

Light up a Life

this christmas

A service to celebrate life

rowcroft hospice

Registered Charity No: 282723

Welcome to Light up a Life 2026

Introduction by Anastasia Somerville,
Bereavement and Support Co-ordinator

On Those Days

By Donna Ashworth

On those days,
when you miss someone the most,

as though your memories,
are sharp enough,
to slice through skin and bone,

remember how they loved you.

Remember how they loved you,
and do that,
for yourself.

In their name,
in their honour.
Love yourself,
as they loved you.

They would like that.

On those days when you miss someone the most,
love yourself harder.

Read by Mandy Pearman,
Social Worker

Music from The Rowcroft Choir

Harbour

By Anna Tabbush

When you've crossed the stormy waters
Come, walk a-shore
Bring your sons and bring your daughters
Wander no more

And our door is always open
And our hearth is always warm
When you need a place to shelter
We're a harbour in the storm

There'll be time for rest and sleeping
Come, walk a-shore
There'll be space for peace and healing
Wander no more

For in days of lesser fortune
Come, walk a-shore
We may need a door to open
Wander no more

Lighting of the Candles

Adapted from poem by Darcie D. Sims & Sherry L. Williams

The first candle represents our grief:
We light this candle knowing
the pain of losing you is intense.
It reminds us of the depth of our love for you.

This second candle represents our courage:
We light this candle to honour the courage
to confront our sorrow, to comfort each other,
to change our lives.

The third candle represents your memory:
We light this candle for the times we laughed, the times we cried,
the times we were angry, the times we were silly,
for the caring and joy you gave us.

This fourth candle represents our love:
We light this candle to signify that your light will always shine
in the special place in our hearts reserved for you.
We thank you for the gift your living brought to us
We love you
We remember you.

Read by Anastasia Somerville,
Bereavement and Support Co-ordinator

Candles to be placed by:
Pam Rogers, Bereavement Volunteer
Carol Allerton, Bereavement Volunteer
Anna Wells-Brandon, Bereavement Volunteer
Marj Dawson, Bereavement Volunteer

Lighting of the Tree of Light

The lights on this tree are dedicated to the memory of our loved ones. Their lights will shine brightly, day and night, throughout the festive season. May we honour their lives and hold them close in our hearts.

A Moment for Reflection

Followed by Somewhere Out There,
performed on the piano by David Watkins

About the Light

By Jan Richardson

As of yet
I cannot say
which I love best
about the light:

that it gathers itself
even in what goes hidden,
no stranger to
the seed, the stone,
the labyrinth of night,

or that it is wildly
generous in where
it lands, glad the same
to touch the face of
the one in laughter,
the one in tears,
the one in trouble,
in fear, in pain.

But it may yet be
that this is what
enchants me most
about the light:

that it knows
what to do with distance,
how it arcs
across the space
between a heart
and a heart,
illuminating the longing
through which
the farthest of stars
might be seen.

Read by Sarah Hanrott,
Specialty Doctor in Palliative Medicine

Music from The MoorHeart Threshold Singers

Peace is Born

By Nickie Aven, arranged by Alison Lee Browne

When the sun has left the sky
and the earth sleeps below.

When the moon is in her heaven
and the stars are all aglow.

Then may love hold and keep you
until the new dawn,

Until peace, perfect peace, is born.

Blessing

Adapted from a blessing by Ruth Burgess

Bless to us, the road that is before us,
Bless to us, the friends who are around us,
Bless to us, the love which is within us,
Bless to us, the light that leads us home.

Read by Kerry Sillifant,
Head Housekeeper

Closing words

Delivered by Anastasia Somerville,
Bereavement and Support Co-ordinator

We hope you have enjoyed this service of remembrance, celebration and thanksgiving.

Please join us for seasonal refreshments which will be served outside Rainbow House after the service.

Thank you!

Rowcroft's care is provided free of charge and 76% of our work is funded directly by the kindness and compassion of amazing people like you.

Here are some other ways in which you can support Rowcroft in memory of a loved one



Regular Giving

The reliable income from a monthly donation – no matter how large or small – enables Rowcroft to plan our care for the long term and helps secure the future of the hospice.



Gifts in your Will

Leaving a gift to Rowcroft in your Will, no matter the size, is a powerful way to support local families for years to come. We've partnered with Accord Legal Services to offer you a free, simple Will-writing service.

Once your loved ones have been provided for, it would be wonderful if you are able to leave a donation to Rowcroft Hospice.

Events and Challenges



This is a great opportunity to have some fun and support the work that takes place at the hospice. Information about specific events and challenges can be found on our website.

Volunteering – The gift of time



By volunteering at Rowcroft Hospice you'll be joining a team of over 400 dedicated people who give their time freely to help our charity.

No matter what ability, experience, interests or reason for volunteering, we're sure to have an opportunity to suit your individual needs.

It's a great way to meet new friends and learn different skills. If you have some spare time, join the team!

If you would like to know more about the different ways you can support Rowcroft, please call 01803 217450 or visit www.rowcrofthospice.org.uk

With special thanks to:

Nick, Shane & Leanne for sharing their story

Cathie & Mark Burgess
For the kind loan of their PA equipment

NLS Light & Sound Solutions

Caterfood
For supplying mince pies following the service

The Rowcroft Estates Team

Bereavement & Support Team

The MoorHeart Threshold Singers

The Rowcroft Choir

David Watkins

Our wonderful volunteers

And most importantly – you,
one of our many valued supporters, thank you.

Individual Giving and Legacies Team

Rebecca Cogger, Jenny Lightfoot and Kathryn Copping

Tel: 01803 217642
Email: inmemory@rowcrofthospice.org.uk
www.rowcrofthospice.org.uk

Rowcroft Bereavement and Support Team

To access bereavement support please call 01803 217403. Leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible



SPONSOR A NURSE



This Christmas

Please support our hospice nurses and set up a monthly donation

rowcroft hospice

rowcrofthospice.org.uk/nurse

tel: 01803 217642

Registered Charity No: 282723

SCAN ME