

The Sunflower

supporter newsletter

Issue No. 08
Autumn 2026



Inside:

“He was just the best dad ever”

Hayley reflects on the support, kindness and comfort her family received from the hospice.

Easing worried minds

Our Supportive Care team make small changes that have a big impact for patients, families and carers.



St Margaret's
Hospice Care

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Welcome

Dear Supporter,

Welcome to our autumn newsletter, and as always, thank you for being part of the St Margaret's Hospice community.

As you read through these pages, I hope you feel the difference your support makes every day for patients, families and carers across Somerset. Hayley's moving story about her dad, Rob, is a powerful reminder of what hospice care can mean at the most difficult of times: comfort, dignity and the chance to create precious final memories together.

This edition also shows the breadth of the services we provide beyond just medical care. From our Supportive Care Services, which help people navigate grief, anxiety, practical worries and family challenges, to our therapeutic support for people living with progressive neurological conditions, your generosity enables us to stand alongside people in ways that are incredibly personal and often life changing.

I am also delighted to share the impact of recent fundraising. Thanks to an extraordinary response to our Cuddle Bed Appeal, we have been able to purchase two new cuddle beds for our ward, helping more families be close when it matters most.

The many supporter stories featured here — from sponsored walks and cycling challenges to corporate partnerships, shop donations and volunteering — show the many ways our community helps keep hospice care free for those who need it.

You will also read about improvements to our Taunton and Yeovil hospice hubs. These investments are helping us create more welcoming, accessible spaces for patients, families, volunteers and staff, while protecting the warmth and compassion that make St Margaret's feel like home.

Like hospices across the country, we continue to face rising costs and uncertainty around long-term funding. Your support is therefore more important than ever. Whether you donate, volunteer, fundraise, shop with us, attend an event, play our Weekly Prize Draw or remember someone through Light up a Life, you are helping ensure local people receive compassionate care when it is most needed.

On behalf of everyone at St Margaret's, thank you for your continued kindness, generosity and belief in our work.



Joanna Hall
Chief Executive



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st-margarets-hospice.org.uk

supportercare@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk
01935 709485

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Light up a Life

Remember a loved one **this winter**

Light up a Life is an opportunity to remember someone special, while helping ensure compassionate hospice care continues for local families across Somerset.

The festive season can bring moments of reflection, as memories of those we love feel especially close. Through Light up a Life, we invite you to celebrate their life, your way, while helping more people in our community receive the care and support they need when it matters most.

If you would like to join us for Light up a Life and remember together this winter, please keep an eye on our website from mid-October.

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. We simply wouldn't be here without our incredible community. Here are just a few examples of the support we've received in recent months.

Thank you to **Jasmine**, who raised **£2,500** by walking 32 miles along the Liberty Trail in memory of her mum, on what would have been her 50th birthday.

A special shout-out to **Nick Girone-Maddocks** of **Gibbins Richards** for his dedicated support as our compère at our Charity Masquerade Ball, taking on a hike from Wellington to Bridgwater, supporting our Christmas Tree Collection and much more.

In June, **Dr Kate Shorthose**, Consultant in Palliative Care and Research Lead at St Margaret's, along with her friends Pippa and Jacqui, cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats covering over 800 miles in 14 days and raising **£4,000**.

Jon Witney has taken on several fundraising challenges in aid of the hospice, including the London Landmarks Half Marathon, Colour Run and Tinsel Trot. He will also join our Snowdon at Night challenge in October. A big thank you to Jon for all his support!



Staff at the **UK Hydrographic Office** raised an extraordinary **£22,580** for St Margaret's after choosing us as their Charity of the Year for two years. Colleagues took part in our Wear It Yellow campaign, hosted cake sales, a craft fair, summer party, raffle, and a cricket match, to name but a few!

Thank you to the members of **Bristol University Air Squadron, Chipmunk flight**, for completing a self-guided 26-mile hike from our Taunton hospice hub to our Yeovil hospice, raising over **£1,350**.



Thank you for your support.

We couldn't continue our important work without you!



Two new cuddle beds, thanks to you

This spring, with the support of our generous community, we doubled the number of cuddle beds on our specialist In-Patient Unit (IPU).

Cuddle beds are specially designed, adaptable hospital beds that allow patients to lie side by side with their loved ones, bringing compassion and connection to those receiving end-of-life care on our ward. With two additional cuddle beds on our IPU, more patients and families can curl up together in comfort.

The appeal surpassed its initial target of £20,000 and, combined with funds previously raised by our supporters through swimming challenges, half marathons, fundraising pages in memory of loved ones, and fundraising by our IPU team, we raised just over **£36,000**. This enabled us to purchase two cuddle beds in April, at a cost of £14,995 each. The remaining funds raised will go directly towards supporting patient care on the IPU.

“We are incredibly moved by the response to our Cuddle Bed Appeal,” said Hannah Roberts, Head of Fundraising. “These beds will make a real difference, giving patients and families the chance to share meaningful moments together in the most difficult of times.”

We are immensely grateful to Alison and Angie, who raised funds for the appeal in memory of their partners, Rob and Robin, following the care they received at St Margaret’s.

Our IPU has recently been refurbished (read more on p.10-11) and with these two new cuddle beds, all the beds on our ward have now been updated. We are so grateful to everyone who made this possible.

“A cuddle bed is the most wonderful thing. It’s so important for families and patients to be together and still have that connection – the same connection they would have had at home.

- Alison, whose husband, Rob, was cared for on our IPU.

“He was just the best dad ever”

After losing her dad, Rob, Hayley reflects on the support, kindness and comfort her family received from St Margaret’s Hospice.



“He was just the best dad ever,” Hayley says, smiling. “I might be a bit biased, but he was.”

She cherishes her childhood memories with him. “We’d go on little adventures — bike rides, visits to family friends, the beach, the arcades. He was quite an active person, always out and about, like me really.”

A dedicated family man, Rob always devoted himself to his children and later, his grandchildren. “He would come down to Plymouth, where I live, at the drop of a hat if I needed a bit of help,” says Hayley.

Funny, loving, caring, supportive, and perhaps a bit clumsy, Rob was well known and well liked in his hometown of Bridgwater. He worked at the cellophane factory, and Hayley fondly remembers how he would stroll down the street, greeting everyone with a smile — often by name.

However, after a stroke in 2013, Rob’s health started to decline. “From there, he suffered with mobility and speech, as well

as underlying issues which we never truly knew. He just deteriorated,” says Hayley.

In 2023, Rob was referred to St Margaret’s Hospice. Admitted to the In-Patient Unit at first for symptom control, he stayed until his death just a few weeks later.

“Without getting upset, I was just grateful for how amazing they were. So supportive, and so much empathy. Even though Dad couldn’t really speak and express himself very much at that point, it was just his smiles and his little gestures that they would laugh at.”

The hospice became a sanctuary, not just for Rob, but for those who loved him.

“People could come and visit him, and he had friends come in. It was special to just have that human interaction.

“The room looked out onto the garden, and a little Robin would come down — Dad loved watching it.”

Something that made a huge difference for Hayley was the Sunflower Suite — an onsite apartment where loved ones can stay to remain close by. “Because I was living far away, and not knowing how long the journey would be, I was so grateful.”

That closeness gave Hayley the chance to make precious final memories with her dad.

“ There was a song my dad used to sing to me when I was little. One morning, I went in singing it to him. Even though for years he couldn’t say much at all, that morning, he sang some of the words back.

“There was also another time where I said, ‘I love you Dad, I really love you,’ and he said, ‘I love you, too.’ Plain as anything. From someone that had not spoken, it probably took a lot, but it meant the world.”



Eventually, Rob’s condition worsened. While watching her son’s football game in Plymouth, Hayley received a call from the hospice to say her dad didn’t have long. She went to him straight away.

“We spent all the time we could with him. The nurses were amazing — they reassured me. They didn’t pretend to have all the answers, but they were there, and they were very honest.”

Just after 8pm, Rob died peacefully. “Even though it sounds bizarre to say — I love my dad to bits, and I’d give anything to have him here — but after his struggle, I wanted him to go so he could be at peace. I was proud of him for letting go. But it was the hardest thing in the world to leave him there at the hospice.

“There was no rush to leave. We could stay with him as long as we needed. I held his hand the whole time.” The hospice gave Hayley a small knitted heart to remember him by and she sprayed it with her dad’s aftershave.



Hayley took a short walk in the hospice grounds that evening. "It might sound silly, but there were little signs that day. A white feather came floating down in front of me. And then, when I went back, the Robin we'd been watching was there again."

Even in that quiet moment, it felt as though her dad was still with her.

The hospice wasn't how Hayley had imagined it would be. "My stomach sank when I heard that Dad was going to the hospice," says Hayley, "but all we wanted was for him to have the support that he needed and deserved. And when we saw what it was all about, it totally took away any apprehension. I think if Dad had had a choice, he maybe would've gone there earlier."

“ I would absolutely sing St Margaret's praises, ten times over.



£30 could enable a family to stay overnight in our Sunflower Suite to be close to their loved one.



Hospice news



Tailored support for patients with progressive neurological conditions

Earlier this year, St Margaret's successfully trialled a therapeutic hub for patients with progressive neurological conditions (PNCs), offered through our Sunflower Centres in Yeovil and Taunton.

Those affected by PNCs like motor neurone disease often experience challenges with mobility, fatigue, breathing and personal care. Our therapeutic hub, funded by the Masonic Charitable Foundation via Hospice UK, aimed to minimise the impact of these challenges by improving access to our care and enhancing the quality of life for local people living with PNCs.

Patient sessions were held in our Sunflower Centres and ran fortnightly on each site.

Following patient feedback shared before the project, we ensured our sessions included peer support and group work on topics like fatigue management, relaxation, and pain management. Carers and family members have also been able to access a range of resources through our hubs to help manage the complex journey of caring for their loved one.

Our therapeutic hubs build on our current tailored care for patients with PNCs, which is primarily through our Community Nursing teams and 24-hour Advice Line. We are pleased to be able to continue our support for people with PNCs as part of our core hospice provision at St Margaret's.





Raising our voice for fairer hospice funding

Hospice UK (HUK), the national champion for hospices, is urging the government to provide fair funding for palliative and end-of-life care services. As part of the HUK's Fair Funding campaign, on 15 April, hospice staff from across the country gathered in Westminster to raise awareness of the critical situation many hospices are facing.

St Margaret's is proud to support this campaign, and we have contributed stories from patients and families in Somerset to help raise our voice in Parliament. One of those patients is Ritchie, who is receiving support for pain management. In a message to the Prime Minister, Ritchie said: "The hospice has proved invaluable to me over the past few months. The staff, doctors, and nurses understand my problems, and the near one-to-one care has helped me personally so much. That's why I'm asking you to support fair funding for hospices."

We are incredibly grateful for the funding we receive from our local NHS, but it only covers around 20% of our costs. Like every organisation, we feel the impact of decisions and events beyond our control, such as rising fuel and operating costs, the increase in National Insurance contributions, and the cost-of-living crisis, which puts additional pressure on those we care for and the families supporting them.

Joanna Hall, Chief Executive at St Margaret's, said: **"It is difficult to imagine life without hospice care, yet without a long-term national funding solution, that future is possible. Right now, St Margaret's is in sound financial health, supported by strong reserves and difficult decisions made over previous years. But we know how quickly circumstances can change, and many hospices are already being forced to make choices none of us want to make."**



Building for the future

Over the past few months, we've been improving our Taunton and Yeovil hospice hubs to create welcoming, accessible environments that better support the people we care for.

These improvements have been made possible thanks to a capital grant from the Department of Health and Social Care, administered by Hospice UK. **This government funding is specifically for buildings and infrastructure and cannot be used to fund the day-to-day care we provide.**

In Taunton, refurbishment of our In-Patient Unit is complete, with brighter patient rooms and refreshed clinical spaces for patients, families and colleagues.

In Yeovil, work is nearing completion on a new welcome area, dedicated reception points for St Margaret's and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust patients, and a new food and drink servery.

We're looking forward to celebrating the completion of both projects and welcoming supporters to see the difference these improvements have made.

While our buildings are changing, one thing remains the same — the care we provide is only possible because of the generosity of our community. Thank you for helping us create hospices that are not only fit for the future, but continue to feel like home.

Standing alongside patients, families and carers

Our therapists and Social Workers help to ease worried minds, navigate complex emotions, and make small changes that have a big impact.

Hospice care is about much more than clinical care. When someone is referred to St Margaret's Hospice, we care for them physically, emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. This extends to carers and family members, many of whom feel overwhelmed and often isolated when supporting a loved one with a life-limiting illness.

Our Supportive Care Services offer guidance when it's needed most, helping patients and their loved ones navigate complex emotions, supporting children facing the loss of a parent or guardian to develop healthy coping strategies, and tackling practical, financial and housing issues. These vital services form part of our wraparound care and ensure people are supported every step of the way.

“There are no wrong feelings”

Many family members and carers say they don't want to burden their loved one with how they are feeling, but opening up about these difficult emotions can make people feel less alone. Our **Family, Patient & Carer Support therapists** offer a listening ear without any preconceptions, and a confidential space where people are accepted for who they are. “There are no wrong feelings,”

said one of the Family & Patient Support therapists at St Margaret's. “Whatever you are feeling is okay.”

We create a safe space where individuals can explore their thoughts and feelings, using a blend of talking therapies and creative approaches to help them feel heard, valued, and understood.

Through Samsara, a branch of our Family, Patient & Carer Support service, we also support young families. With gentle creative activities, we help children and young people make sense of their emotions, strengthen their coping skills, and grow in confidence and resilience, helping them feel more secure in themselves and their world.

As part of our holistic approach at St Margaret's, services work together to ensure people are held throughout their journey. “Talking therapy is highly effective, but it can be overwhelming,” said our Supportive Care Coordinator. “We arranged for someone who had been caring for their loved one to receive a relaxing complementary therapy treatment after their session with us, so they could be nurtured and decompress after being so open and vulnerable. They told us they didn't realise how much they needed it. **So often, carers forget to look after themselves.**”



Grief is a deeply personal experience

No one should have to cope with the loss of a loved one alone. Our **Bereavement Support** service is here to support adults with their grief, offering a safe space to talk freely, without judgement. Whatever complicated feelings may arise — anger, overwhelm, or even relief after such a difficult period — we are here to listen.

“When people first come to us, they might say they feel hopeless, tearful, empty, unable to function — they can be exhausted, physically and mentally,” said a member of our Bereavement Support team. “We have the privilege of meeting clients at their most vulnerable time and offering the time and space to facilitate their journey through grief.”

Grief is a deeply personal experience — there is no ‘right’ way to process it, and no set path. Family, friends, carers and healthcare professionals can access our Bereavement Support service whenever they are ready.

Small actions make a meaningful difference

Everyday life can feel incredibly daunting for those facing a life-limiting illness. Patients are often grappling with practical and financial issues while coming to terms with their diagnosis — that's where our **Social Work** team comes in.

Supporting with financial or housing issues, safeguarding, navigating care pathways, funding options, and signposting for specialist advice, our Social Workers and Social Work Assistant* help to take some of the weight off patients’ shoulders. By easing these concerns, we can give patients more time to do the things they love and spend precious moments with those closest to them.

“I feel privileged to walk alongside patients and their families and support them in sometimes small but significant ways,” said our Specialist Palliative Social Worker. “It’s never too early to reach out, and we can help patients explore the options for support now or in the future.”

**Hear more from our Social Work Assistant on p.21.*

£90 could pay for a family member’s counselling session with our Bereavement Support team.

Back for 2026!

Sponsored
 SANTA ABSEIL

Saturday 5 December

Cheddar Gorge

Limited spaces, book now at:
[st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/
events](https://st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/events)

Registration fee: £35

Pledge to raise: £125

Book now:





Corporate Spotlight

Koller Engineering's kaleidoscope of fundraising activities

When Koller Engineering chose St Margaret's Hospice as their Charity of the Year for the second year running, we were over the moon! The wheelchair restraint manufacturer, based in Yeovil, has raised over £8,000 for the hospice so far.

"We are proud to support St Margaret's and the incredible work they do for patients and families across our community," said Leoni Mullis, Koller Engineering Director. "Seeing the impact the hospice has on so many people's lives makes fundraising and taking part in their events something that means a great deal to our team."

The company donates £1 from the sale of every wheelchair restraint to the hospice, enabling us to continue our vital work. They have also sponsored a paint station at our flagship Colour Run event for the last two years, and the team are taking on the Snowdon at Night challenge in October!

Koller Engineering said: "Supporting St Margaret's is a meaningful way to give something back to the local community while bringing employees together behind a shared cause. We would encourage any business to get involved. The hospice team are incredibly supportive and make it easy for businesses of all sizes to get involved."

We are so grateful to the team at Koller Engineering and we wish them the very best of luck for the Snowdon at Night challenge.

"As a local business, we believe it is important to support organisations that make a genuine difference to the communities in which we live and work."

– Koller Engineering

If you or someone you know runs a business and would like to explore corporate fundraising, please contact us via:
E: CorporateFundraising@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk, or visit our website: st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/corporates

Supporter Spotlight: Hector

Driven by a passion for nature and keen to follow in his grandfather's footsteps, gardener Hector Lindsay is taking on a 1,200-mile pilgrimage from Somerset to Spain in aid of St Margaret's Hospice. Starting at the Church of St James the Great in Fitzhead, Hector is following the Camino de Santiago to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

"This is my first multi-week wild camping walk," says Hector. "I have done some shorter long-distance walks, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at school. Walking is a big part of trips I go on. It's my favourite way to explore somewhere new."

Hector embarked on the pilgrimage in honour of his grandparents, who passed away last year. His grandfather cycled a similar route many years ago, carrying a scallop shell that Hector now carries on his pack while on the trail.

"I found my grandparents both fascinating people and really loved the time I was lucky enough to spend with them," says Hector.

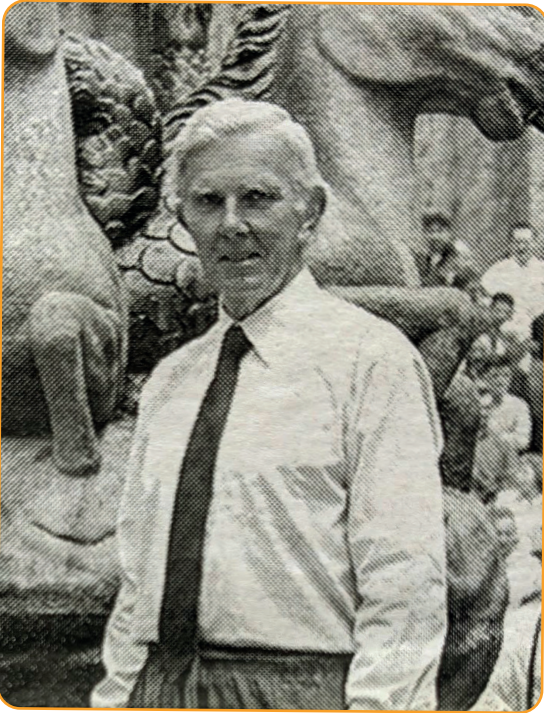
"My grandmother's love of gardening sparked my interest in it. Seeing my grandparents' health decline, and the way my family cared for them, inspired me to support the hospice. I want to help raise much-needed funds and awareness, so that more people are cared for at the end of their life.

"The first 550-mile leg of my pilgrimage gave me time to look within and reflect on the shared times with my grandparents and process the loss — being alone in the wild helped greatly. When I'm on the trail, it is good to have a task of putting one foot in front of the other but have time to think, and also not think. Being in nature, connecting to my surroundings and unplugging from modern distractions helps with this."

Hector initially planned to take on the journey in one go but unfortunately sustained an ankle injury and had to postpone. Undeterred, he returned to the trail in June, at the historic town of Pons in France, and will complete the trek in stages.



Events calendar



"I was a bit too gung-ho about the whole thing and pushed on too much with an injured ankle. I probably should have done more training in the build-up to starting.

"My advice for anyone considering taking on a long-distance hike like this would be: go for it! Also, train lots beforehand to avoid injury (something I should have done more of!), and remember to be in the moment. It is a great challenge to take on, but I have learned to savour the journey and not be too focused on the completion of the challenge. The journey is what it's all about, rather than the destination."

Hector will set off on the next stage of his journey in September and continue fundraising for St Margaret's via his JustGiving page. At the time of printing, Hector has raised just over £1,000, which could fund seven visits by a Community Nurse, providing a patient with compassionate, specialist care in their home setting.



Looking for a festive fundraiser for the whole family? Dash through Taunton in a 3k or 1k run this December!



Raise money for St Margaret's without lifting a finger! Let us collect and recycle your Christmas tree in January. Register your interest via our website today.



A bracing dip in the Atlantic at Minehead Beach in aid of the hospice (fancy dress encouraged).

See all our
events here



Find out more:
st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/events



Proud to be part of something bigger

Our 32 charity shops are fundamental in providing care and support for our community. Every time you donate items to our shops or purchase something pre-loved, you are helping our hospice deliver care when it's needed most.

You're not just making space in your wardrobe or buying a nice second-hand jumper, but you're also helping someone get the support they need after being diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and creating treasured moments for local families. In 2024/25, our shops raised a staggering £2.1m — enough to fund our Community Nursing team for a whole year.

So much more than a shop

When The Old Cinema shop in Yeovil first opened in 2015, there were questions about whether another charity shop was needed. A decade later, it has become one of St Margaret's most distinctive stores. Set within a former Art Deco cinema, the shop covers three floors, offering a wide range of pre-loved furniture, homeware and clothing.

Over time, The Old Cinema has also become a community hub. Partnerships with organisations such as YMCA, Armed Forces charity SSAFA and housing provider Abri Group have enabled the shop to provide essential furniture to those in need. The shop also engages with Community Payback placements, offering opportunities for

people to gain skills and confidence, with some moving into employment.

On Yeovil High Street, St Margaret's has relocated its Hendford shop to a larger, more prominent site. The move reflects a commitment to keeping retail spaces accessible, while also making use of repurposed fittings to reduce waste and costs. In June, we opened our third shop

in Taunton, on Lisieux Way, offering easy access, convenient parking and improved facilities for donations.

Across Somerset, our shops are supported by hardworking teams of staff and volunteers who keep them running day to day. From sorting donations to helping customers, their work contributes to something much bigger, and we are so grateful.

Mary's story

When Mary moved from Surrey to Somerset nearly 20 years ago, she didn't know many people. But a visit to Langport's St Margaret's shop changed everything.

"I wandered down here one day, came into the shop and asked if they needed more volunteers," she says. "And yes, they did. That was the start of it, and I've been here ever since. I love it."

Over two decades of volunteering, Mary has found a sense of belonging. "The people are really nice," she says with a smile. "It's lovely to get a chance to meet people and to know you're volunteering for such an amazing cause. We're a friendly bunch. The staff are encouraging and always ready to listen. It's like a little family."

Christmas is Mary's favourite time of year and her love of the festive season shines through in the way she brings joy to others. Each December, she makes it her personal mission to find homes for every single teddy bear in the shop. "With their little

faces looking out from the shelves, I can't bear to think of them being left behind," she says with a smile. "I always tell customers, 'We can't let this bear spend Christmas alone; he needs a home!'"

Mary's story reminds us that compassion takes many forms: sometimes it's a friendly volunteer with a soft spot for teddy bears, helping to make a difference in their community.



If you are interested in volunteering in one of our charity shops, please contact our Volunteering Team on: **E: volunteering@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk** **T: 01823 346959** or visit our website: **st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/volunteer-with-us**

Writing a Will

Everything you need to know



In October, we're hosting a free information session to help answer your questions about Wills, trusts, probate, estate planning, and more.

Saturday 24 October, 10.30am - 12pm
at our Yeovil hospice hub (BA20 2HU)

What to expect on the day

You will have the opportunity to meet your local St Margaret's team, speak to a Personal Estate Planner to answer any questions, and find out more about our free Will writing service. **Refreshments will be provided, and you'll be treated to a slice of delicious cake baked by our in-house chefs.**

A Personal Estate Planning Consultant from Honey Legal will join us on the day to talk about writing a Will, lasting power of attorney, living trusts and property trusts, and probate and estate administration. Whether you're thinking about the future, planning for later life, or coping after the loss of a loved one, they can offer friendly advice and support.

There is no obligation to leave a gift in your Will to St Margaret's or make any decisions on the day – this session is just for information and to help answer any questions you might have.

Book your free place today

Please book your free place via our website st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/events or email us: legacy@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk. You are very welcome to bring along a family member or friend as your guest.

If you'd like more information about leaving a gift in your Will and how your gift can make a difference, you can also request a free guide via our website: st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/ways-to-give/remember-us

We look forward to meeting you.

Scan to book



Today, **1 in 3**
of our patients
are cared for
thanks to gifts
left in Wills.

5 minutes with...



Kerry Stanley, Social Work Assistant

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

I have been part of the Social Work team at St Margaret's for just over a year. From a very young age, I have worked within social care, driven by a genuine love of people and a strong desire to support others. I chose this role because I wanted to help people during an incredibly sensitive and precious time in their lives and to make a difference, however small that may be. I am deeply committed to helping individuals and families feel supported, listened to, and cared for when they are facing some of life's most challenging moments.

What does the Social Work team do?

We support patients and families with emotional, practical and social needs, assisting with care planning, connecting people to services in and out of the hospice, and providing comfort, dignity and guidance around end-of-life issues.

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

I am not sure what I expected when I first took on this role, but it has truly been inspirational. One experience that stands out involved a patient receiving

end-of-life care at home, who wished to remain in bed with her partner. Working with the Occupational Therapist, we adapted a hospital bed, suited to her complex needs, while enabling her to be close to her partner in her final days. Being part of making this possible felt incredibly meaningful. It highlighted that small, thoughtful adjustments can make a profound difference to someone's comfort, dignity, and emotional wellbeing at the end of life.

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

My role allows me to build genuine connections, use my experience in a purposeful way, and continue learning every day. Being able to make a difference — whether through listening, offering reassurance, or helping with practical concerns — feels incredibly valuable and rewarding. I also really value working with great colleagues who are committed to providing person-centred care with dignity and kindness.

“Small, thoughtful adjustments can make a profound difference to someone's comfort, dignity, and emotional wellbeing at the end of life.”



A win for you, and for local hospice care

**£2 for 2
chances
a week**

By playing the St Margaret's Hospice Weekly Prize Draw, you can help to provide sustainable funding for hospice care in Somerset.

In 2025, our lottery players raised a phenomenal £395,249 for St Margaret's, directly supporting free, specialist care for people facing a life-limiting illness in our community. However, the cost of our care is rising, and we are determined to be here for anyone who needs us, now and in the future.

By joining our Weekly Prize Draw, you can give more patients and families the care and support they deserve, while being in with a chance of winning cash prizes to do something lovely for yourself.

New prizes, more chances!

From **1 September**, the standard price for our Weekly Prize Draw has increased to **£2** for two entries per week. We hope this will help safeguard free, compassionate hospice care in Somerset, while bringing the same joy and excitement that the draw always has. We have tried to offset the price change by restructuring our prize offering, at no extra cost to the hospice. You still have a chance of winning our top prize of £1,000 every week, and up to £10,000 through our rollover prize. **But you now have the chance to win up to two £5,000 bonus prizes each year!**



You could win...



First prize

£1,000



Rollover prize

£250*

(up to £10,000)

25 runner-up prizes

5 x **£25** &

20 x **£10**



Up to two
bonus draws

of **£5,000**

every year

Sign up today!

To sign up to the **Weekly Prize Draw**, please fill in the form attached and return it to us via the freepost address provided, or visit: st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/play-our-weekly-prize-draw



If you have any questions, please email us at:
lottery.office@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk or call **01823 365620**.

Jill joined the Weekly Prize Draw to support St Margaret's following the care her daughter received. Earlier this year, Jill won £500.
**"I was so surprised; I have never won anything like this before!
I am going to buy comfortable garden furniture."**

All profits go to St Margaret's Hospice Care. Every ticket purchased has a 1 in 421 chance of winning one of our weekly prizes. The exact chance of winning varies each week depending on the number of tickets sold. 65p from every £1 ticket goes directly towards caring for our patients. 18p pays for the cost of running the draw, and 17p covers the prizes. (Information based on the average number of players in draws and accounts between January 2025 and December 2025). St Margaret's Somerset Hospice is licensed and regulated in Great Britain by the Gambling Commission under account number 4624.
Responsible Person: Joanna Hall. Players must be over 18.

*When we run the draw for our rollover prize, our lottery software reduces the likelihood of winning that prize. If the rollover is not won, the prize money rolls over to next week's draw and increases by £250. If the rollover reaches £10,000 we guarantee the prize will be won in that week's draw.

St Margaret's presents

Fireworks Night

Friday 6 November

Gates open 5.30pm, fireworks 7.30pm

Book now:



Taunton Racecourse

Professional fireworks provided by
Sonic Fireworks, set to music.
100% of proceeds to St Margaret's Hospice.

Tickets available online or on the night

Visit: st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/event/fireworks-night



FREE PARKING

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Registered charity
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**St Margaret's
Hospice Care**