

Centre for Paediatric Spiritual Care Newsletter

Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

October 2016




The Centre for Paediatric Spiritual Care is a unique resource for anyone working with sick children and their families.

We aim to support and encourage research and resourcing for multidisciplinary spiritual care.

If you think you could contribute to our Centre by adding a resource, writing a blog post or contributing to our research please contact bch-tr.cpsc@nhs.net

Take a look at our website to see more of our research and resources:

www.bch.nhs.uk/cpsc

 @BCH_CPSC

Every year in September, Birmingham Children's Hospital holds a memorial walk and picnic to remember the children who have died.

It is a chance for parents and families who have lost a child to express their grief and remember their child's life. In this month's newsletter, we tell you about how this year's event went.



'Seeds of hope' sculpture at the National Memorial Arboretum

The Memorial Walk is organised by Birmingham Children's Hospital, including the Chaplaincy, Bereavement and PICU teams.

It's held at the National Memorial Arboretum, which has a special memorial for the children of Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Invitations are sent to all families of patients who have

died at Birmingham Children's Hospital in the past year, and families can request an invitation to return. The fact that so many families do choose to return each year shows the value of these kind of events.

The walk and picnic include activities for children and adults. Children are encouraged to remember their siblings and friends through creative activities such as making windmills and blowing bubbles. Each family also receives a sunflower to lay in memory of their child.

The feedback that we receive from families about the event tells us that they find it comforting to have a space to remember, and that it also shows them that their child has not been forgotten.

This event has become one of the cornerstones of the support that the hospital offers to bereaved families. Feedback from families shows the continued need for families to have an opportunity to express their emotions and remember their child in a safe space.



Multi faith Celebrate Project:

Black History Month—
Cultural—Month Long

Al Hijira—Muslim—2nd
October

Rosh Hashanah—Jewish—
2nd October

Yom Kippur—Jewish—12th
October

Diwali—Hindu, Sikh, Jain—
30th October

Halloween—Cultural—31st
October

More information is
available [here](#).

Featured Article:

Steele, A.C. et al, (2013)
Bereaved Parents and
Siblings Offer Advice to
Health Care Providers and
Researchers, *Journal of
Paediatric Haematology/
Oncology*, 35(4), 253-9.

[https://
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/
pmc/articles/
PMC3635497/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3635497/)

This study aims to
determine how to
improve care for families
by obtaining their advice
to health care providers
and researchers after a
child's death from cancer.

Blog Posts

This month, our blog
post comes from a story
submitted to our
paediatric chaplaincy
book.

Linda Wollschlaeger-
Fischer reflects on
spirituality and grief. She
considers how healthcare

professionals can provide the space for grief to be expressed and for some meaning to be created out of suffering.

All blog posts are available to read in full here:

[http://www.bch.nhs.uk/story/centre-paediatric-spiritual-care-
blog](http://www.bch.nhs.uk/story/centre-paediatric-spiritual-care-blog)

Call for contributions

Have you got an activity, information resource or article that you find useful for carrying our spiritual care? Or have you got an idea for a blog post, such as a story or reflection? If you do, we would love to hear from you!

One of the aims of the CPSC is to encourage and facilitate the sharing of the wealth of resources from spiritual care practitioners outside our organisation, and to gather these resources together in one, easily accessible place. If you would like to contribute by sharing something, please [email us](#).

Upcoming events and training

For those of you with an interest in paediatric chaplaincy, the Paediatric Chaplaincy Network (PCN) is holding its annual meeting at Birmingham Children's Hospital on 9th November.

The topic of the day is "Justifying our existence?": sharing examples of evidence for paediatric chaplaincy.", and will be focusing on research and evidence based practice in chaplaincy. There is an opportunity to share examples of your work if you would like to.

For full details and to register, please visit the event page: pcnmeeting.eventbrite.com

To find out more about the PCN, take a look at the website: www.paediatric-chaplaincy-network.org/

