



# 8<sup>th</sup> National Ambulance Memorial Service

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The Chapel of Peace,  
National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, DE13 7AR



**THE  
AMBULANCE  
STAFF  
CHARITY**

Caring for those who cared for us



An Act of Remembrance to honour the memory of all those who have worked for the Ambulance Services of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man and Gibraltar.

Those working in the NHS and independent sectors.

## Today's service

### Introduction and thanks

Anthony Marsh, CEO of West Midlands Ambulance Service and Strategic Ambulance Adviser to the Department of Health and NHS England

### Welcome and opening prayer

Revd Kevin Charles

### Hymn - The Lord's My Shepherd

### Lighting of the candles

### Hymn - Abide By Me

### Scripture reading - Matthew chapter 5: verses 1-16

Steve McIntosh, Advanced Ambulance Technician

### Reflection

Revd Kevin Charles

### Poem - The Emergency Services Poem

John Eames, Paramedic/Patient Transport Service Operations Assistant

### Communal prayers

### Hymn - Amazing Grace

### Blessing

Following the blessing, we will move outside to the memorial garden for the final part of the service.

### Reading the roll of honour

Claire Jones, Paramedic/TASC's Policy and Strategy Manager

Jason Killens, CEO of Welsh Ambulance Service

Bob Fellows, Head of Professional Development of the College of Paramedics

### Laying of the wreaths

### Reading - For the fallen

Carl Ledbury, TASC Trustee

### Two-minute silence

### Closing prayer

Revd Kevin Charles





## Welcome

Ambulance work is a unique role. Encountering people, in their time of need, and the tragic circumstances that life can bring, demands skill, expertise, commitment and dedication. In fact, it can be classed as more of a vocation than an occupation.

Commitment, tenacity, integrity and dedication are the personal qualities that, together with professional skills, sustain everyone in the ambulance services. This has especially been shown by the UK's ambulance staff during the past months due to the Covid pandemic.

Sadly, each year we grieve the loss of colleagues.

Colleagues who gave so much of their life to the ambulance service within which they served and who are mourned both by family, friends and co-workers.

Today at this National Ambulance Remembrance Service, it is a time to remember those who are no longer with us and to publicly show our support, solidarity and commitment to colleagues who have answered the final call. Thank you for joining us today in their honour.

### Revd Kevin Charles

Chaplain to East Midlands Ambulance Service, former Paramedic, and a TASC trustee.

Today's service will be photographed and video recorded for TASC to share with our stakeholders. If you don't want to be featured in the photos or video, please speak to a TASC member of staff.

# Hymn - The Lord's My Shepherd

Psalm 23 from the Scottish Psalter, 1650

The lord's my shepherd, I'll not want  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; he leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness  
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea though I walk in death's dark vale  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For thou art with me, and thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished me  
In presence of my foes;  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house forever more  
My dwelling place shall be.

# Lighting of the candles

Candles have long been a symbol of prayer, remembrance and hope. Today we light candles to remember those who have suffered a loss, to express our unity in prayer and spirit with all in need, to remember the promise and hope of God who brings light out of darkness, and hope out of despair.

The first candle:  
**For those who work for the ambulance service**

Let us pray for all ambulance staff who play a part in providing care for others.

We pray for all those who work for the country's ambulance services, those who work behind the scenes in whatever way, the directors and managers, the administrative staff, the mechanics, the vehicle and station cleaners, all playing their part in ensuring that the emergency face of the service is able to treat the vulnerable and sick.

Those who daily care for others in every increasing times of demand, the call takers and dispatchers, the paramedics, technicians, care assistants.

We pray for the wider unseen family of the ambulance services; the husbands, wives, partners and children all who play in a part in supporting their loved ones in the tough strains placed upon the emergency services.



"The Lord upholds all who fall; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down." (Psalm 145)

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bind up the broken hearted." (Isaiah 61)

**All: O God, you bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. Be with those who serve in the vocation of healing. Amen.**

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The second candle:  
**For those serving in the rescue and care for others**

Let us pray for all who serve to help those who are in need and for those who daily place themselves in harm's way to rescue and care for others.

"I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121)

**All: O God, our defender, we remember with thanksgiving all who willingly go to rescue and care for those in peril, and all who continue to offer themselves in service for the care of others. Grant them strength and courage as they continue to serve. Amen.**

The third candle:  
**The light of hope that shines in the darkness**

Let us pray for all who are in despair, those who are suffering in silence afraid to call out for fear of ridicule. We pray that they might know the light and hope of God.

"The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended." (Isaiah 60)

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29)

**All: We offer up to you O God those who are suffering. May they know that there are people who can help, who can listen and who are there for them just as you are there for us all. Amen.**

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The fourth candle:  
**For those who have lost loved ones**

Let us pray for all who have lost family members, colleagues and friends.

"Though I walk through the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23)

**All: O God, we pray for the families and friends of those who grieve and those who still recall with sadness the loss of a colleague and a friend. Grant them the light of your comfort and presence. Amen.**

# Hymn - Abide with me

By Henry Francis Lyte, 1793 - 1847

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see -  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.



## Communal prayers

Lord God, hear us as we remember during this act of remembrance our colleagues and friends who have died whilst serving in the ambulance service.

We ask for comfort for those who mourn, encouragement for those who are fearful, and restoration for those who are tired and weak. May the sacrifice of those who have died stand as a testimony to their lives. Amen.

Lord God, you made humankind to reflect your glory and to be guardians, one of another.

Hear our prayer for the ambulance services of this nation. Bless the administrators and managers, as they strive to make important decisions that will effect those who serve under them.

Bless the control officers and assistants as they deal with the requests for help from the general public and hospital services. Bless the emergency staff who bring care, relief and comfort to those in their hour of need.

Bless the patient care staff as they transport the informed and needy to hospital appointments. Keep all members of the ambulance services safe in their duties, wise in their decisions, compassionate in their actions and grant in serving others they may know that they are serving you; you who bring wholeness to all your children. Amen.

Concluding by all saying The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.



# Hymn - Amazing Grace

By John Newman, 1725 - 1807

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me;  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there a thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.

# The blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.







## Moving to the memorial garden

Following the Chapel service, please follow the Piper and Standard Bearers to the Ambulance Garden of Remembrance. If you have problems walking, we have arranged for the arboretum's shuttle to offer free outward and return trips to the garden. The shuttle will be parked at the bottom of the slope outside the visitor's centre.

When you reach the garden please congregate respectfully around the perimeter of the garden to allow sufficient room for the remembrance ceremony and give a clear view during the laying of the wreaths.

There will be a limited number of seats (50) available at the garden for those who need them. If you will need a seat, please speak to a member of TASC's staff who will be able to help you.

There will be full access to the garden for both viewing and photographs after the service has concluded.

Following the end of the service, tea and biscuits will then be served in Oak 1 of the Aspects Building, to which all are warmly invited.

**TASC would like to express our sincere gratitude to the National Memorial Arboretum for their full support and co-operation for today's service.**

# Reading - For The Fallen

By Laurence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,  
England mourns for her dead across the sea.  
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,  
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal  
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,  
There is music in the midst of desolation  
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;  
They fell with their faces to the foe.  
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

**All: We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;  
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;  
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;  
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,  
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,  
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known  
As the stars are known to the Night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,  
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;  
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,  
To the end, to the end, they remain.

**All: We shall remember them.**



# Acknowledgements

## Conducting the service

Revd Kevin Charles, Chaplain of East Midlands Ambulance Service and a TASC trustee

## Music/organist

John Bullock

## Readings and poems

John Eames, Paramedic/Patient Transport Service Operations Assistant

Steve McIntosh, Advanced Ambulance Technician

Carl Ledbury, TASC Trustee

## Candle lighters

Dave Raval, in memory of Russell Burgess from London Ambulance

Jane Opala, in memory of Steven Opala from Scottish Ambulance

James Walton, in memory of Paul Walton from North West Ambulance

Lynn Minshall, in memory of Tammy Minshall from West Midlands Ambulance

## Roll of honour

Claire Jones, Paramedic/TASC's Policy and Strategy Manager

Jason Killens, CEO of Welsh Ambulance Service

Bob Fellows, Head of Professional Development at the College of Paramedics

## Bugler

Jenine Cryle, Paramedic

## Piper

Ian Walley, Paramedic

We would also like to thank:

All ambulance service and retirement association representatives laying wreaths.

The ceremonial units and standard bearers

Staff at the National Memorial Arboretum

All those who have supported this event both in its preparation and throughout the day.





**THE  
AMBULANCE  
STAFF  
CHARITY**

**TASC, The Ambulance Staff Charity, is the national charity dedicated to caring for those who care for us.**

We are passionate about supporting the mental, physical and financial wellbeing of the UK's ambulance community and provide services ranging from counselling and bereavement support, to physiotherapy and financial guidance.

As well as serving NHS staff, we also support people working for independent services or those who have previously served, as well as the families of ambulance staff, Paramedic Science students and ambulance service volunteers.

To learn more about our services and how you can support our cause, visit:  
**[www.theasc.org.uk](http://www.theasc.org.uk)**

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