the Caring LIGHT

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A JOURNEY OF COMPASSION: SURPASSING 4,350 PATIENT VISITS

Continuing to bring vital hospice care to Bethlehem, one home at a time.

Last year, the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust celebrated a monumental achievement: our nursing team completed their 4,000th patient visit. It was a proud moment for us all, but in the world of palliative care, the work does not stop for milestones.

We are proud to announce that our team has already surged past that figure, having now completed over 4,350 visits.

As the only organization in the Occupied Palestinian Territories dedicated to providing this specialized hospice-at-home service, these numbers represent far more than statistics. Each visit is a knock on a door, a comforting hand held, and a moment of dignity restored for a family facing their most difficult chapter.

Care in the Face of Adversity Providing end-of-life care in Bethlehem remains a daily challenge. Our nurses continue to operate against a backdrop of tension and unpredictability. The hurdles they face - checkpoints, road closures, and restricted

access – turn routine journeys into complex logistical operations. A visit that should take minutes can often take hours.

Yet, despite these obstacles, our team's resolve has never wavered. They continue to navigate these barriers with patience and determination, driven by a simple promise: that no patient should have to face terminal illness alone or in pain.

Your Support in Action As we move further into this new year, the demand for our services is only growing. This continued effort is entirely powered by you – our generous supporters. Your donations do not just fund an organization; they fuel the cars that drive to remote homes, purchase the pain relief that brings comfort, and train the nurses who deliver this essential care.

Every donation helps us turn "another visit" into a reality.

Thank you for standing with us as we move beyond 4,000 visits and continue our vital mission. Together, we are ensuring that compassion and dignity remain at the heart of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem Care & Hospice Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1158406) and Scotland (SC048752)

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SWEET SUCCESS FOR A SACRED CAUSE

In July 2025, the ladies of St Mary's and St Alban's Catholic Parishes in Halifax came together in a wonderful show of generosity to support the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust – the only licensed palliative care provider in the Holy Land (Palestine).

Renowned locally for their baking excellence, the parish bakers were joined by generous donations of pastries and cakes, creating an irresistible spread. The response from the community was immediate and enthusiastic, and in no time at all every cake was sold.

Thanks to this joyful collaboration, **an impressive £410** was raised. This contribution will help the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust continue its vital work, bringing care, comfort, dignity, and pain-free days to those in the final stages of life.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who baked, donated, supported, and purchased – a true example of faith in action.

SPONSOR A NURSE

Supporting Those Who Care Every Day

For the past year, our Sponsor a Nurse campaign has been raising awareness of the vital role our nursing team plays within Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust. We are deeply grateful to the many supporters who already give regularly to our work, helping us continue to provide compassionate care to patients and families when it is needed most.

Our nurses are the heart of our hospice, providing skilled, compassionate care when patients and families need it most. From managing symptoms to offering a listening ear, their impact is immeasurable.

By Sponsoring a Nurse, you aren't just funding an individual; you are sustaining our entire team. Regular donations—of any size—provide the essential equipment, training, and resources our nurses need to deliver dignified care as costs continue to rise.

How your support helps:

Stability: Monthly gifts help us plan for the future.

Focus: Your generosity ensures nurses can focus entirely on their patients.

Impact: Even a few pounds each month sustains extraordinary care.

Please consider joining our Sponsor a Nurse campaign. Together, we can ensure no one faces life's biggest challenges alone.

Sign up today!

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Making Waves on the Airwaves: *Sharing Our Story*

We are delighted to share that the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust recently reached new audiences through appearances on local radio, providing a wonderful opportunity to discuss our history, values, and the vital care we provide.

Joe McNally on Sheffield Live Radio

Our Founder and President, Joe McNally, was a guest on Deserted Ireland Disks. After sharing his personal journey from Ireland to the UK police force, Joe was invited back for a second interview dedicated to the Trust. He discussed the charity's founding and our mission to champion community, dignity, and hope – principles that remain at the heart of everything we do.

Professor Philip Hopkins on TempoFM

Continuing the media tour, our Chair, Professor Philip Hopkins, spoke with TempoFM in Wetherby. He highlighted that the Trust provides the only hospice-at-home service in Bethlehem, offering listeners a glimpse into the challenges our nursing team faces and the profound difference compassionate care makes. He also credited the unwavering support of our volunteers and donors in shaping the Trust's development.

Listen In...

We are incredibly grateful to Sheffield Live and TempoFM for helping us raise awareness. If you missed the broadcasts, you can catch up on these insightful interviews via the links below:

Sheffield Live / Joe McNally
TempoFM / Prof. Philip Hopkins

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FIRST DAYS, STEEP STEPS, AND BIG SMILES:

Welcome Sr. Julia!

We all know the feeling of a first day at a new job. There are usually a few butterflies, a lot of new names to learn, and the worry about finding where the tea and coffee are kept!

But for our newest team member, Sr. Julia, her first day involved navigating the winding stone streets and steep stairways of Bethlehem.

Sr. Julia hit the ground running this week, heading out for her very first round of "hospice at home" patient visits. She was accompanied by Muhammad, one of our dedicated nurse volunteers, who was on hand to show her the ropes (and perhaps the best shortcuts through the city).

As you can see from the photos, there were no first-day nerves in sight - just beaming smiles and a lot of energy. Despite the physical workout of climbing the many steps to reach our patients' homes, it is wonderful to see the joy and enthusiasm Sr. Julia is already bringing to the team.

We are thrilled to have her on board. Welcome to the family, Sr. Julia!

FUNDRAISER SPOTLIGHT

FESTIVE SEWING FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

As Christmas approaches, Brenda Calvert from Durham is once again busy at her sewing machine, crafting beautiful handmade Christmas trees in support of the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust.

Through her creativity and dedication, Brenda's festive creations have already raised **£450**, providing vital support for the only compassionate palliative care service in Palestine.

Her thoughtful handiwork not only spreads holiday cheer but also brings comfort and care to those most in need.

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A BEACON OF HOPE

Celebrating Our Incredible Team in Bethlehem

Moments of Joy, Unity, and Resilience

In the very place where the Christmas story began, this festive season holds profound significance. For our dedicated team at the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust, this year's celebrations were a powerful declaration of hope, unity, and resilience.

Supporting the Caregivers

Working in palliative care requires immense emotional strength, especially amidst the instability currently facing the region. To deliver "hospice at home" services effectively, our team must also care for one another. Before the holiday rush, our nurses and staff – still in their scrubs – took a well-deserved pause to decorate the office tree and exchange gifts, filling the center with the same warmth they carry into the homes of our patients.

Breaking Bread Together

The team also gathered for a staff Christmas meal beneath the historic stone arches of a local restaurant. In a profession that requires them to be strong for others, this was a vital chance to relax, laugh, and strengthen the bonds of friendship that make them such an effective unit.

A Return of Light to Manger Square

The most poignant moment was the team's visit to Manger Square. Standing before the towering Christmas tree, our staff represented the beating heart of our charity. This year, the image holds special weight, marking the return of civic celebrations to the square for the first time since the onset of the war in Gaza.

Seeing the lights return to Manger Square is a symbol of endurance. It mirrors the spirit of our staff: no matter how difficult the circumstances, they continue to be a "caring light" in the darkness.

We thank our supporters for enabling this vital work to continue into the new year.

MakeAWillOnline.co.uk

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

We are pleased to have partnered with makeawillonline.co.uk a free will making service. By leaving a gift in your will to Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust, you will be ensuring that our patients receive the care and support they deserve during their most vulnerable times. **Your generosity will make a lasting difference in their lives and the lives of their families.**

For more information on legacy giving please visit:

bcandht.org

or email: **info@bcandht.org**

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Remembering Sir Patrick Duffy

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of our Patron, Sir Patrick Duffy, KSG, who passed away peacefully at Doncaster Hospital on Friday 2 January 2026, aged 105, following a short illness.

Sir Patrick lived an extraordinary life marked by service, wisdom, and quiet distinction. Having moved with assurance on the world stage, he brought to Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust not only the breadth of his experience, but also a rare humility and generosity of spirit. As Patron, he was a steady and discerning presence – always ready to offer thoughtful counsel, always doing so with grace.

Sir Patrick's support for our work meant a great deal to all of us. He believed deeply in compassionate care, dignity at the end of life, and the importance of accompanying patients and families with kindness and respect.

We give heartfelt thanks for his life and for his enduring commitment to our mission. Sir Patrick will be remembered with deep respect, gratitude, and affection by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN MCDONALD

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our esteemed Trustee, John McDonald, a man of profound faith and unwavering integrity.

From his nine years as a Police Officer to a distinguished 35-year career in education – including over a quarter-century in Senior Leadership – John's professional life was defined by service. He was a cornerstone of his parish for nearly forty years, offering his expertise to the SVP, the Catenians, and the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust.

Beyond his professional and charitable roles, John was a "very enthusiastic" Manchester United supporter and a devoted family man. He shared 59 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Margaret, and was immensely proud of his two children and two grandchildren. John's unique blend of financial wisdom and a compassionate heart made him an invaluable Trustee; he will be deeply missed by all.

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A Day in the Life of Our Hospice at Home Nurses

At 7:30 am, as Bethlehem stirs, the BCHT nurses gather at the Parish Centre of St Catherine's Church. Over coffee, the team reviews the day's priorities and pairs up for visits. By 8:15 am, Mohammad, Hidaya, Helen, and physiotherapist Rand head out, while nurse coordinator Tamer remains on hand to manage new referrals and support the teams with challenging cases.

Each team typically makes four home visits to surrounding towns and villages. The work is varied and unpredictable; one visit might focus on symptom control for pain or breathlessness, while the next involves complex wound care or managing pressure sores. Educating family carers during these visits is vital for maintaining a patient's comfort and dignity.

Emotional support is just as critical as clinical care. Whether Mohammad is sitting quietly to reassure an anxious patient or Helen is simplifying complex medication schedules for an overwhelmed family, the goal is to restore confidence. Rand's physiotherapy adds further value, using gentle movements to reduce stiffness and breathing exercises to help bed-bound patients regain a sense of agency.

The nurses also act as advocates, explaining diagnoses in plain language and helping families navigate difficult decisions. From hydration and nutrition to mouth care and positioning, no detail is too small if it improves a patient's quality of life.

By early afternoon, the teams return to the office to complete clinical notes and ensure continuity of care. The day concludes with a debrief led by Tamer, allowing the team to reflect on challenges and share practical learning points. By 3:30 pm, the nurses head home after a physically and emotionally demanding day. This is the essence of Hospice at Home: skilled clinical care delivered with humanity in the heart of the community.

THE HOLY LAND'S ONLY HOME HOSPICE NEEDS *YOUR* HELP!

Bethlehem has the highest cancer rates in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, with most patients diagnosed too late for treatment and lacking specialist care.

Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust runs the only licensed home-based palliative care service in the region. Our small medical team made over 2,000 visits to 146 patients in the past year. But many more still need support. As a charity, we rely on your help to ease pain and bring dignity to those at the end of life. Your support will help ensure people with terminal illnesses can end their days pain free and with dignity.

thank you!

DONATE NOW

www.bcandht.org

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

IAHPC Member of the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care

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