



12th National Ambulance Memorial Service

Thursday 18th September 2025

National Memorial Arboretum

Staffordshire, DE13 7AR

*In memory of those who died
and all of those who served with them.*



A Service to Dedicate A

“National Memorial for Ambulance Service Personnel”

at

The Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness,
The National Memorial Arboretum,
Alrewas, Staffordshire


on

Thursday 16th September 2004 at 2.00pm

*In memory of those who died
and of all those who served with them.*



The history of the National Ambulance Memorial Service



Since 2004, the National Ambulance Memorial Service has been 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.

**Thank you for
joining us today.**

Welcome

Working in the ambulance service is often described as a vocation rather than an occupation. Meeting people in the tragic circumstances that life can bring makes the role, whether on the road or in the control rooms, unpredictable and challenging. This can, and does, create enormous pressure and stress.

When we are most in need, that is when ambulance services are seen at their best – providing comfort, support, and lifesaving inventions. But the impact this has on the people in the services cannot be ignored, and their dedication to service is an example to us all.

Our ambulance staff represent what is best in our society, doing their work with commitment, tenacity, integrity, dedication and compassion.



This year marks 21 years since the first National Ambulance Memorial Service. Every year it provides an opportunity for us all to take time to remember our loved ones, friends and colleagues who are no longer with us, and say thank you for their service, whether they worked on ambulances or patient transport, took calls or were in the background organising and supporting the responders.

TASC is very proud to organise and host today's service on behalf of the ambulance services across the whole of the country to remember our ambulance staff and volunteers, past and present.

We remember you and we thank you all.

Karl Demian, TASC CEO





Today's service

Welcome

Standards and Celebrant enter

Lighting of the remembrance candles

Reading - Behind the Uniform by Laura Gorman

Reading - Ecclesiastes 3 1:11

Music

Reading - When Great Trees Fall by Maya Angelou

Reflection

Closing remarks

Following the closing remarks, we will move outside to the front of the Aspects Building to line up in a procession down to the memorial garden for the final part of the service.

Reading the Roll of Honour

Reading - For The Fallen by Laurence Binyon

Laying of the wreaths

Last post

One-minute silence

Reading

Behind the Uniform

by **Laura Gorman, Ambulance Technician**

Know behind the uniform in which we wear,
is someone who joined the job because we care.
For the times you call us in the middle of the night,
because your loved one has given up the fight.

Most people will never be able to understand,
what it's like to sit with those dying as you hold their hand.
And when we are finished we go to the next call,
as if what just happened never happened at all.

We'll walk into stranger's homes, like we've been there before,
without knowing what's before us or what's behind the door.
We'll be there for you every day of the year,
even on the days we can't be with those we hold dear.

Screams we remember, after telling you your loved one has died.
When we close our eyes we still see you lying by their side.
The uniform does not protect us, from the things we observe,
but when we're with you our own emotions we'll reserve.

We don't do it for the thanks or certainly not for the pay,
we do it to help stranger's loved ones stay another day.
And when a heart stops beating and we're too late,
know it breaks us and we carry that weight.

Know behind the uniform we're just like you,
trying to navigate our lives and make it through.
When you see us at the end of the day as we sit there and cry,
know that we gave it our all and our very best we did try.



Reading

Ecclesiastes 3 1:11

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.

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,

a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,

a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

What do workers gain from their toil?

I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.



Reading
**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.



Moving to the memorial garden

Following the indoor service, we will all walk down to the Ambulance Garden of Remembrance in a procession. To begin, please make your way outside the Aspects Building and line up behind the standard bearers.

If you have arranged for a wreath, please collect it from the steps of the Aspects Building before lining up. A member of staff will be available if you have any questions.

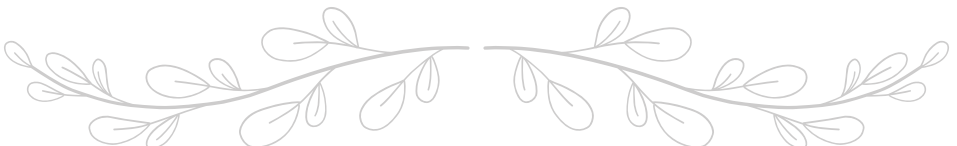
If you have problems walking, we have arranged for the arboretum's shuttle to offer free outward and return trips to the garden. The shuttle will be parked at the bottom of the slope outside the visitor centre.

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

There will be a limited number of seats available in 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're warmly invited to join us back at the Aspects Building for refreshments.





Reading

For The Fallen

by Laurence Binyon

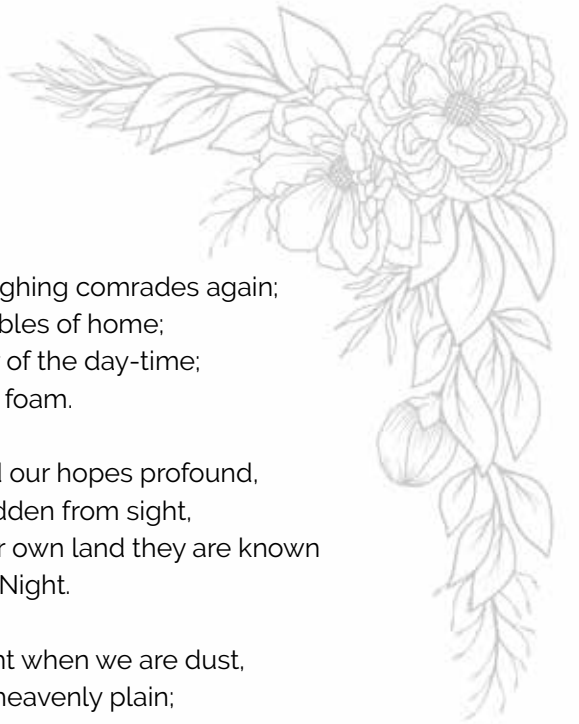
With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

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.



Acknowledgements

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

Introduction

Tracy Nicholls, Chair of TASC and CEO of the College of Paramedics

Conducting the service

Kathryn Smith, Celebrant

Candle lighters

Len Davies, President of Surrey Ambulance Services Association - Retired
John Eames, West Midlands Ambulance Service

Readings

Jason Killens, CEO London Ambulance Service
Richard Paskell, Chief Commissioner at St John's Cymru
Simon Linton, South Central Ambulance Service
Adam Aston, West Midlands Ambulance Service

Closing remarks

Anna Parry, Association of Ambulance Chief Executives

Roll of Honour readers

Andy Ware, Independent Ambulance Association
Will Bellamy, Isle of Man Ambulance Service
Craig Wilson, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
Karl Demian, TASC

Music

Quartet provided by The Blue Light Symphony Orchestra
Andy DeComyn, bagpiper

Motorbike Paramedic

Mark Hayes

Exhibitions

Leonard McMain – A collection of ambulance memorabilia

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Triple Point

www.triplepoint.co.uk



TASC is proud to support the wellbeing of our ambulance family

TASC is the only national charity providing independent and confidential wellbeing services to support our UK ambulance family, including serving and retired staff, regardless of their role, student paramedics and ambulance service volunteers.

Mental wellbeing

We provide tailored talking therapies for a range of reasons, including anxiety, trauma and Complex PTSD. We run a 24/7 phonenumber to provide immediate and ongoing support to ambulance staff with suicidal thoughts.

T: 0300 373 0898. We also run a sexual safety phonenumber, a listening ear service for anyone who has experienced sexually inappropriate behaviour.

T: 0333 038 6573

Bereavement support

We provide support for the colleagues and families of staff who have passed away, including talking therapies and small grants to help with funeral costs.

Financial wellbeing

We provide support to help people struggling with money, including benefits checks and income maximisation advice.

Physical rehabilitation

For ambulance staff injured in the line of duty, TASC may be able to arrange for them to attend a residential programme at a treatment facility to aid their recovery.

Online wellbeing support

We have a host of online modules to help people practice self-care at a time that works for them.

Need help? Talk to TASC

Call: 02477 987 922 (9am - 5pm, Mon - Fri) | Email: support@theasc.org.uk

Learn more at www.theasc.org.uk



We make a real difference to ambulance staff

11,450

Counselling sessions funded since the start of the pandemic

1000+

People supported by the Ambulance Staff Crisis Phonenumber in its first year, including 104 lives saved from imminent danger

148

Hours of bereavement support provided last year

£476


A month better off

150+

Places funded at treatment facilities since 2017

47,000+

Self-care interventions accessed since the pandemic



Your support can make a world of difference to an ambulance worker struggling to cope.

As a UK charity we receive no financial aid from the NHS or ambulance services to provide our general services, which means we rely on your support and generosity to continue delivering our life-changing services.

Please help us by donating today.

Text NAMS to 70085 to donate £10 to TASC

Texts cost £10 plus a standard network rate message. You'll also be opting to hear more from TASC. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from TASC, please text NAMSNOINFO instead.



**THE
AMBULANCE
STAFF
CHARITY**

Caring for those who care for us

TASC, The Ambulance Staff Charity, is proud to once again arrange and host the National Ambulance Memorial Service.

TASC is a registered UK charity: 1163538/SC046384.
12 Ensign Business Centre
Coventry, CV4 SJA

T: 02477 987 922
E: memorial@theasc.org.uk
W: www.theasc.org.uk

Stay in touch with TASC on social media, just search for
[@TASCharity](https://www.instagram.com/TASCharity)

Sign up to TASC's monthly newsletter at:
www.theasc.org.uk/subscribe

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 member of staff.





Scan to learn more about the National Ambulance Memorial Service



Scan here to say thanks to a member of the Ambulance Community



