

News



For supporters of
St Gemma's Hospice
Spring/Summer 2025



THIS IS HOSPICE CARE

Read Bobbie's story inside

Here for you and your family,
7 days a week, 365 days a year



St.
Gemma's
Hospice

st-gemma.co.uk

0113 218 5500



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donation



St Gemma's welcomes new Chief Executive

We are delighted to welcome Laura Squire OBE as the new Chief Executive at St Gemma's Hospice.

Philomena Corrigan, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said: "We are delighted to welcome Laura to the St Gemma's family. With her distinguished career in the civil service and extensive experience in the health and care sectors, Laura brings valuable expertise and a strong commitment to the values that make St Gemma's so special. We look forward to working alongside Laura to build on our strong foundations and ensure the Hospice remains a vital part of the community for years to come."

Laura said: "I am absolutely delighted and honoured to be joining the team. It's a privilege to be part of such an incredible organisation that has been providing compassionate care to patients and their families for nearly 50 years. I look forward to leading St Gemma's into the next chapter, building on the excellent work of the team and ensuring we continue to deliver the highest standards of care to the people of Leeds."



Introducing our 'Very Little Free Library' - a new addition to The Path of Life

We were excited to recently unveil our new Little Library in the Hospice grounds. This charming addition to our gardens provides a new space where visitors can borrow, share or read a book, completely free of charge.

Coordinated and managed by Fiona from our Volunteers Services team, the library is open to patients, families, and the local community. Its attractive handmade design, painted with wildflowers, is a perfect fit next to the wildflower garden nearby.

Fiona shared the inspiration behind the project: "Many years ago, when I visited my mother at St Gemma's with my young children, we often wished for a place to relax and read. That idea sparked the creation of a 'Little Free Library' at the Hospice. With the help of my sister Maria, her partner Mike (who built the library), Chapel Allerton Residents Association (who funded the decoration), and Roz (who painted it), my vision became a reality. The library is a place where books can be taken, swapped, or simply read on-site, including special books on children's

emotions, loss, and grief. I hope the library will be enjoyed by all, and I'm so grateful to everyone who made it possible."

The Little Library is located on the Path of Life, to the left of the main Hospice building and accessible from our main car park.



"The best care you can get"

Bobbie is a former professional carer who has faced a challenging health journey. Diagnosed with stage-four cancer in 2021, Bobbie has overcome significant setbacks, including being admitted to intensive care with sepsis. Despite these challenges, she was determined to remain at home, supported by visits from carers and the St Gemma's community team.

We first met Bobbie in 2022 when our community nurse, Eileen, visited her for the first time. Eileen helped Bobbie with symptom control following her treatment for sepsis.

When her health stabilised, Bobbie began attending St Gemma's Out-Patients for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and wellbeing classes, including Tai Chi and Zumba, which have greatly improved her quality of life. For over two years now, Bobbie has enjoyed and benefited from her visits to St Gemma's.

Bobbie shares her heartfelt gratitude for the support and care she has received:

"When I was diagnosed, I asked myself, 'Why? Why me?' But now I feel blessed - I'm here with my family, my children, and my grandchildren. I haven't yet got to where I want to be, but with help and encouragement from St Gemma's, I know I will.

St Gemma's is like a second home to me. The staff and volunteers, especially Tracy (pictured with Bobbie, right), have been incredible. Tracy provides me with moral support and ensures my wellbeing is always monitored. The care here is the best you can get.

The wellbeing classes have been a lifeline. I was introduced to Tai Chi and Zumba, and they've done wonders not just for my physical health but also for my emotional wellbeing. It's such a comfort to be part of a community where everyone understands and supports one another."

Bobbie also shared with us how St Gemma's care has had a really positive impact on her whole family, with staff going above and beyond with their advice and support.

"St Gemma's has also been a great support to my family, which means so much to us. As a former carer, I truly value the dedication and compassion that make this personalised care possible. I've defied doctors' expectations and am now enjoying some of the best days of my life with those who have helped me so much.

To the supporters of St Gemma's, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your generosity makes this incredible care possible for me and so many others. It's a gift that means the world to us."

Bobbie's story is a reminder of the real difference your generosity makes in providing personalised, compassionate care to those who need it most.

This spring, Bobbie will be the face of St Gemma's in a new advertising campaign. In partnership with hospices across the UK, the campaign aims to encourage people to leave a gift in their Will to support local hospice care. A national TV advert, which began airing in February, will raise awareness and inspire viewers to consider leaving a legacy gift to St Gemma's, ensuring vital funding for the future of our services.



To request a gifts in Wills guide or to find out more about supporting St Gemma's with a gift in your Will, visit www.st-gemma.co.uk/legacy, or contact our Fundraising team on **0113 218 5555** or at fundraising@st-gemma.co.uk.

Sally's story

Sally volunteers in our Rothwell charity shop and has kindly shared her story and reason for volunteering with St Gemma's.

Sally's partner Mark sadly died nearly three years ago. After their experience at the end of his life, she now feels passionately that good end of life care and support for the family should be available to everyone who needs it.

Sally said: "Mark stayed in hospital for a long time, visiting was restrictive and it was very difficult managing who could be with him when he needed it most. I wished he could have had better community support or attended St Gemma's, where I feel confident that his physical and emotional needs would have been better understood and supported."

So Sally decided to volunteer at the St Gemma's Rothwell charity shop: "By volunteering and raising funds for St Gemma's I can help others have better end of life care."

Her experience of volunteering has been really positive. Sally said: "The team at Rothwell are like an extended family, everyone really cares, we look out for each other and I don't want to miss a day. Being here has helped me through my grief, I feel like I'm making a difference and I can highly recommend volunteering for St Gemma's."

Julie, Sally's manager in Rothwell had this to say: "The impact volunteering has had on Sally is phenomenal. When she joined our team she talked about her reasons for volunteering and how she struggled with dealing with her loss. The impact this has had on her well-being is amazing. The fact that she is so dedicated and committed. Also just how much it means to Sally belonging and being part of our lovely team, being valued and supported as we all strive to share our vision and work towards achieving our goals! Sally is our ray of sunshine in Rothwell. I'm so proud of her!"

Are you ready to make a difference and start your volunteering journey? Visit www.st-gemma.co.uk/support-us/volunteering to learn more or pop into your local St Gemma's shop for a chat with the manager.



“
Volunteering has helped me through my grief

Why your support matters

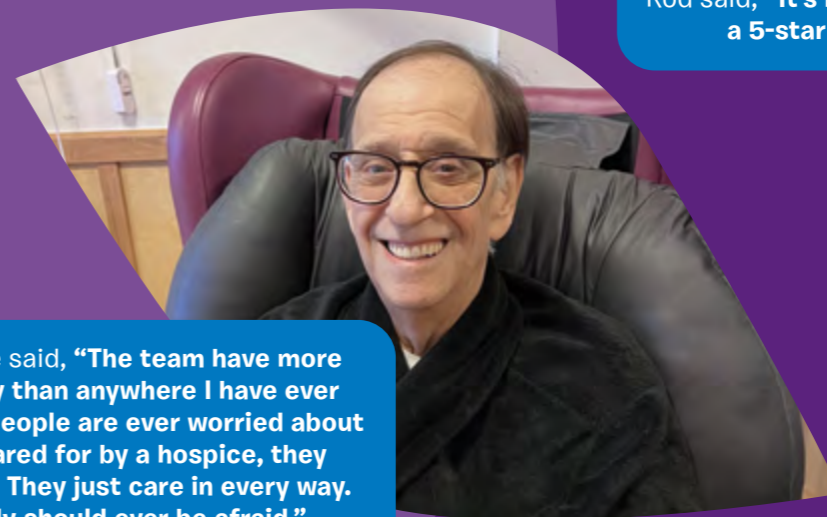
Every day, people in our community face some of the most difficult moments of their lives. But thanks to your kindness and generosity, they never have to face them alone. St Gemma's Hospice continues to be a place of comfort, dignity, and expert care, thanks to you.

Your support allows patients and families to focus on making precious memories instead of worry and pain. Whether at the Hospice, in their own homes, or through our expanding out-patient and community services, your generosity ensures the very best care is always available to anyone who needs it.

In the past year, your support has made a profound impact by:

- Providing expert care to 1,382 local people referred to St Gemma's for the first time.
- Enabling our specialist community nurses and doctors to make 18,742 patient contacts, both in person and over the phone.
- Welcoming 503 patients to our In-Patient Unit, offering round-the-clock hospice care. Admissions remained open 24/7, with most patients receiving care within a day of referral.
- Offering compassionate bereavement support to both adults and children, with 2,974 supportive contacts made.
- Ensuring families feel supported, with 100% of bereaved relatives who responded to our survey stating their loved one received dignified, compassionate care.
- Training 1,013 healthcare professionals and hosting 118 student placements to shape the future of palliative care.

But the true impact of your support is best expressed by those you've helped.



Lawrence said, "The team have more humanity than anywhere I have ever known. If people are ever worried about being cared for by a hospice, they shouldn't. They just care in every way. Nobody should ever be afraid."

Rod said, "It's like staying in a 5-star hotel."



Barry said, "I shall be forever grateful to St Gemma's for making life worth living."

Your story is the story of St Gemma's. If you'd like to share your experience, visit www.st-gemma.co.uk/hospicestories and help inspire others.

Thank you for making a difference.





80 miles for Rosie - why Lisa is supporting St Gemma's

“We were so looking forward to celebrating Rosie’s 80th birthday in December, but sadly, she lost her courageous battle with cancer just a few weeks earlier.

To honour Rosie’s memory and mark this special milestone, I set myself a challenge: to run 80 miles and raise vital funds for a cause that meant so much to her and the family.

In her final days, Rosie and her family were cared for with incredible kindness and compassion by St Gemma’s Hospice in Leeds. Their support, comfort, and expert care made an immeasurable difference during such a difficult time.

It costs around £15 million a year to keep St Gemma’s Hospice running. Just £500 could provide a full day of compassionate, expert care

for a patient, including specially prepared meals, pain relief, and support for their loved ones.

Fundraising in memory of Rosie has been a real privilege and I would encourage anyone to do their bit for such an important charity in our community. Together, we can help St Gemma’s continue to provide their amazing care to local families when they need it most.”

You can donate to Lisa’s 80 Miles for Rosie Challenge here: www.justgiving.com/page/lisa-williams-1735399384455

Remembering your loved ones

Giving in memory of a loved one can be a special way to celebrate someone’s life while providing vital care and support for people facing the most difficult times.

There are many ways to raise money for St Gemma’s – we’re here to help you find the option that best suits you and the person you want to remember.

If you need any advice regarding fundraising or donating in memory, please contact our fundraising team on **0113 218 5555** or email fundraising@st-gemma.co.uk.

Give a monthly donation in their memory

Making a regular monthly donation to St Gemma’s will help cherish the memory of your loved one and support patients now and into the future. A gift of any size makes a real difference to those in our care.

Sponsor a Day of Care

Choose a day that is significant to you and give the gift of a day of care to a patient and their loved ones.

When you sponsor a day of care, you will receive a personalised certificate and a certificate will also be displayed at the Hospice on your chosen day. You can choose to include a photo and some words about who you are remembering.



Dave kindly sponsors a day of care every year in memory of his wife Jo on her birthday

Fundraise in memory

Join us to celebrate the lives of your loved ones at our **Sunset Walk on Saturday 5 July at Roundhay Park.**

Or organise your own event or challenge such as a coffee morning or party to celebrate their life. Our friendly team are on hand to support you and help you make the most of your activity.



Dates for your diary 2025

11 May

Leeds Marathon and Half Marathon

14 June

Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge

21-22 June

Total Warrior and Junior Warrior, Bramham Park

5 July

Sunset Walk, Roundhay Park

11-21 September

Climb Kilimanjaro for St Gemma’s

29 November

St Gemma’s Winter Ball, New Dock Hall at the Royal Armouries

7 December

Light up a Life at the Hospice

Get in touch

Donate: 0113 218 5555

Events: 0113 218 5570

fundraising@st-gemma.co.uk

www.st-gemma.co.uk/support-us

Join our Lottery:

Freephone 0800 316 0645

Volunteering:

0113 218 5500



Thank you for supporting St Gemma’s care and making a difference.

Spending donations responsibly and supporting sustainability

At St Gemma's Hospice, we are committed to spending donations responsibly and ensuring that funds are used efficiently to directly benefit those who need our care. We regularly review our services to maintain high-quality care while adapting to the changing needs of our community.

Our focus on sustainability includes initiatives such as installing new solar panels, energy-efficient LED lighting, and growing our own vegetables to reduce food miles. The Young People's Cabin, made from sustainable materials, is now generating enough energy to power the Dales Ward each day.

Our chain of 26 charity shops supports sustainability by reselling your generously donated items and giving them a second life. We also work with textile recyclers to minimise waste. All of this helps reduce landfill and pollution.

By prioritising sustainability and responsible spending, we ensure your donations have a lasting impact, making a real difference to the lives of those we care for, now and in the future.



Celebrity actress and writer **Gaynor Faye** is wrapped in style with her cosy coat



BBC Look North's **Amanda Harper** is making headlines with her stunning vintage style

Here's some familiar faces looking stunning in their **St Gemma's bargains**

BBC weather legend **Keeley Donovan** shines like a ray of sunshine in a £7.99 dress



Follow us and tag us with your purchases on Instagram: www.instagram.com/stgemmasshop