

# The Sunflower

supporter newsletter

Issue No. 06  
Autumn 2025



## Inside:

Mike & Tess's story

A day with our Community  
Nursing Team

What's coming up this  
autumn and winter

St Margaret's  
Hospice Care

45<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

Registered with  
FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR  
Registered Charity No: 279473

# Welcome

## Dear Supporters,

Welcome to the autumn edition of The Sunflower. I hope you have all enjoyed your summer and had time to relax. Here at St Margaret's Hospice, we've been warmed not only by the sunny weather but also by your continued support. From raising **£194,479** through our **Every Moment Counts Appeal** to seeing all the brilliant activities you have organised in celebration of our 45th anniversary – we continue to be blown away by the support of our community.

In this issue, you can read about how your donations make a real difference to our care. We have the privilege of sharing the story of Mike and Tess – a story that highlights how your donations help us create lasting memories for patients and their families. We also share a day in the life of our Community Nurses; this is a critical area of our work that is only made possible because of you.

**Thank you, once again, for your continued support**, especially during these challenging times. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and will be excited to hear about what we have planned for the rest of the year, especially our first **Fireworks Night** event at Taunton Racecourse on 8 November!

With best wishes,

*Hannah Roberts*

Head of Fundraising

[st-margarets-hospice.org.uk](http://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk)

[supportercare@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk](mailto:supportercare@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk)

01935 709485

Follow us     



## In this issue...

3. Thank you
4. Volunteering in numbers
5. Mike & Tess's story
8. Memory Tree
9. Every Moment Counts Appeal
10. A day with our Community Nursing Team
13. Leaving a gift in your Will
14. 45th anniversary – your support in pictures
16. Supporter Spotlight & 2025 events
19. 5 minutes with...
20. Delivering greener hospice care
22. Sponsor a Nurse

# A huge thank you

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who has donated money, time or items to St Margaret's over the past six months. Our wonderful community continues to go above and beyond – here are just a few examples of the amazing support we've received in recent months.

**Kenny Crouch** raised **£2,884** at his annual bingo event in May, in memory of his wife, Annie. Kenny has raised **over £20,000** for St Margaret's through his bingo nights.

**Simon Bowles**, one of our chefs at St Margaret's, organised a fundraiser in memory of his colleague and friend, Paul Finall, raising **£4,217**.



A huge thank you to **2Steves**, who were our comperes at this year's Colour Run, keeping the crowd energised and entertained! 2Steves have also raised over **£6,000** through their popular Banging Floor Filler events.

The wonderful team at **Tesco** in Chard hosted a brilliant bake sale, raising **£563!**

**Ryan Hancock** took on the incredible challenge of running the Manchester Half Marathon in May and raised **£2,500**.

**Fran Reed** raised **£1,500** by hosting a very special concert in memory of her partner, Bob, who was cared for by St Margaret's.

Thank you to all our Glorious Gardens hosts, who have raised **over £27,000** so far by opening their gates to supporters across the county!

**Fosso Lounge** in Wells raised **£160 (and counting)** through their 'Lounge Aid' month! The team raised funds through a sponsored cycle, a sponsored walk from Wells to Bristol, a children's carnival party, 'guess the teddy's name' competition, and a food challenge.



Thank you to **Eagle Plant** for their generous donation of a lawn mower and hedge trimmer to keep our hospice gardens looking beautiful.

*Thank you for your support.*

**We couldn't continue our important work without you!**

**Read on** to find out how your fundraising has enabled us to care for people in our community when it matters most.

# Volunteering in numbers

Where would we be without our team of dedicated volunteers? Across Somerset, our volunteers help in our shops, hospice hubs, gardens, and at our events! Giving your time to support St Margaret's is a fantastic way to help safeguard our care for future generations.



St Margaret's has **1,095** volunteers across Somerset!

Our volunteers give around **4,400** hours of their time every week.

**759** people volunteer in our **31** charity shops across Somerset, from Minehead to Wincanton, and Burnham to Sherborne!

We have **66** volunteer roles to choose from! Whether you're interested in window dressing, cash collecting, catering or gardening – we have roles to suit just about everyone.

Last year, **111** volunteers spread festive cheer across the county by collecting and recycling **2,065** Christmas trees over two days.

**65** people volunteered at the Colour Run in May, which raised an incredible **£37,000**.

Our phenomenal fundraising volunteers gave **2,628** hours of their time from March 2024 to March 2025 – equivalent to **365** full working days!

**Interested in volunteering with us? Read more on p.16!**

*All figures correct at the time of printing.*



## A Final Sea Breeze, A Lifetime of Memories

### Mike & Tess's story

Tess and Mike grew up together on the same estate in Langport – childhood friends whose bond grew into a lifelong love. They got together at 16, married in 2007, and spent 22 years side by side, raising their two sons: Benjamin and Macaulay.



*Weston-super-Mare*

"Tess was a fun person – she enjoyed life," Mike said with a smile. "She worked in the kitchen in the local school. She loved her family so much, and she loved being active and going to the beach."

Then the worst happened. In 2014, Tess was diagnosed with breast cancer, which later spread to her lymph nodes and led to lymphoedema. At first, Mike cared for her at home with support from local Community Nurses. Eventually, she was referred to St Margaret's.

"I was quite scared," Mike said, "but Tess was happy to come here. She already knew quite a bit about the hospice because she used to volunteer at the charity shop in Langport."

The hospice began supporting the family at home, and Tess received care from the Lymphoedema Service at St Margaret's. "She used to come here and have treatments on her arms to get the swelling down," Mike recalled.

Tess's illness progressed, and in February 2018, she was admitted to the In-Patient Unit (IPU)

for end-of-life care. "I remember the first day now," said Mike. "We went into the room, and the nurse was just brilliant. The boys were a bit younger then, and the nurse noticed they were probably a bit frightened, so she brought them cake."

What followed was nearly a month of care, kindness and connection. "Anything you wanted was brought to you. I stayed in the hospice, on a little bed – I'd sleep in the room with her," said Mike.

**“I thought it was going to be a scary place, but it's not at all. I basically lived there for 28 days. Everyone was so helpful, and they always explained what was happening.”**

“The nurses even stayed late a few times just to help out. They were fantastic people, and they always went above and beyond.” The hospice did everything they could to bring fulfilment to Tess’s final days.

One of the most precious moments came on Mothering Sunday, when the hospice organised a special party for Tess, her sons, and her seven godchildren. “We had a little tea party and everything,” Mike remembers fondly. “That was really nice, because it was the last time her godchildren were going to see her.”

The hospice always went out of their way to care for what was important to Tess and her family. Mike had lost his wedding ring a few years earlier. “Tess always joked that I pawned it for a McDonald’s,” he laughed. “But I got another wedding ring and we had it blessed at the hospice, which was really special.” St Margaret’s holistic approach addressed Tess’s spiritual and emotional needs as well as physical ones. “I still have that ring now,” said Mike.

As the days on the IPU passed, Tess expressed one final wish: to see the beach again. “At the

time, I didn’t think we were going to be able to do it,” Mike admitted. “But we spoke to the nurses, and they spoke to the doctors.” The hospice team leapt into action.

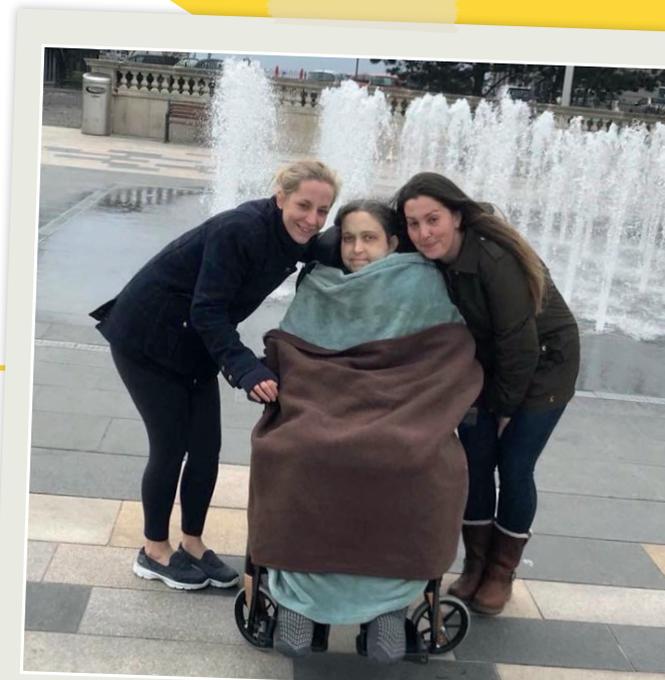
Bringing the trip to life took compassion, and commitment. “We needed Kerry, a Healthcare Assistant, and Anna, a Senior Nurse, to come with us. It was their day off, but they said they’d come anyway so it could be made possible.”

Mike’s friend lent them a community bus, which the hospice ensured was safe and suitable for Tess’s needs. And then they set off – Mike, Tess, the boys, and two dedicated hospice staff – for Weston-super-Mare. “We walked along the beach with Tess in her wheelchair,” said Mike. “We went into town and saw some police horses, which cheered Tess up. She liked horses.”

They even went on a quest for oyster shell ice creams. “We couldn’t find them,” Mike laughed, “So in the end we just went to the supermarket and bought them off the shelves, then came back and had some ice cream put in. But her day was complete.

“It fulfilled our dreams. If it wasn’t for the hospice, we wouldn’t have been able to do that. We went to the beach on the Wednesday, and on the Friday, she passed away.”

Hospice care is about so much more than medicine. It’s about **dignity, compassion, and love**. It’s about helping patients live well for as long as possible. It’s about creating space for joy in the hardest moments – a final walk by the sea, an oyster shell ice cream, and a memory that Tess’s family will carry with them always.



*A day out with our nurses*



*Arcade*



*Family time*



*Ice cream*



Visit our website to hear Mike and Tess’s story and many other stories about the care we’ve been able to provide because of your support.



## Remember someone special on your Memory Trees

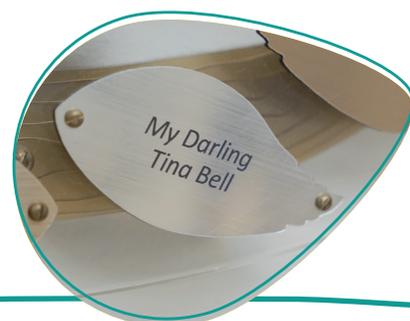
Your Memory Trees offer a unique and meaningful way to remember loved ones while supporting the hospice.

The Memory Trees take pride of place in the reception areas of our Taunton and Yeovil hospices. Leaves can be engraved with the name of someone special as a lasting tribute.

Your leaf\* will stay on the Memory Tree for a year. During this time, you can visit whenever you wish to take a quiet moment to remember your loved one. We ask for a suggested minimum donation of £120 (or £10 per month) to dedicate a leaf, which will help us continue providing compassionate hospice care for patients and their families in our community.

For more information, or to dedicate a leaf or sunflower, please complete the form via our website: [st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/memory-tree](http://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/memory-tree)

\*Leaves are available in gold, white gold, rose gold, and, exclusively for our 45th anniversary year, a special edition Sapphire Anniversary design. Annual renewals are £60 a year or £5 a month. We also have small and large sunflowers available for a suggested donation of £600 for two years and £1,200 for two years, respectively.



When John's wife, Tina, was being cared for by St Margaret's, she asked him to promise not to forget her. John has made it his mission to honour Tina's memory and regularly visits the hospice to sit by the Memory Tree and talk to her.

“ Tina died when I was 67; I'm now 74. I was always worried that, as my brain deteriorated, I would start forgetting her. So, I look for as many ways as possible to remember her. The Memory Tree was the root and branch of that.

## Together, we achieved something extraordinary



On 19 & 20 June, we raised a total of **£194,479** through our **Every Moment Counts Appeal!** Thank you so much for all your support, kind words, and generosity.

Across the hospice, staff and volunteers watched in awe as the total kept rising, and heartfelt messages poured in. We did not expect that after just 13 hours, we would hit our initial £100,000 fundraising goal! We'd like to say a **special thank you to our 80 Champions**, who rallied their friends, families, colleagues and communities to raise funds, and our generous matched funders – including the AJ Bell Futures Foundation – who collectively doubled all donations up to £70,000.

**We are so moved by your support.** It is touching to know that you are by our side as we work to enhance our care for patients and their loved ones. The money raised through our appeal will support our new five-year strategy to reach people much earlier in their journey with a life-limiting illness, so they can live well for as long as possible.

Like hospices across the UK, St Margaret's faces huge challenges, including rising costs at a time when demand for our care is growing. While approximately 30% of our costs are currently covered by the government, **we must raise around £11 million every year** to continue delivering free, compassionate care to patients and their loved ones across Somerset.

We're determined to enhance our care, so that we can reach people at an earlier stage of their diagnosis and help make every moment count; we can only do this with your support. Thank you for being here for us.

We will continue to update you on our strategy, but if you have any questions about our plans, please contact us via [strategy@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk](mailto:strategy@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk) [st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/our-strategy](http://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/our-strategy)

**Every Moment Counts Appeal**



# A day with our Community Nursing Team

By Dawn Stephens-Borg, Fundraising Copywriter at St Margaret's Hospice

Earlier this year, I spent a day with two of our Community Palliative Care Nurse Specialists (CPCNS), Angie and Elaine. St Margaret's has five Community Nursing Teams supporting patients and their loved ones across Somerset. One of those teams is based at Minehead Community Hospital.



Angie, Community Palliative Care Nurse Specialist



## 8am

When I arrive at Minehead Community Hospital, Angie is handing over notes to Elaine. Many of their patients have complex needs, so their situation can change very suddenly. Angie and Elaine review updates from overnight staff and discuss their planned visits for today. Somerset is a beautiful county, but the remoteness is challenging for the Community Nursing Team. In the winter, the roads can be treacherous, and phone signal is patchy at best, so careful planning is crucial.

## 9am

Next on the agenda is a 'huddle' with the West Community Nursing Team to share updates and review new referrals (there is a separate 'huddle' for the East of the county). The St Margaret's Community Nursing Team works with district nurses, GPs, and other community health and social care workers to deliver round-the-clock care to patients across Somerset.

## 9.30am

After the huddle, Angie and Elaine start calling patients – some of whom we will visit today – and follow up with newly referred patients. In between calls, they update the notes for all teams involved in their patients' care, to ensure that the right people can step in at the right time.

## 11am

It is a cold, bright day in Minehead. Angie and I set off on foot to visit a patient who was diagnosed with late-stage pancreatic cancer

last month. When we arrive, Alex\* answers the door – Angie is pleased to see him up and about. Alex's son is visiting from Scotland. We all sit in the living room and sunshine is beaming in through the front window.

When Angie last visited, Alex was tired and had lost his appetite, so Angie recommended that he try a short course of steroids to improve his energy levels. Alex's wife and son say he is eating regularly and has been getting out for a walk every afternoon.

Angie discusses Alex's illness so naturally and sensitively. The steroids are only for short-term use, and Alex's fatigue may return once he stops taking the medication. Angie shares her hopes for a relatively painless, peaceful progression to the end of his life. It is a difficult conversation, but Alex and his family are receptive, calm and understanding.

We are there for an hour, and in that time, Angie reassures Alex and his family and gives them the confidence they need to help Alex live as well as he can, until the end, knowing they will be supported every step of the way.

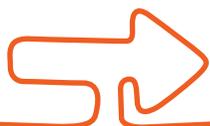
## 12.30pm

We return to the hospital, where Angie writes up her notes and returns a call about a new referral. Elaine has just arranged to transfer one of her patients to the In-Patient Unit in Taunton, as his condition has suddenly deteriorated, and he now requires 24/7 specialist care. Elaine sets off for Dulverton on the edge of Exmoor to visit two of her patients – a 35-minute drive from Minehead.

## 1.45pm

Angie and I head out to visit another patient, John\*, and his wife, Linda\*, who are both in their 80s. John has prostate cancer and is receiving end-of-life care at home. Before we leave, Angie tells me there has been a devastating development for the couple – just yesterday, Linda had a scan at the hospital and was told she has a tumour.

On our way to John and Linda, we stop to collect John's medication from the pharmacy, due to their challenging circumstances. When we arrive at John and Linda's rural home, Linda is packing a bag to go to the hospital for further



tests. She drove back from the hospital late last night after her scan because she was so worried about leaving John alone at home.

Angie hugs Linda, and we head upstairs to see John, who is in bed. Angie helps them to organise John's medication and discusses arranging a visit from a micro-provider to manage John's care until he can be reviewed by a local care home for respite, while Linda is in hospital. She will also request an emergency pendant for John, which is designed to support independence at home. If he presses the button on the emergency pendant, it will notify the local safe@home team.

Angie discusses care options with John so he can make an informed decision about his care over the next few weeks. Going to a local nursing home for respite would give Linda some reassurance while she is in the hospital, but John is anxious: "It's comforting to be here, with all my things." When we start to talk about Linda's scan, John breaks down. "I said a few months ago that we wouldn't know what to do if Linda was unwell, too. We wouldn't know how to cope. And now it's happened." Angie holds his hand.

deteriorated. She also checks a voicemail from Elaine, who hit an unexpected road closure on Exmoor. Angie requests John's emergency pendant and writes up her notes from today's visit.

 **5pm**

Angie starts to wrap up her work for the day, but tonight, staff across the county will continue to support patients and their loved ones, including the St Margaret's 24-hour Advice Line team (read more on p.19).

**This is just one day, with one team, in one part of the county. Every year, across all palliative and end-of-life care services, St Margaret's supports over 4,800 people in Somerset, with 95% of patients being cared for in the community, often in the comfort of their own home.**

**It is a privilege to care for our community, but we couldn't do what we do without the kindness and generosity of our amazing supporters.**

\*All names of patients and loved ones have been changed for confidentiality

 **3.45pm**

When we return to Minehead, Angie immediately receives a call to set up a visit with another patient whose condition has rapidly

**Could you donate today to support our Community Nurses across Somerset?**



# Your gift is our future



**For 45 years, we have championed a simple but important belief – that people facing a life-limiting illness deserve the best possible care and compassion.**

Each year we help over **4,800** people across Somerset, and we're determined to be there for anyone who needs us in the future – but we can't do this on our own.

**Today, one in three of our patients is cared for thanks to gifts left in Wills. Can you help us safeguard our care for future generations and include a gift in your Will?**

However big or small, your gift will help to ensure we are here for our community when it matters most, and protect our hospice care for all, for now, and forever.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to St Margaret's, please visit our website or contact Kim Gaylard, Committed Giving Manager, via **E: [kim.gaylard@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk](mailto:kim.gaylard@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk)** or **T: 01823 333822**.  
**[st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/remember-st-margarets-hospice-in-your-will](http://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/remember-st-margarets-hospice-in-your-will)**

# 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## your support in pictures



Bubble Toddle (Colour Run)



London Marathon



Cheese & Wine evening



Colour Run



Sapphire Anniversary Dip



Charity Ball



Glorious Gardens at our Yeovil Hospice



Glastonbury shop fundraiser for Every Moment Counts Appeal



London Marathon



Magnox collection for Every Moment Counts Appeal



# Supporter Spotlight: Mark

Mark has been a dedicated volunteer at St Margaret's for several years. He wears many hats and is a familiar face at our Yeovil hospice hub and events across Somerset!

## What inspired you to volunteer with St Margaret's Hospice?

St Margaret's cared for my mum, and I wanted to give something back to the hospice. I've been volunteering for a long time now. I started by helping in one of the shops, and one of my first fundraising activities was shaving my hair off! Now, I volunteer once a week with Lee, the Gardener at the Yeovil hospice hub. He is wonderful to work with. I also volunteer at fundraising events throughout the year.



## What do you like most about volunteering?

Volunteering is very interesting, and all the teams are great to work with. I love helping in the gardens in Yeovil. People walk by and tell me the gardens are looking lovely and tidy! It takes a lot of work to maintain the gardens in the summer, but everyone enjoys them. There are lovely seating areas, and the staff enjoy sitting outside with a coffee on a nice day. In the spring and summer, all the flowers were in full bloom.

## Can you tell us about one of your favourite moments while volunteering with St Margaret's?

I'm very proud of my work on the hedges at the Yeovil hospice this summer – everyone told me they looked so neat. One of my highlights was volunteering at the Santa Abseil in 2024 – I stood at the top of Cheddar Gorge! I also like to wear the Busy Bee costume, although it was very hot at the Colour Run this year!



## Which event are you most looking forward to volunteering at?

The Fireworks Night at Taunton Racecourse in November.

## What would be your advice for anyone thinking of volunteering with St Margaret's?

Get involved and join the team! We really need more volunteers to help at events to support the Fundraising team and there's always lots to do in the gardens in Yeovil – mowing, weeding, hedge-cutting, especially in the spring and summer.

## Interested in volunteering?



Whether you have a few hours to spare or regular time to give, there are lots of ways to get involved. Please contact the Volunteering Team on **01823 333822 / 01935 709480**, email [volunteering@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk), or visit our website: [st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/volunteer-with-us](http://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/volunteer-with-us)



## Events calendar



**Fireworks Night**  
**Saturday 8 November 2025**

Join us for a dazzling display of fireworks set to music at Taunton Racecourse.



**New Year's Day Dip**  
**Thursday 1 January 2026**

A joyful, invigorating dip at Minehead Beach to raise vital funds for St Margaret's (fancy dress encouraged!)



**Christmas Tree Collection**  
**Fri 9 – Sun 11 January 2026**

We'll collect and recycle your Christmas tree, and you can put your feet up!



**Firewalk**  
**Friday 27 February 2026**

Put your courage and determination to the test by walking over flaming hot embers!

**Find out more:**  
[st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/our-events](http://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/our-events)

# WEAR IT YELLOW!

Bring some sunshine to your school, workplace or community this October and help raise vital funds for St Margaret's Hospice. That's right - Wear It Yellow is back from **6-12 October 2025** and we can't wait!

Wear It Yellow coincides with Hospice Care Week – a chance to celebrate and highlight hospice care across the UK. The aim of the game (or rather, the campaign) is to do lots of fun things while wearing (or baking, selling, painting) something yellow and, most importantly, raise funds for your local hospice!

Please visit our website for ideas on how you can fundraise for **Wear It Yellow** this October:  
[st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/wear-it-yellow](https://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/wear-it-yellow)



**Wear it yellow**

**Bake it yellow**

**Paint it yellow**

**Work it yellow**

**Grow it yellow**

**Sell it yellow**



Sign up now for your **FREE** fundraising pack

Our amazing supporters have raised over **£24,000** since we launched **Wear It Yellow** in 2022!



## 5 minutes with...



### Rachel Plaw, Clinical Coordinator Team Lead, Central Referral Centre

#### Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your role at St Margaret's?

I have worked in the Central Referral Centre (CRC) team at St Margaret's for nearly 10 years. The CRC is the first point of contact when patients and families call in to use our 24-hour Advice Line.

I was a travel agent for 16 years, and I wanted to do something different that still involved helping and engaging with people but truly made a difference. A friend who worked for St Margaret's suggested this role and thought I would be good at it, so, I took the plunge and applied! I have never looked back and every day since, I have enjoyed coming to work knowing that I have a positive impact on people's lives.

#### What does the Central Referral Centre do?

We take calls from patients, families, and medical professionals, and we use our skills to decide where best to direct calls to get people the support they need. While the CRC team are not clinically trained, we work alongside clinical staff to ensure that we provide a valuable and reliable service to the local community.

We are always here with kindness, compassion and a listening ear, and we take the time to truly understand and empathise with people and show them the compassion and understanding they need.

#### Can you tell us something about your role that people might not expect?

I cry a lot, but it's my way of dealing with the emotions that come with being part of the hospice team. I think it shows how much I care about what I do. This role also makes you truly appreciate life and reminds you to be grateful for everything around you.

#### What do you love most about your role at St Margaret's?

I am grateful to be surrounded by such wonderful colleagues who all show the same compassion, no matter their role at St Margaret's. I know I help to make a difference to people as part of the CRC team, whether that be a kind word, an empathetic ear or just being present for someone so that they don't feel alone in such difficult times.



“ I cry a lot, but it's my way of dealing with the emotions that come with being part of the hospice team. I think it shows how much I care about what I do.”

Last year\*, our Central Referral Centre and 24-hour Advice Line answered **31,224** calls.

\*Financial year ending March 2024

# Delivering greener hospice care



While focusing on our core purpose of delivering hospice care, St Margaret's recognises its role in doing all that we can to have a positive impact on the environment. We are committed to contributing towards the local goal of making Somerset a carbon-neutral county by 2030, knowing an environmentally sustainable society is a healthier society.

St Margaret's has a new Green Strategy in place to raise awareness and encourage all members of our team and those linked with the hospice to consider their environmental impact. Across the hospice, we have made several changes to support and improve our green credentials, from installing solar panels on both hospice buildings and recycling food waste to reducing our use of single-use plastic items and going paperless, where possible.

## Recognising the recycling power of retail

One of our biggest positive environmental impacts is delivered by the superb work of our charity shops. **Last year, we saved over 1.5 million kilograms of items from heading to landfill** and made over 19,600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> savings – just by recycling your pre-loved items and finding new homes for them!

We know our customers like to understand the financial impact they are having, but we can now also tell you the environmental impact of your donations and purchases. In seven of our shops, we display these details on a digital screen at the till, as soon as an item is purchased. We plan to roll this out to all our shops in due course.

## Sustainable September!

Sustainable September is a month-long campaign that gives us an opportunity to highlight the important role that our charity shops play in reducing waste through shop donations and by encouraging the purchase of pre-loved items.

In fact, **20 September is World Clean Up Day!** While this day focuses on tackling the global waste crisis, locally, we are hoping our community will use it as an opportunity to have

a clear out of summer clothes and to donate them to a local St Margaret's shop. At the same time, we will roll out new stock for the colder months, so it's a great time to pick up a coat and winter woollies ready for the changing season!

You can find your local shop via our website: [st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/shop/find-a-shop](http://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/shop/find-a-shop). Look out for our fantastic window displays during September to see what they have on offer to tempt you in.

## At home with St Margaret's

As well as preventing hundreds of tonnes of clothes from going to landfill, we are also helping families across Somerset to set up home, without it having to cost the earth! With a huge range of household items from bedframes, sofas, dining tables and chairs, we have a diverse collection of furniture to suit every taste and budget. From retro to modern, country kitchen to urban chic - we've got you covered.

And don't forget, we offer free furniture collections, so we can pick up your old items and resell them to help others set up home. Our three large furniture stores in Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater have ample parking and donation drop-off points, making it easy to declutter your home. And, for every piece of furniture you donate to St Margaret's that we sell on, we can continue funding hospice care for local families directly in their homes.

To book a free furniture collection, visit our website and fill in the form online: [st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/furniture-collections](http://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/furniture-collections) or call **01823 218313**.

Thank you to everyone who shopped with us or donated to their local shop in the last six months. It means the world to us and has helped the hospice achieve a fourth successive year of growth in retail sales during these tough economic times.



Jo, our Director of Fundraising, Retail & Communications, wearing her favourite yellow coat from a St Margaret's shop – perfect for autumn and the hospice's **WEAR IT YELLOW!** campaign.



Every bag of donations could generate up to £25, which could help to pay for a patient's loved ones to stay in our hospice Sunflower Suite for a night.



St Margaret's Taunton Furniture shop





Claire Klatt, Junior Sister



# Sponsor a Nurse

Donate today and help our nurses deliver expert care – now and always.

Our wonderful nurses work around the clock providing a lifeline of comfort, compassion, and dignity for those facing a life-limiting illness. They care for thousands of patients and their loved ones in the community, on our In-Patient Unit, in our day hospices, and through our 24-hour Advice Line.

We're determined to be here for anyone who needs us in the future, but we can only do this with regular support to help us plan ahead with confidence. By sponsoring a nurse at St Margaret's Hospice, you'll be helping to ensure our nurses can continue delivering expert care, when and where it's needed most.

## Sponsor a nurse today



**£8** a month could pay for a patient to be supported by a **Healthcare Assistant** to get ready for the day.

**£12.50** a month over a year could pay for two visits from a **Community Nurse**, helping to care for someone in the comfort of their own home.

**£18.50** a month over a year could cover the cost of a nursing shift on our specialist **In-Patient Unit**, ensuring comfort, dignity and emotional support for patients with complex needs.

### When you sponsor a nurse, you will receive:

- Personal updates from a local nurse on how your sponsorship is making a difference
- A custom-designed car window sticker featuring our Sponsor a Nurse logo to display with pride
- The spring and autumn edition of 'The Sunflower'.



**Your sponsorship will ensure our nurses – like Claire – can continue caring for our community when it matters most.**



"Hi, my name is Claire, I'm a Junior Sister on the In-Patient Unit (IPU) in Taunton. I am responsible for the day to day running of the ward, supporting the IPU team, coordinating patient admissions and discharges, and working alongside Clinical Governance to maintain high standards of patient care. I also work a shift on the ward every week, which I love – closely caring for patients and their loved ones.

"I have nursing background in acute, high dependency care, where I supported patients and their loved ones once medical treatments were no longer helping the patient get better. Working on a respiratory ward during the Covid pandemic strengthened my desire to provide holistic, high-quality care for those with a life-limiting illness.

"St Margaret's Hospice is a very special organisation – I am surrounded by so many amazing people who want to make a difference."

To sponsor a nurse today, please fill in the form enclosed with your newsletter or visit our website: [st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/sponsor-a-nurse](https://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/sponsor-a-nurse)



*St Margaret's presents*

# Fireworks Night

**Saturday 8 November**

**5pm at Taunton Racecourse**

Get ready for dazzling displays of fireworks, perfectly choreographed to music by the award-winning pyrotechnic company, Sonic Fireworks.

This promises to be an unforgettable night for all ages and the proceeds will help us continue caring for patients and their loved ones across Somerset.

Book your tickets online now! [st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/fireworks](http://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/fireworks)

**Online prices: Adult (18+) £9, Child (3-17) £5**

**Book now:**



**FREE PARKING**



Proudly sponsored by:



PORTER  
DODSON



**St Margaret's  
Hospice Care**

Celebrating **45** years of our care