



Winter 2025

St Michael's
Hospice

Caring Times

Welcome to our festive Caring Times newsletter – bringing you the latest St. Michael's Hospice news and stories.

As the festive season is fast approaching, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on what you've helped us to achieve this year and what we can look forward to enjoying together this winter.

Whether you have supported by donating, volunteering, leaving a gift in your Will or helping to spread the word in your local community, we really do appreciate it. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to provide the vital care and services that so many families across North Hampshire rely on us for now and in the future.

It may come as a surprise, but **only 22% of our funding comes from the NHS**. That's why, as a charity, we rely so much on people like you to **raise the extra £14,500 a day we need to keep our services running**. End-of-life care is an essential service, not a luxury, yet it is not funded like other care services.

We're incredibly grateful for the support we



This festive season, we have a variety of events for everyone. From our uplifting Light up a Life remembrance event on Sunday, 7 December (page 2) to our family-friendly Reindeer Runs in Basingstoke and Alton (page 12).

receive from our community throughout the year, but the festive season, in particular, provides us with a special opportunity to come together. Our fun-filled Reindeer Runs in Alton and Basingstoke bring joy, while our annual Light up a Life event allows us to honour and celebrate the cherished memories of those no longer with us.

We also encourage you to support those in our community facing life-limiting illnesses by donating to our Last Christmas appeal. More details can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Thank you for being a true friend to St. Michael's Hospice and giving families the gift of choice, kindness and comfort at the end of life.

With best wishes,



Lorraine Pink, Deputy CEO & Director of Income Generation



Light up a Life

A special opportunity to celebrate a friend or loved one's memory with the warmth and love they brought to your life.



Sunday 7 December 2025

Church Service

As we approach the festive season, many of us will be thinking of friends or loved ones who are no longer with us and reflecting on the cherished memories we shared.

Although they won't be by your side, we hope you will find comfort in knowing their light continues to shine in your heart.

Through the Hospice's annual Light up a Life service, you have a special opportunity to celebrate their memory with the warmth and love they brought to your life.

We would like to invite you to dedicate a light to a friend or loved one you hold dear.

When you make a dedication, you become part of something truly beautiful: a community united by love, remembrance, and hope.

You will also have the chance to receive a Light up a Life keepsake to treasure at home during the festive season.

This year, we have chosen a robin design, as they are often seen as a comforting presence, offering a sense of closeness to those who are no longer with us.

Your dedication will help St. Michael's Hospice provide vital care to

families across North Hampshire this winter, many of whom are facing their final moments together.

Every light dedicated helps to ensure no one has to say goodbye alone.

How can you dedicate a light?

-  On the tree in the Hospice grounds
-  On one of our community trees across North Hampshire (locations listed on our website)
-  On our Virtual Tree (displayed online)

Shine a light on your loved one's life and honour their memory.



Robins appear when loved ones are near.

Following last year's positive feedback, we are once again hosting our Light up a Life service at St Joseph's Church, South Ham, on Sunday 7 December 2025.

To ensure we can accommodate everyone who wants to attend we will be holding two services this year for you to choose from:

 Service One: 3.30pm (arrivals from 2.30pm) — performances by a local school choir

 Service Two: 7pm (arrivals from 6pm) — performances by a local adult choir

Before each service, you can enjoy a hot drink and mince pies, view the Light up a Life message board, and purchase Christmas cards and gifts from our Hospice gift store, Gosling Gifts.

Both services include beautiful music, readings, and a moment of reflection.

Please note: All Light up a Life events are ticketed this year to help us manage numbers and keep everyone safe and comfortable.

Unfortunately, guests without a pre-booked ticket may not be admitted into

the service on the day.

For those who would prefer a quieter gathering, there will be a small, intimate Tree Blessing beside the tree in the St. Michael's Hospice grounds at 6pm on Thursday 4 December 2025. This will be a short 10-minute ceremony with our Hospice chaplain.

During 2025, St. Michael's Hospice has supported **over 1,500 patients and families**, completely free of charge. But we need to raise an additional **£14,500 per day** to continue this care, as we receive **only 22% of our funding from the NHS**.

By dedicating a light, you will help to ensure that future patients and families can receive the care they need.

Together, we can fill this festive season with light, remembering the past, supporting the present, and shining hope into the future.



Scan the QR code to dedicate a light to a loved one.



Last Christmas

What if this Christmas was your last?

Who would you want by your side? What moments would you treasure – the smell of mince pies, the sparkle of fairy lights, or simply the warmth of a loved one's hand?

For many patients being cared for by St. Michael's Hospice, this Christmas may be their last. With your support, we can make it as special and unique as they are – filled with comfort, love, and joy.

Your gift today will help families create precious memories that last a lifetime.

At St. Michael's, every patient is seen as an individual – with their own story, wishes, and hopes. Whether in our In-Patient Unit or at home, our dedicated team provides expert and compassionate care, taking the time to understand what matters most and ensuring patients can spend their final days with dignity and peace.

Care doesn't stop for Christmas, and with your help, neither do we.

By donating to our Last Christmas Appeal, you can bring warmth, comfort, and joy when it matters most.

With just 22% of our funding coming from the NHS, we face the challenge of raising £14,500 every single day to continue providing essential care – Christmas is no exception.

Please give today and help families create magical festive moments that will be cherished forever. Time with loved ones is the greatest gift we have. For some, this will be their last Christmas.

Scan the QR code, call 01256 848848 or visit stmichaelshospice.org.uk/last-christmas-appeal to donate now.

Thank you for your kindness!



Look what we have achieved

together

for families facing their final goodbye

For families facing the hardest goodbye, every moment matters. Every hug, every embrace, every second together is priceless. Cuddle beds make that possible.

At the beginning of 2025, only 1 in 10 families had access to a cuddle bed – leaving our team with heartbreaking decisions about who could be offered this comfort.

We believe no one should have to say goodbye from a distance. That's why we launched the Cuddle Bed Appeal in April and asked our community to help fund three additional beds.

The response was overwhelming, and we're thrilled to share that, thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, community groups, and corporate partners, we've now secured funding and pledges for not just three – but **all nine additional cuddle beds!**

"Words cannot express how grateful we are to the local community for supporting the Hospice to fund a Cuddle Bed for every room on our In-Patient Unit. This means that our

nursing staff will never have to choose who gets to be close to their loved ones at the end of life. Thank you."

– Karen Drake, Clinical Director at St. Michael's Hospice.

This means that every single room in our In-Patient Unit will soon have a cuddle bed, helping families stay close when it matters most.

"It warms my heart to know that other families will have what we had: to be together, to share warmth and love by simply being close to one another. Those final moments are so precious, and they stay with you." – Lynda, wife of patient, Rowland.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Cuddle Bed appeal to help bring comfort to patients and families.

You can support the future of hospice care and help us continue providing comfort, dignity, and compassion to local people at the end of life by donating to our Last Christmas Appeal (full details are over on page 4).





Holiday shopping with St. Michael's

Give a gift that goes further this festive season. Shop in one of our 11 stores across North Hampshire, online from our Gosling Gifts store or come along to our monthly Kilo Sales!

Discover the perfect party outfit, find thoughtful stocking fillers and funny secret santa gifts. With new items hitting our shop floors every day, no two shopping trips will be the same.

Every purchase will support local patients and their families, providing comfort and care while celebrating their last Christmas together in our hospice or

within their homes.

Are you looking to make space before the holidays? Whether you are reviewing your wardrobe, sorting through your children's old toys or recycling furniture – please consider donating your good quality items to St. Michael's Hospice.

Drop your kind donations to your local St. Michael's Hospice charity shop or large donations to our Donation Centre.

We host monthly Kilo sales on the first weekend of every month from our Furniture Store. All you need to do is bring a bag, fill it with the items you want and pay the weight (£10 per kilo).

Make sure to follow St. Michael's Hospice Retail – North Hampshire on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with all our retail news!



St. Michael's Hospice Gosling Gifts

Look no further for all your festive shopping needs! St. Michael's Hospice Gosling Gifts is fully stocked and ready for Christmas. Including a wide selection of Christmas cards, from traditional and festive to funny and whimsical – there is something for everyone.

Choose from a selection of stocking fillers, gifts and all your wrapping necessities, including money wallets and wrapping paper.

Order from our Gosling Gifts online by scanning the QR code, visit stmichaelshospice.org.uk or simply fill out the order form enclosed.



Shop Gosling Gifts

Will you do something extraordinary?

By sponsoring a nurse at St. Michael's Hospice and becoming a regular donor, you can make a lasting difference for families throughout North Hampshire.

At St. Michael's Hospice, we provide expert and compassionate care for people living with life-limiting illnesses, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Whether in our In-Patient Unit, in the community, or in the comfort of their home, we're here for people who need us.

But we simply wouldn't be here without you.

End-of-life care is an essential service, yet it is not funded in the same way as other care services. To keep the Hospice's services running, we need to raise an additional **£14,500 every day**.

Will you become part of something truly special? By giving regularly, you're becoming a vital part of a compassionate community that stands alongside those who need it most. Scan the QR code or visit stmichaelshospice.org.uk/sponsor-a-nurse to do something extraordinary today.

Thank you for making my work possible.

Amy

Hospice at Home Palliative Care Nurse



**Sponsor a Nurse
Make every day count**





Are you considering making a significant donation to support hospice care in North Hampshire? If so, we would love for you to consider becoming a Vice Patron or join our Patrons Circle.

Ongoing, regular support is the foundation that enables St. Michael's Hospice to support people across North Hampshire. Both provide vital, ongoing support that helps fund our clinical services. Members of the Patrons Circle generously make donations of £5,000 or more annually, while Vice Patrons contribute £1,000 or more each year.

"I lost my wonderful wife of 56 years almost 2 years ago. The ethos of the Hospice is nothing like our experience of the hospital - it feels like a home. The Hospice is "where you come to live". I'll forever be grateful for the care St. Michael's provided to me and my wife, and I'm now dedicated to supporting the future of hospice care. I am a volunteer, a proud member of the Hospice User Group (HUG) and Patrons Circle."

- Geoffery, member of the Patrons Circle

In appreciation of their generous support, all Vice Patrons and Patrons Circle members receive a special lapel badge and are invited to an exclusive annual drinks event hosted by our Chair of Trustees. This event is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow supporters and hear the latest updates from the Hospice.

Launched in 2024, our Vice Patrons and Patrons Circle has already brought together a remarkable group of supporters whose generosity greatly enhances our ability to deliver vital clinical services. We would love for you to join them.



If you're interested in becoming a Vice Patron or joining the Patrons Circle, please contact us at philanthropy@stmichaels hospice.org.uk or scan the QR code for more information.



Hospice Lottery Winner!

Congratulations to our hospice lottery winner, Jean!

"I couldn't believe it when I got the call to say I'd won! It's going to be such a wonderful surprise for the family at Christmas!" - Jean

Join the lottery that gives you a chance to win great cash prizes every week, PLUS an easy way to support your local Hospice!

"I've always supported St. Michael's Hospice as they were there for some of my close friends. It's such a wonderful place." - Jean

Playing the Local Hospice Lottery in

WEEKLY PRIZES:	£2,000 ★
	£1,000*
	Rollover
	£100
	8 x £25
	190 x £10
	201 weekly prizes totalling £5,200
Rollover can reach as high as	
£25,000	
£10,000 SUPER DRAWS	
Every March, September	
PLUS	
Annual Christmas Super Draw with up to 8 extra chances per game number to win	
£10,000 ★	

support of St. Michael's Hospice gives you a chance to win £2,000 every single week – along with 200 other cash prizes. PLUS...there's a rollover that can reach as high as £25,000*! Players are also automatically entered into Super Draws, which take place every March, September and December and have an additional guaranteed top prize of an incredible £10,000!

As well as having a great chance to win, you'll be helping to make a real difference to local families in need of our help, as the Lottery provides regular income we can rely on. So it really is win-win!

Find out more and sign up using the QR code below or visit: localhospicelottery.org/hospices/st-michaels-hospice-north-hampshire/



* The £1,000 prize can roll over to a maximum of £25,000 (excluding Super Draw weeks where the £1,000 prize will always remain £1,000)!



Fundraising Spotlight

TPT Fire Projects

Our corporate supporter, TPT Fire Projects have gone over and above this year to support us by:

- ✓ Charity Football Match in June raising £2,389
- ✓ Easter Egg Raffle
- ✓ Three teams joined in the Hospice Golf Day
- ✓ Sponsored race at Newbury Races: TPT Fire Maintenance in aid of St. Michael's Hospice
- ✓ Donated 50 tickets to Newbury Races and evening to thank the Hospice's staff and volunteers



Basingstoke Camera Club

The Basingstoke Camera Club have been supporting the Hospice for over 10 years, raising **over £25,600** throughout that time. Simon Williams, president of the club, presented the cheque for **over £3,250** from the club's recent "open exhibition", a national photography contest, which saw nearly 7,000 entries from across the UK. Pictures ranged from portraits, nature and landscapes.



Keith's Christmas Baubles

Keith's been supporting St. Michael's Hospice for over 10 years, and has raised **an incredible £80,400** from his Christmas lights and the fishing matches he hosts every year. Keith's support and dedication to the Hospice is truly inspirational.



Centerprise Skydive

Linda braved the heights for us, taking part in a skydive of over 15000 feet to contribute to her fundraiser with Danielle to raise funds for a cuddle bed after their friend and colleague, Melissa, used the Hospice in 2024. From quiz nights and cycle rides to skydives and runs. With support from Centerprise, they raised **an incredible £17,500** to fully fund a cuddle bed for the Hospice in Melissa's name.



The Pennine Way

Karen, mother of Oscar and Hallam received care and support from St. Michael's during her fight with stage 4 colorectal cancer and died peacefully at the Hospice with her family by her side.

To thank St. Michael's Hospice for their incredible support and compassion, Oscar and Hallam, along with friends, walked the Pennine Way. They completed the 268 mile trek in 16 days, starting from Edale (near Manchester) on the 12 July and arrived at Kirk Yetholm (Scottish borders). Together, they raised **an incredible £5,637** for the Hospice.



Hatch Warren Runners Club

The club has supported the Hospice for many years, taking part in events and fundraisers. This year, they **raised £2,500** for the Hospice with the Buckle Ultra Challenge in honour of their fellow runner, Jeff, who received end-of-life care from St. Michael's in 2024. The week-long challenge consisted of 10 teams running as many miles as possible over 8 days but with extra challenges such as wearing colours, finding Mitchell Gardens (Jeff's last name) and much more.

Trusts and foundations

Throughout 2025, we've been fortunate to receive grant support from a number of trusts and foundations to support our hospice.

These included a generous donation towards our MND (Motor Neuron Disease) service. This donation has helped us to support the important cost of delivering this vital service for our MND patients in the Hospice, including the cost of providing our Hospice at Home service, monthly MND clinic, on call support to patients and their families, complementary therapy and therapy support to MND patients.

"This financial support for our MND service is so important. It enables us to continue to provide vital care for our patients and their families who are facing this disease and the challenges it brings. We're so grateful to know that, thanks to this financial support, we can continue to provide a service."

- Emily, Living Well Lead



As well as, a grant to support refreshing our charity retail shops in the local community to provide a fresh look and enhanced shopping experience to help raise vital funds for the Hospice.

If you'd like to get in touch about trusts or foundations to support us, please feel free to email: trusts@stmichaelsospice.org.uk

Feeling inspired? Find out how you can support us by emailing fundraising@stmichaelsospice.org.uk or call 01256 848848.



www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk



Make a Will Make a difference

*Look after those you care for while supporting your local hospice.
Make or update your Will today.*

Life can change so quickly, from saying 'I do' to someone special, or 'hello' to a new member of the family or 'goodbye' to a loved one. Having an up-to-date Will can make a real difference to your family in the future.

1 in 5 patients cared for by St. Michael's Hospice are funded by the local community through initiatives like Make a Will. We have two easy ways for you to choose from to create or update your Will, to suit your needs and budget, whilst securing the future for your family and local hospice:

1. Farewill

St. Michael's Hospice has partnered with Farewill, a free Will writing service, that can help you write your Will from the comfort of your own home. They have experts on-hand who can answer any questions.

2. Make a Will

Thanks to the generosity of several local solicitors who have waived their usual fees for preparing simple single or joint Wills, you can donate the fee to St. Michael's Hospice instead. Appointments are limited, so we encourage you to contact the participating solicitors early to take advantage of this offer.

All your solicitor needs:

- Our charity name and address
– St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire)
– Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road,
Basingstoke, RG24 9NB
- Our registered charity number – 1002856

**For full information please visit
[www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/
gifts-in-wills](http://www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/gifts-in-wills)**



Sign up now!

Take part in our Reindeer Run

Basingstoke Sunday 30 November

Time: Arrival at 8AM, start at 9AM

Location: Festival Place,
Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

Alton Sunday 14 December

Time: Arrival at 9AM, start at 10AM

Location: The Market Square,
Alton, GU34 1HD

**Put on your antlers and walk, dash, dance and prance along
the 3K Reindeer Run route to support your local Hospice.**

For further information visit stmichaelshospice.org.uk



Charity Reg No (England and Wales): 1002856 | Tel: 01256 848848
St. Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9NB



www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk



Make a tribute of love

As a registered charity, we rely on donations and fundraising to help fund our services. Your generosity will help us provide specialist care and support for people in North Hampshire, now and in the future.

There are many meaningful ways to honour your loved one while making a real difference to those with a life-limiting illness, facing the end of life or experiencing bereavement:

Funeral and Celebration of Life Collections

As well as providing a collection box, we can also offer donation envelopes for you to give to friends and family. These envelopes are discreet and enable those that choose to give to also Gift Aid their donation at no extra cost.

Much Loved Tribute Pages

Setting up an online tribute page is a wonderful way to remember a loved one. You can share photographs, stories, and memories of them with family and friends while raising vital funds for the Hospice.

Memory Tree

Create a unique dedication by engraving your loved one's name on a leaf of our Memory Tree. This beautiful installation, made up of gold, silver and bronze leaves, is located in a calming and light area within the Hospice building.

Annual Remembrance Event

We hold two remembrance events a year: Summer Memories in July and Light up a Life in December (page 2). These poignant events give you an opportunity to remember and celebrate your friends and loved ones, whilst supporting your local hospice.



Volunteering with

St. Michael's Hospice



Our volunteers are crucial to almost every aspect of what we do. Without people generously giving their time and skills, we would be unable to continue delivering vital care and support to our patients and their families.

There are so many ways you can get involved as a St. Michael's Hospice volunteer:

- At the Hospice - providing support to patients and families, by offering treats from the drinks trolley, flower arranging and more.
- At our shops - we always need regular and interim volunteers to support our 11 shops across North Hampshire. Whether that is in our stores, driving our vans or sorting donation at our Donation Centre.
- At our events - we have a packed calendar of events every year to raise vital funds for the Hospice. Enjoy being part of the backstage fun with adhoc days to fit in your spare time.
- Using your skills - whether you would like to volunteer regular hours as a van driver or a couple of days a year supporting our marketing team, we appreciate all volunteers of different skills.

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“It's been so important for me. Being able to come in and talk to people, just being around others, has made such a difference.” - Dianne, shop volunteer

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“

“We just loved the ethos of the Hospice. We're very proud to be part of your volunteer group, we always feel valued and our efforts appreciated.” - Alfredo & Eileen, event and collections volunteers

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“To my surprise, I was not too old and any help would be appreciated. I also found out about other opportunities that are available for volunteers, including behind the scene roles such as van driving.” - Roger, volunteer van driver

This year our volunteers have dedicated

65,507 hours

to supporting the hospice

saving the charity £751,850!

Want to join the incredible community of St. Michael's Hospice volunteers?

Find out more on our website at stmichaelshospice.org.uk/volunteer or email volunteer@stmichaelshospice.org.uk

To find out more and make a tribute of love please contact our team at supportercare@stmichaelshospice.org.uk



Your Impact



Last year, your kindness and generosity helped us to provide free, compassionate care to our patients and their families across North Hampshire. Your support helped us to provide:

We need to raise

£14,500



per day to run our services.

502 bereavement counselling sessions

were carried out for the loved ones of our patients.

Relatives who completed our survey rated the Hospice at

Very Good/Good

342 patients

were admitted to our IPU for care (including day cases).

560 patients

and their carers attended our Living Well Services.



792

complementary therapy sessions were held for our patients and their carers.



1132

Occupational therapy and Physio therapy treatments.



of our services were provided free of charge.

Our Hospice at Home team made

2094 visits

to our patients in their homes.



Thank you!



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

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