

**Oxford University Hospitals Chaplaincy Team**

*We're here for everyone.*

# Our Candle

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We will light our hospital candle at 12 pm  
each day in remembrance of  
those who have died

## Introduction

We have come here today to remember those who have died.

We have come to entrust them to God.

We have come to stop; to have space to think of the enormous suffering caused by the coronavirus.

We have come to light a candle to shine in remembrance.

At times like these, we are challenged by the reality and mystery of death.

## Lighting the candle

We light this candle in honour of those who have died in our hospitals: The John Radcliffe, The Churchill, The Horton, The Nuffield Orthopaedic and Sobell House Hospice.

In a moment of silence, we hold them all before God as we remember them this day.

## A time of prayer

Heavenly Father, a candle shows us that we can see the effect of a small light, even in the darkest of places. We affirm the light of Your love that will never be overcome by the shadow of darkness. We pray for miracles of light as we hold so many prayers still unspoken and we hand these to You now.

We pray that those who have died may travel to your care on the clear shores of love's embrace; where there is no more death or sorrow or pain, but only the safekeeping of our heavenly home.

We pray for those precious people whose loved ones they will see no longer and ask that You will be with them in their sadness and loss. We ask that through their journey towards acceptance they will come to see the nature of their loved ones' lives, and not the darkness of their death.

We pray for people who need Your loving touch because of Covid-19; may they feel your love through the care of our doctors, nurses and all those who are working in our hospitals.

We pray for all of our staff. We ask that each of them will feel held and supported at this time and that they may find strength and peace.

## Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my  
soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your  
staff they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of  
my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house  
of the LORD my whole life long.



We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

## **A Meditation for the Chaplain**

We have to be candles,  
burning between  
hope and despair,  
faith and doubt,  
life and death,  
all the opposites.

That is the disquieting place  
where people must always find us,  
And, if our life means anything,  
if what we are, can do some good,  
it is that somehow,  
by being here,  
at peace,  
we help the world cope  
with what it cannot understand.

## **Final Prayer and Blessing**

Dear Lord,  
Watch over your weeping ones,  
Tend your ailing ones,  
Rest your weary ones,  
Bless your dying ones  
With your Love.

Lord, bless us and keep us, make your face shine  
upon us. Turn your face towards us and give us  
peace. Amen.

The chaplains are here to support you. If you would like any further information please contact us on:

Chaplaincy telephone: 01865 857 921  
Chaplaincy email: [chaplaincy@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@ouh.nhs.uk)

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