

Oxfordshire Sands

Autumn Newsletter 2015



*Our Babies...
...Always Loved... Never Forgotten...*

Group Meetings during 2015

“The chance to openly talk to people who have also lost a baby is a lifeline, because they really do understand what I’m going through. It gives me comfort and hope.”

Our group support meetings are led by Sands befrienders. You are welcome to join us from 7pm for refreshments and to have a look at the basket of support books that we have available to borrow.

With the meeting starting at 7.30pm, befrienders will share their stories and experiences and you will be invited to share your story if you wish, or you may just want to come and listen to others to begin with.

If you are not in a position to attend our meetings but feel you would like support from a befriender, we are always here to listen (Contact details on back page).

We offer email and telephone support for mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone affected by baby loss and during the anxious time of a subsequent pregnancy.

- 7th October
- 4th November
- 2nd December



All meetings are **7:00-9:30pm, at Bicester Children’s Centre,**
Queens Ave, Bicester, OX26 2NR. Tel: 07513 295505

All adults are welcome to come along to these informal support meetings



Donations

From the Ladies of the Anglican and Methodist Churches Fellowish Group
in memory of Seren Mullard.

From Diane Smale in memory of Leah.

From Judy at Cherish Ceremonies.

From the Waynflete Lodge, Brackley from the proceeds of the Ladies
weekend in Bournemouth.

From Sarah and Nick Vigar in memory of Felix Henry Vigar.

Terry Collins ran the Chalgrove May Day 10k Run in 2014 and raised a
wonderful £952.88.

Many thanks ~

***All fundraising and donations are hugely appreciated and are much
needed to help us carry out the work we do.***

Midwife bereavement training

We are very pleased to have funded 18 midwives to attend the annual
conference, presented by Sands, Bliss and The Royal College of Midwives,
'Uncertainty and loss in maternity and neonatal care' this September.

*Bereavement care
network for practitioners*





Each year, from 9-15th October, bereaved parents can commemorate their babies' all-too-brief lives, knowing that thousands of parents elsewhere in the world will be doing the same. Baby Loss Awareness Week, also provides a crucial opportunity for people to talk openly about this subject, so that awareness is raised across society and bereaved parents feel less alone and isolated by the grief.

October 15th is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day across the world. We would like to invite you to take part in the global 'Wave of Light'. Simply light a candle at 7pm and leave it burning for at least 1 hour to join us in remembering all babies who have died during pregnancy, at, during or after birth. This can be done at home as wherever you do this, you will be joining a global wave of light in memory of all the babies who lit up our lives for such a short time.

Wave of Light for October 15th

Everyone is invited to light a candle on October 15th at 7pm in ALL Time Zones, ALL Over The World

If everyone lights a candle at 7pm and keeps it burning for at least one hour, there will be a continuous **WAVE OF LIGHT** over the entire world on October 15th, **Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day**

*This Candle Burns
In Loving Memory of
Our Babies*



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The graphic is a rectangular box with a light blue background and a dark blue border. It contains text and illustrations. At the top, the title "Wave of Light for October 15th" is in bold blue. Below it, an invitation to light a candle at 7pm is written in blue. A paragraph explains that if everyone does this, there will be a "WAVE OF LIGHT" over the world on October 15th, which is "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day". A quote, "This Candle Burns In Loving Memory of Our Babies", is written in a cursive font. To the right, there is an illustration of a lit candle with a flame, a pink and blue awareness ribbon, a pink teddy bear, and several pink butterflies. At the bottom, the website "www.october15th.com" is written in blue, flanked by copyright symbols.

Lights of love

Can you see our candles burning in the night?
Lights of love we send you, rays of purest white
Children we remember though missing from our sight
In honour and remembrance we light candles in the night
All across the big blue marble spinning out in space
Can you see the candles burning from this human place?
Oh, angels gone before us who taught us perfect love
This night the world of candles that you may see them from above
Tonight the globe is lit by love of those who know great sorrow
But as we remember our yesterdays let's light one candle for
tomorrow.

Jacqueline Brown.



Remembrance Books

As many of you know, we also have beautiful hand-made Remembrance Books, for which entries are completed by calligraphers. These special Sands books are kept on Level 7 at the JR hospital Women's Centre, SCBU at the JR and the Horton chapel. If you would like a form to request a name dedication, please do get in touch. There is no charge for this service. These books are taken to our annual Remembrance Service for families to view their entries.

Online Remembrance Book

As well as our Sands Remembrance books kept at the hospitals, we now have an online Remembrance Book. As part of our new Oxfordshire Sands website, which is now live, you can email us at info@oxfordshiresands.org.uk to give us your baby's name to be included in this online remembrance.



Sands
Stillbirth & neonatal death charity
Oxfordshire

07513 295504
info@oxfordshiresands.org.uk
befriender@oxfordshiresands.org.uk
donations@oxfordshiresands.org.uk

Book of Remembrance

Sometimes love is for a moment...
Sometimes love is for a lifetime...
Sometimes a moment is a lifetime...
Always Loved, Never Forgotten.



Oxfordshire Sands Annual Remembrance Service

St. Anthony of Padua RC Church
115 Headley Way
Headington
Oxford
OX3 7SS



On **Sunday 22ndth November at 2.30pm**, we will be holding our annual service of remembrance and sharing at St Anthony of Padua Church, Oxford (next to the JR Hospital entrance). The service will include poems and readings, along with music from the St Anthony's Parish Music Group. You are welcome to come along, light candles and display stars for your babies during the service, alongside us and other bereaved families. After the service, refreshments will be provided and children's activities will be available. There will also be a chance to talk to our befrienders. The service is open to all and is a mixture of secular and religious content to make it as inclusive as possible. We look forward to seeing you there.



Diary dates for 2015

International Babyloss Awareness Day and Wave of Light
October 15th

Oxfordshire Sands Annual Remembrance Service
Sunday 22nd November * a week earlier than usual.

Email Newsletter

Have you considered receiving our newsletter via email, so that more of the money donated to us can go towards the important work we do?
If so, or if you do not wish to receive our newsletter any more, please do let us know.





Contact Details

Befrienders: Vicky, Karen, Corinne, Jenni, Anna,
Rosemary, Andrew
07513 295504
(Text or leave a message for a call back)

befriender@oxfordshiresands.org.uk

Donations donations@oxfordshiresands.org.uk

General Information info@oxfordshiresands.org.uk

Website: www.oxfordshiresands.org.uk



Oxfordshire Sands is run on a voluntary basis and depends on donations. It provides support to the parents and families who have lost a baby. Money raised by the Group is used to pay for the upkeep of the Ashfield suite at the John Radcliffe Hospital and the Forget-Me-Not room at the Horton Hospital, providing photographs of the babies and the cameras used, for remembrance cards and booklets, information leaflets provided, the 'Always Loved, Never Forgotten' memory boxes, hospital equipment, midwife training, maintenance of Sands memorials in Banbury, Botley, Headington and Wolvercote cemeteries and Hardwick Hill Crematorium, plus the Books of Remembrance and the annual Service of Remembrance and Sharing.

Charity registration number 299679