



The Alder Centre

Candle Service

Order of Service

To remember and honour our children

**Thursday,
14th December
2023, 7.30pm**



**Live streamed
and in person**

www.alderhey.nhs.uk/services/alder-centre/remembrance/

Opening Prayer

**Canon Philip Anderson
Precentor, Liverpool Cathedral**



The Alder Centre

Welcome from The Alder Centre and presentation of the family candle

Pat Corlett and John Ashton,
and the family of Thomas Taylor

1st Reading

'If I Could Go Back In Time'

*~ read by Jill Sokratous, written by
Kev Hill*

Chilly mornings and darkest nights,
High streets lit with sparkling lights.
The soothing brass of the Salvation
band,
Hot chocolate warming hearts and
hands.
If only Old Man Winter knew -
His every stir reminds me of you.

Silver stars adorn evergreen trees,
Presents wrapped and placed
beneath.

Nuts in their shells, striped candy canes,
Animated films about magical trains.
If only Father Christmas knew -
This season of joy
reminds me of you.

Choirs singing by candle light
Away in a manger and silent night,
Churches lifting their praises high -
"Born that man no more may die".
If only the musicians and singers knew -
Each refrain reminds me of you.

Drinks enjoyed around fireplace roars,
Chocolate hiding behind numbered
doors.

Cards strung up around the room,
Friends and family will be here soon.
If only everybody knew -
This time of giving reminds me of you.

Everyone filled with festive cheer -
It was always your favourite time of
year.
And through everything, I'll keep holding
fast
To the memories of Christmas past.
Because precious one, if only you knew
That all of it reminds me of you.



Children's lantern procession



Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Song: 'Run'

Performed by Connected Voices

Songwriters: Mark Allan Scholtes /

Sarah Archer

I'll sing it one last time for you
Then we really have to go
You've been the only thing that's right
In all I've done

And I can barely look at you
But every single time I do
I know we'll make it anywhere
Away from here

Light up, light up
As if you have a choice
Even if you cannot hear my voice
I'll be right beside you dear

Louder, louder
And we'll run for our lives
I can hardly speak I understand
Why you can't raise your voice to say
To think I might not see those eyes
Makes it so hard not to cry
And as we say our long goodbyes
I nearly do

Light up, light up
As if you have a choice
Even if you cannot hear my voice
I'll be right beside you, dear
Louder, louder
And we'll run for our lives
I can hardly speak I understand
Why you can't raise your voice to say?

Slower, slower
We don't have time for that
All I want is to find an easier way
To get out of our little heads

Have heart, my dear
We're bound to be afraid
Even if it's just for a few days
Making up for all this mess
Light up, light up
As if you have a choice
Even if you cannot hear my voice
I'll be right beside you dear

The Naming

A time for reflection to acknowledge
and name aloud the children we have
come together to remember and
honour.

Tonight I hold this candle
In memory of you
Hoping some way somehow
My love will shine through
I close my eyes
Lost in the glow
There are so many things
I want you to know

This candle says I love you
This candle says I miss you
This candle is saying
I remember you



First screening of Children's names

Names will be screened in alphabetical order, as leaves are hung on the tree by the cadets.



Please note that if you registered your child's name this evening, they will be screened in the 3rd section and may not be in alphabetical order.

First set of candles are lit

Song: 'Monsters'

Performed by Marietta Daly

Songwriters:

*Jimmy Hogarth / James Blount / Amy Wadge
with additions by Marietta Daly*

Oh, before they turn off all the lights
I won't read you your wrongs or your
rights
The time has gone
I'll tell you goodnight, close the door
Tell you I love you once more
The time has gone
So here it is
Your not just my son,
your not just my daughter,
we're more than two people saying
goodbye.
No need to forgive, no need to forget,
you made no mistakes and you'll be
fine.
And while you're sleeping, I'll try to
make you proud,
so baby you can just close your eyes.
Don't be afraid,
it's my turn to chase the monsters
away"

Oh, well, I'll read a story to you
Only difference is this one is true
The time has gone
I folded your clothes on the chair
I hope you sleep well, don't be scared
The time has gone
So here it is

Your not just my son,
your not just my daughter,
we're more than two people saying
goodbye.
No need to forgive, no need to forget,
you made no mistakes and you'll be
fine.
And while you're sleeping, I'll try to
make you proud,
so baby you can just close your eyes.
Don't be afraid,
it's my turn to chase the monsters
away

Sleep a lifetime
Yes, and breathe a last word
You can feel my hand on your own
I will be the last one
So I'll leave a light on
Let there be no darkness, in your heart
Your not just my son,
your not just my daughter,
we're more than two people saying
goodbye.
No need to forgive, no need to forget,
you made no mistakes and you'll be
fine.

And while you're sleeping, I'll try to
make you proud,
so baby you can just close your eyes.
Don't be afraid,
it's my turn to chase the monsters away



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2nd Reading

'Dearly Beloved' ~ read by Emily
Dewick, written by Ian Dewick

Dearly beloved, here's a message from
above
And I'm sending it down to the ones
that I love
Letting you all know that I'm doing just
fine
Hoping to make you smile as you read
this little rhyme
Time has passed since I made the
journey upstairs
And I am ever so proud to be a part of
your prayers
Never a day passes by without me
watching over you
And I'm always listening, laughing or
crying at the things that you do
Whenever you see a glimmer or a
sparkle across the sky at night
Or the sunshine beyond the rainbow
just coming into sight
That's me letting you know that I'm
here safe and sound
This is my home now, way up here
above the clouds

I'm not alone up here either you know
so there's no need to worry
We'll be together again one day but
please don't you hurry

One thing I can promise you even
though we're apart
Is that I'm right here with you with
every beat of your heart

Song: 'Sun in the Rain'

*Performed by Formby High School
G-Force Gospel Choir*

I don't know what I'm gonna do
I have no where to turn
The bars round me are closing in
Everyone's left and the air's gone thin
I've tried again and I've tried again
My demons hold me back
I need to be free from this jail
I need the key

How can I even begin to pick myself up
off the ground
When everything I know is falling
around me
What do I feel when everything in me
feels hopeless
I need to find myself again

Don't give up, it's OK
To feel lost on a tide of emotion
Things might crack and looking back
They do feel really broken
Cloudy days stormy skies
Keep the sparkle in your eyes





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We look back and look around
And look high look for the sun in the
rain

And see the sun in the rain
Look for the sun in the rain
Look for the sun in the rain

I wanna be able to walk, take my eyes
off my feet
Unless I believe in myself this is a game
I won't win
Got this thing inside of me and it's
crying to be free
But if I take off this mask then who is
the 'me' I'll be

How can I even begin to pick myself up
off the ground
When everything I know (I know) is
falling around me
What do I feel when everything in me
feels hopeless
I need to find my soul again (and again)

Don't give up, it's OK
To feel lost on a tide of emotion
Things might crack and
looking back
 They do feel really broken
 Cloudy days stormy skies
 Keep the sparkle in your eyes
 We look back and look around
 And look high look for the sun
 in the rain

Don't give up, just be strong
Don't look down, just hold on
It's time for you to get up now
The story's just begun
Open up your eyes
Although it's raining there's a sun
in the sky

Look up – get up get up
Sun's out – get up get up
Cloud's gone – get up get up
Storm's passed – get up get up
Why don't you just – look up

(London Community Gospel Choir)

Second screening of Children's names

Second set of candles are lit

3rd Reading

'My Memory Library' ~ *read by Michelle
Lea, written by Sarah Blackstone*

Imagine if I was given one moment, just
a single slice of my past

I could hold it close forever, and that
moment would always last.

I'd put the moment in a safe, within my
heart's abode

I could open it when I wanted, and only
I would know the code.

I could choose a time of laughing, a time
of happiness and fun

I could choose a time that tried me
through everything I've done.

I sat and thought about what moment
would always make me smile
One that would always push me to walk
that extra mile.

If I'm feeling sad and low, if I'm
struggling with what to do

I can go and open my little safe and
watch my moment through.

There are moments I can think of that
would lift my spirits every time

The moments when you picked me up,
when the road was hard to climb.

For me to only pick one moment to
cherish, save and keep

Is proving really difficult, as I've
gathered up a heap!

I've dug deep inside my heart, found the
safe and looked inside

There was room for lots of moments; in
fact, hundreds if I tried.

I'm building my own little library,
embedded in my heart,

For all the moments spent with you
before you had to part.

I can open it up whenever I like, pick a
moment and watch it through

My little library acts as a promise I'll
never ever forget you.



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Song: 'Fix You'

Performed by Dominic Daly

Source: Musixmatch

*Songwriters: Christopher Anthony John
Martin / Guy Rupert Berryman / William
Champion / Jonathan Mark Bucklan*

When you try your best, but you don't
succeed

When you get what you want, but not
what you need

When you feel so tired, but you can't
sleep

Stuck in reverse

And the tears come streaming down
your face

When you lose something you can't
replace

When you love someone, but it goes to
waste

Could it be worse?

Lights will guide you home

And ignite your bones

And I will try to fix you

And high up above, or down below

When you're too in love to let it go

But if you never try, you'll never know

Just what you're worth

Lights will guide you home

And ignite your bones

And I will try to fix you





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Tears stream, down your face
When you lose something you cannot
replace

Tears stream, down your face, and I

Tears stream down your face
I promise you I will learn from my
mistakes

Tears stream down your face, and I

Lights will guide you home
And ignite your bones
And I will try to fix you

Third screening of Children's names

Third set of candles are lit

Sharing of 'Light Up A Life' - Tree lighting at The Alder Centre

Reading:

Lisa Harrison - Poem for William

This is the scar that we carry,
Two parents and a brother together
telling their story,
The moment we got told that you
would be here,
Was the moment our hearts began to
cheer.

When your heartbeat came into our life
You brought happiness and dreams a
future for life,

The life you were given in the womb in
the world to be seen,
Is a life we shared you and me.

Our future our dream was not to be.

One day here and then gone,
This beautiful child of ours, a brother a
son.

The memories made were short, not
long,
But the pain we feel is a lifetime long,

The time we had days, weeks, months,
but not years,
We would live the pain again to have
you here.

The love for our child cannot be
described,
The death of our child ripped the life
from our eyes,

We will always ask the question, why
you had to die,

We silently asked for the world to stop,
We needed to hide away and not be
seen,
To find a safe place to breathe and
scream,

How did we breathe each second of the
day,

How did we wipe the continuous tears
away,

How did we take one step at a time,
When the world we once knew was no
longer mine,

In this circle of life, we are trying our
best,

On this journey ahead, we try to get
rest.

If only we had another day,
We could all be together and fly away.
Make memories together that should
have been given,
New memories will be made a day at a
time,
So you can live your life through my
eyes,

But time has passed our life has gone
on,
How that can be,
We miss you our child for eternity,
A scanned picture, photo is not all that
we have left,
You are a part of our family and so we
are blessed.

We will light the candles put leaves on
the tree,
And your name will appear for all to see,
We sing a song, so you can hear, to let
you know we are near.

We will never get the answer as, to why,
But our love for you will never die,

We will celebrate your life, live , and
honour you,
And make you proud because we love
you.

We thank you for choosing us to be the
one who gets to call you our child our
angel our brother our son.



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Reading:

Alison Fair - Help

Do not turn away from my grief
It will not harm you,
But do not ask me to turn away from
my grief,
If I turn away from my grief,
It may well harm me.

Do not ignore me, or my pain,
Both are real to me.
Acknowledgement is what I seek
And time and space for me to heal.

Do not cross the road as I approach
Do not add to my burden
My suffering is not contagious
Nor would I want it to be

Do not pretend nothing has happened
To try and ease my pain
Do not be afraid or apprehensive
To use my dead child's name

I do not wait on you to lay
The burden that I carry
But you can ease my path ahead
Just stay behind me as I tread
This uphill battle to go on
To mend my broken life, to start anew
Without the one who inside
me grew.





The Alder Centre

Song: 'Light Of My Life'

*Performed by the Formby High School
G-Force Gospel Choir*

*Composed by Steve Cook, Beth Dilworth,
Gary Heatherington*

When you need a place,
a place to call home
Full of hope and care,
so comforting there.

When you need someone,
someone to care
Someone to carry you,
who's always there

Light of your life
Shining so brightly
Light up the world
With love

Light of your life
Wonderful you
Giving us strength
To go on
Go on
Go on

I can see your face
In all that you do
I can see your smile
Shining through

Light of your life
Shining so brightly
Light up the world
With love
Light of your life
Wonderful you
Giving us strength
To go on

Broken in pieces
Life in slow motion
Need more than time to get through
Moving in circles
Traces in motion
Leading me closer to you

Light of your life
Shining so brightly
Light up the world
With love
Light of your life
Wonderful you
Giving us strength
To go on
Go on
Go on
Go on
Go on

4th Reading

*'My Friend, I Care' ~ read by
Andrew Corlett*

Don't tell me that you understand,
don't tell me that you know.
Don't tell me that I will survive,
how I will surely grow.

Don't tell me this is just a test,
that I am truly blessed,
that I am chosen for this task,
apart from all the rest.

Don't come at me with answers
that can only come from me,
don't tell me how my grief will pass,
that I will soon be free.

Don't stand in pious judgment
of the bonds I must untie,
don't tell me how to suffer,
and don't tell me how to cry.

My life is filled with selfishness,
my pain is all I see,
but I need you, I need your love,
unconditionally.

Accept me in my ups and downs,
I need someone to share,
just hold my hand and let me cry,
and say, "My friend, I care."

Message from The Alder Centre

*Lisa McElroy,
Alder Centre Volunteer Co-ordinator*

Song: 'A Sky full of Stars'

*Performed by the Formby High School
G-Force Gospel Choir*

'Cause you're a sky, 'cause you're a
sky full of stars
I'm gonna give you my heart
'Cause you're a sky, 'cause you're a
sky full of stars
'Cause you light up the path
I don't care, go on and tear me apart
I don't care if you do, ooh-ooh, ooh
'Cause in a sky, 'cause in a sky full of
stars
I think I saw you



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'Cause you're a sky, 'cause you're a
sky full of stars
I wanna fly to your arms, oh, oh-oh
'Cause you get lighter the more it
gets dark
I'm gonna give you my heart, oh
I don't care, go on and tear me apart
I don't care if you do, ooh-ooh, ooh
'Cause in a sky, 'cause in a sky full of
stars
I think I see you
I think I see you
'Cause you're a sky, you're a sky full
of stars
Such a heavenly view
You're such a heavenly view
Yeah, yeah, yeah, ooh

Thank you and conclusion

Pat Corlett and John Ashton





The Alder Centre

FOR ANYONE AFFECTED BY THE DEATH OF A CHILD

Thank you

All the volunteers and staff of The Alder Centre who have been involved and the Alder Hey Children's Charity.

Volunteers John & Sue Ashton, Jennie Hardwick & Craig Martin, Jill & Giannis Sokratous, Michelle Lea, Pat Corlette, Heather Upton, Lisa & Andrew Harrison, David Compton, Kev Hill, Rachel Halliwell, Rachel Astill, Helen Finneran, Liz Mills, the Taylor family, the Dewick family, and The Alder Centre team for the hours spent cutting out and writing message leaves. Gary Heatherington for incidental music and Marietta and Dominique Daly for their solos.

Everyone at the Cathedral for their kind support

Formby High School G: Force Gospel Choir for their singing



RAF Air Cadets, 2375 (Neston) Squadron ATC for continued support

Marietta and Dominique Daly for their singing

Adlib for their audio and video support

Connected Voices - for their singing



- The Alder Centre provides care and education for anyone affected by the death of a child of any age.
Contact us 0151 252 5391 or alder.centre@alderhey.nhs.uk



- The Child Death Helpline. Open every day throughout the year to provide a listening ear. To speak to a bereaved parent volunteers call: 0800 282 986



If you would like to support The Alder Centre by making a donation: www.alderheycharity.org and enter 'for The Alder Centre' on the online donations form.

