the team’s help very useful. Dr Bethan, Elaine and Corrien have shown me exercises such as huffing to help clear the mucus from my lungs so I can breathe easier. The team have all supported me well.

“I’ve also had some Reiki sessions from Saint Michael’s complementary therapists, which have really helped me relax.

“I like to make tapestries and I recently gave one that I’d made to Saint Michael’s to brighten up the waiting room. It was my way of saying thank you for all they have done for me. I also hope it will be a legacy by which I can be remembered.”



REACHING MORE PEOPLE WITH OUR CARE THIS JANUARY

EXPERIENCE HELPING AT THE HEART OF OUR HOSPICE



63 new patients cared for through our specialist services, including our inpatient unit.

32 new patients cared for through our wellbeing services.



46 new patients cared for through our community services.

Looking to gain experience in healthcare, or considering a change of career?

We have a range of fantastic volunteering opportunities to try something new. From helping on our Inpatient Unit or with our Wellbeing team, to being part of the support teams powering our care.

You’ll boost your CV, see if such a role is for you and help make a difference to the people we care for. Our expert team will be on hand to help you develop your skills and support you through the journey.

Apply today at saintmichaelsospice.org/volunteer

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

JOIN OUR TWILIGHT WALK!

Our incredible Twilight Walk returns on Saturday 22 March, following the success of last year's event which raised over £27,000 for Saint Michael's Hospice and Just 'B' services.

Put on your pyjamas and come together with friends, family and even your dog for a sponsored trail like no other. Our breathtaking 4 mile route twinkles and sparkles, with views of historic Knaresborough as the sun goes down...



Whether you choose to walk in tribute to someone special, or just for fun, you'll be making a big difference to families living with terminal illness and bereavement right here in our community.

A MESSAGE FROM TONY, OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



A gift in your Will to Saint Michael's is the ultimate pledge to ensure we can be here for our community now, as well as plan our care for the future - at a time when sustainability for our sector has never been so crucial.

As you may be aware from the news and previous messages, the hospice sector is facing challenging financial pressures and some difficult periods lie ahead to ensure we can sustain and continue growing our care, in line with our strategic goals.

It's only with your ongoing support - with the majority of our care funded by your generosity - that we can do this. Without your remarkable help, which you provide in so many different ways day-after-day, our services won't be here for your community now, and in the years to come.

To put it plainly, we wouldn't exist without you. Thank you for all you continue to do.

Tony Collins

Claire joining in with the warm-up at last year's event!



Harrogate-based family and lifestyle blogger and influencer, Claire Lovatt-Jones of @theharrogatefam joined the Twilight Walk last year.

Talking about the event she said:

"Saint Michael's is extremely close to my heart as they looked after my grandma so well and supported all our family through a very difficult time. I will always offer my support as a way of thanking them for their amazing work with mine and so many local families.

"The Twilight Walk was a fantastic evening, having fun with friends, being able to enjoy our town on a leisurely walk and raising vital funds for Saint Michael's all in one. Even the kids loved it!"

The Event Hub at King James' School will be open from 4:30pm, with crafts, games and activities for all the family, with the walk starting shortly after 5:30pm following a gentle warm-up.



Scan the QR code to sign up!

GREAT NORTH RUN 2025

The Great North Run is the world's biggest half marathon (that's 13.1 miles!), with over 57,000 people taking part every year. With the ballot now closed, and places allocated, the only way to join in the fun is through a charity place.

By joining #TeamPurple, you'll help us provide vital care for our patients and their families. We believe no-one should have to face terminal illness alone and we're here to support local people and their families when they need us most.

Vicky Little, who ran the Great North Run last year to raise vital funds, said:

"I decided that signing up to do the Great North Run for Saint Michael's would make me accountable and make me stick to a training plan.

"I am so happy to have taken part in the Great North Run, I helped raise vital funds and on a personal level running for Saint Michael's helped me get back into running again."



Register your place! saintmichaelsospice.org/events 

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR CHARITY SHOPS

"It's a pleasure to help out here. I love meeting people who pop in."

The new space has a wonderful boutique feel and is even better than I expected."

SANDRA, BOROUGHBIDGE
SHOP VOLUNTEER



NEW BOROUGHBIDGE SHOP TALK OF THE TOWN

We're delighted to hear such fantastic feedback from our community about our new Boroughbridge shop. Pauline Phillips, the town's mayor, and Tony Collins, our Chief Executive (pictured above), officially opened the store at the end of last year.

With our hospice care free to all who need it right across the Harrogate district, we're so grateful for every purchase, donation and recommendation in towns like Boroughbridge.

Sustainable shopping is at the heart of our charity. We've intentionally fitted out our new Boroughbridge store with recycled fixtures to minimise environmental impact, as well as create a lovely, contemporary space.



BE A CHARITY SHOP HERO THIS YEAR

We're always keen to welcome new volunteers in our shops, and right across our charity.

Whether it's for social connection, work experience or skill development, we're a supportive team to join.

As Sandra explains above, it's a wonderful opportunity to make friends and have fun. Why not have a go? If you can lend a hand, pop into one of our stores or register your interest on our website.

See our current vacancies and register your interest for future roles at saintmichaelsospice.org/volunteer

KNARESBOROUGH RETAIL HUB TAKING DONATIONS

Our Donation Centre runs behind the scenes of our shops to bring you the very best items in each of our local stores, as well as online.

We're now welcoming donations directly to our Donation Centre, Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. If you would like to bring good quality preloved items along for us to sell, please first call 01423 872 654.

We're looking for clothes, shoes, books, toys and homeware, all sold to help power our vital services.

See map location and further contact details at saintmichaelsospice.org/stores/donation-centre