



**THE
AMBULANCE
STAFF
CHARITY**

Caring for those who cared for us

10th National Ambulance Memorial Service

Thursday 7th September 2023

National Memorial Arboretum
Staffordshire, DE13 7AR

The National Ambulance Memorial Service
is a remembrance event to honour the
memory of all those who have served in the
NHS and independent ambulance services
of England, Scotland, Wales,
Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland,
Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man
and Gibraltar.

Thank you for joining us today.



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.

Today's service

Welcome

Entry of banners

Introduction

Opening prayer

Hymn

Morning Has Broken by Eleanor Farjeon

Poem

When Great Trees Fall by Maya Angelou

Reading

Luke 10:30-37

Poem

The Emergency Services Poem by Anonymous

Hymn

Abide With Me by Henry Francis Lyte

Communal prayers

Hymn

Amazing Grace by John Newton

Blessing

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

Reading the Roll of Honour

Laying of the wreaths

Reading

For The Fallen by Laurence Binyon

Two-minute silence

Closing prayer

Introduction

Ambulance work is a unique role and is more often seen as a vocation rather than a profession.

We encounter people often in tragic and difficult situations, we witness and experience human behaviour at its worst. We are invited, as total strangers, into people's lives and homes at their time of need, demanding of us skill, dedication and understanding.

Commitment, tenacity and integrity are the personal qualities that, taken together with our professional skills, sustain us as we do our work. The high expectations and the ever-increasing demands on the wider NHS and the ambulance service has a knock-on effect on the health and wellbeing of ambulance staff who give all to do their jobs to the best of their ability.

Sadly, each year, we grieve for the loss of colleagues, whether still serving or retired. Colleagues who gave so much of their life to the ambulance service and the community it served.

Colleagues who are mourned by family, friends and team mates never, ever leave us and are not truly lost for they are forever in our hearts.

Today at this National Ambulance Memorial Service it is our time to remember those who are no longer with us and a time to publicly show our support, solidarity, commitment and appreciation for those who have answered the final call and to take the opportunity to give thanks to and for those who continue to provide the high quality and care to the public.

Thank you for joining us today in their honour.





Hymn

Morning Has Broken

by Elenor Farjeon

Morning has broken,
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird;
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall,
Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass;
Praise for the sweetness,
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play;
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day.

Poem

When Great Trees Fall

by Maya Angelou

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.

When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.

Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.

Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls,
dependent upon their
nurture,
now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance, fall away.

We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of
dark, cold
caves.

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better.
For they existed.



Reading

Luke 10:30-37

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Poem

The Emergency Services Poem

by Anonymous

I have been where you fear to go.
I have seen what you fear to see.
I have done what you fear to do.
All these things I've done for you.

I am the one you lean upon.
The one you cast your scorn upon.
The one you bring your troubles to.
All these people I've been for you.

The one you ask to stand apart.
The one you feel should have no heart.
The emergency worker with lights of blue.
But I am human just like you.

And through the years I've come to see.
That I'm not always what you ask of me.
So take a ride, come on everyone!
Will you take it? Will anyone?

And when you watch a person die.
And hear a battered baby cry.
Then do you think that you can be
All those things you ask of me...?

Hymn

Abide With Me

by Henry Francis Lyte

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 in 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
Heaven'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 while 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 decisions that will affect 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 infirmed 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 they are serving you; who bring wholeness to all your children. Amen.

Communal prayers

Concluded 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 Newton

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

If there is righteousness in the heart,
there will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character,
there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation,
there will be peace in the world.

So let it be, 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 indoor service, please follow the 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 centre.

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

There will be a limited number of seats available at the garden for those who need them. If you will need a seat, please speak to a member of TASC 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, you are warmly invited to an afternoon tea which will be served in the Aspects Building.



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.

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.

We shall remember them.



Acknowledgements

Welcome

Diane Scott, TASC Chair

Conducting the service

Revd Kevin Charles, East Midlands Ambulance Service and TASC Trustee

Readings and poems

Karl Demian, TASC CEO

Jason Killens, Welsh Ambulance Service

Caroline Mason, East Midlands Ambulance Service

Carl Ledbury, TASC Trustee

Candle lighters

Neelesh Sutaria, East Midlands Ambulance

Gordon Enstone, TASC Trustee

Katy Crichton, London Ambulance Service

Roll of Honour readers

David Snelders, TASC Counsellor

Andy Ware, Independent Ambulance Association

Bob Fellows, College of Paramedics

Music

Organist: Chris Lawry

Bagpiper: Andy DeComyn

The Blue Light Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Seb Valentine

Trumpet: Karl Webster

Trumpet/Flugel Horn: Stuart Pinborough

French Horn: Alex Mountford

Tenor Trombone: Mark Hawkins

Bass Trombone: Kevin Lomas

Closing remarks

Professor Anthony Marsh, West Midlands Ambulance Service and
TASC Ambassador



Caring for those who care

Did you know the National Ambulance Memorial Service is organised by The Ambulance Staff Charity (TASC)?

TASC is a national charity devoted to caring for the wellbeing of the UK's ambulance family in their time of need. We're passionate about providing an independent and confidential source of support for the UK's lifesavers including:

- Counselling and specialist support for trauma
- Bereavement support for the colleagues and loved ones when ambulance staff pass away
- Physical rehabilitation for people injured in the line of duty
- Financial guidance on managing money

We can support anyone who has served for an NHS or independent ambulance service in the UK, including control room workers, road crew, managers and support staff. We can also support retirees, student paramedics and ambulance service volunteers.

Learn more on our website: www.theasc.org.uk

Event sponsors



Association of Ambulance Chief Executives

www.aace.org.uk



Independent Ambulance Association

www.iaauk.org



In Our Ambulance Hearts Charitable Trust

www.ambulancehearts.co.uk

Event supporters



Ambulance Heritage Society

www.ambulanceheritagesociety.com



Blue Light Symphony Orchestra

www.bluelightsymphony.org



We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who was involved in the organisation and running of this year's service.

We're dedicated to providing a memorial service the ambulance community want. Please help us make our next memorial service even better by leaving your feedback at:

www.theasc.org.uk/namsfeedback

Alternatively, scan the QR code below to go to our survey.





Be there for our ambulance family in their time of need. Donate to TASC.

The number of people TASC help has doubled since the start of the pandemic, but the ongoing crisis has made our financial position more difficult than ever.

We receive no financial assistance from the NHS or ambulance trusts to provide our general services, and we rely on your support to ensure our independent and confidential services are sustainable.

With your help TASC will be there for our ambulance staff and make sure they receive the support they need.

If you can, please help us by making a donation today.

**Text NAMS to 70085
to donate £10 to TASC**



Registered UK charity: 1163538/SC046384

Texts cost the donation amount plus a standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text NAMSNOINFO instead.



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Caring for those who cared for us

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Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @TASCharity

Scan the QR code to learn more about TASC and
The Ambulance Staff Memorial Service.



This event is sponsored by



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REMEMBERING · RECOGNISING · SUPPORTING