

Chestnut Tree House Christmas Remembrance Virtual Event Sunday 6th December 2020

Hope and Remembering A Time of Reflection

This sheet is designed to be read as you watch the on line video

Welcome

Hello, my name is Stephen and I'm the lead for Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy at Chestnut Tree House and on behalf of our team I am glad that you are able to join us for our remembrance event on line.

Although we are sad not to be able to come together physically in the way we normally do at Wiston House at the start of December we wanted to provide this more 'virtual' way of connecting with one another and to share in a time of reflection and remembrance together as we approach Christmas.

We have put together some words of remembrance, a poem, a story and an activity, and we invite you to make use of any of these things in whatever way feels right for you. In what you have received through the post you should have had a red votive candle that is for you to light either during this time of reflection or at any other time over the Christmas period that is meaningful for you. I will be leading a short dedication for these candles later on in this film.

We always say at our events that not every part of what we offer will necessarily make a personal connection with you, and it is the same with what is offered here on line. Take from the thoughts we have put together whatever is helpful, and do not worry about anything that is not so helpful for you.

I am going to start as we always do at our events with lighting a candle and keeping a few moments of quiet just as we gather our thoughts together. If you would like to light your red candle or another

candle at home while I do this, please feel free to.

As Christmas draws near, may this flame be a symbol to us of the light of love we hold within us for each child carried in our hearts today.

We are going to hear a poem now that Karen is going to read this to us. There will be some music following that and then the story if you would like to listen in.

I Watch the Sunrise

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,
Casting its shadows near.
And on this morning, bright though it be,
I feel those shadows near me.
*But you are always close to me
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Remembering you always.*

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,
Warming the earth below.
And at the mid-day, life seems to say:
I feel your brightness near me.
*For you are always close to me
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Remembering you always.*

I watch the sunset fading away,
Lighting the clouds with sleep.
And as the evening closes its eyes,
I feel your presence near me.
For you are always close to me

*Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Remembering you always.*

I watch the moonlight guarding the night,
Waiting till morning comes.
The air is silent, earth is at rest
Only your peace is near me.
*For you are always close to me
Following all my ways.
May I be always close to you
Remembering you always.*

(from words by Kathryn Croweller)

**Story: 'And the Moon smiled' from a story by
Suzanne Logan**

If you would like you might wish now to hold whatever special item you have chosen to help you reflect during this time of remembrance. And either looking at or holding your candle we come to dedicate them now.

We find ourselves holding today so many different thoughts and emotions as we spend this time remembering with others those we love who have died.

We hold within us our struggles during this time of pandemic and we feel the loss of not being able physically to be with family, friends and with other families at Wiston House to keep this precious time together. Whatever item you may be holding to think about your child or children who have died, maybe spend a quiet moment now thinking of others holding their special keepsake, and remember that you are not alone as you do this.

May the light that our candle will bring over the coming days be a sign for you of the light of love which never dies, a sign of the light that shines wherever there is darkness or sadness, a sign of the light brought to us in the gift of the children we love and whose names and memories we treasure.

May we, and all we think of or pray for just now know a blessing of light and courage this Christmas. We dedicate these candles now to those we hold in our hearts in the name of all that brings us light and

hope this Christmas. Amen.

Closing words

We're really grateful to Steve Chapman for filming this event for us and from our whole team we would like to wish you all the very best for the coming days. We continue to be here for you and if you feel a bit of extra support going forward would be helpful then do feel able to get in touch either by email cthadmin@stbh.org.uk or by leaving a message on 01903 871854

Some final words of blessing

And so now may the spirit of Christmas bring you peace

The comfort brought to you by those around you this Christmas bring you courage

And the light of the Christmas star shine upon you and guide your steps.

Blessing, peace and light be yours this Christmas and always.

