

**St Peter & St Paul Kettering
Kettering General Hospital**



**Wave of Light Service
For Baby Loss Awareness Week
7.00 pm
15th October 2021**



Welcome to St Peter and St Paul this evening.
This is a space to reflect, to remember those we have lost, and to rest.

Please use this time as you wish. It is a time to remember, to allow yourself to grieve, to light candles and to be together – online and in the building.

Members of our pastoral team are available after the service, as are members of the bereavement midwife team. If you wish to chat please let them know. They will happily give you space, so don't worry.

Following the service, the clergy team will remain in the main section of the church, for individual conversations or prayer.

It is an honour to remember your babies with you this evening.



A supporter of
**Baby Loss
Awareness Week**

Gathering and Welcome

Revd Alice Watson

As part of our gathering together, we light a large candle, from which smaller candles will be lit later in the service. As we light this candle, we remember all those around the world who light similar candles to remember loved babies.

There is a light which shines in the darkness
and which will not go out.
Into this light we bring our memories,
our hurts and our sadness.

Loving God,
let this light be a symbol of our love for our babies,
let it shine in our hearts on the darkest days.
Be present tonight in our fears and our pains,
surround us, our babies, and all who we love
in your eternal light of love,
which can never fade. **Amen.**

Choir Anthem

A Gaelic Blessing by John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you
Deep peace of Christ to you

Poem

Light by Hugh O'Donnell
Read by Carolyn Rowbotham

My little man, down what centuries
of light did you travel
to reach us here,
your stay so short-lived;

in the twinkling of an eye
you were moving on,
bearing our name and a splinter
of the human cross we suffer;

flashed upon us like a beacon,
we wait in darkness for that light
to come round, knowing at heart
you shine forever on us.

A Reading from the Bible

from Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me
and the light around me turn to night,'
Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.
For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written,
As day by day they were fashioned
when as yet there was none of them.
How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

Act of Remembrance

As music is played, candles are lit in memory of babies lost too soon. The names or nicknames given to each baby are read aloud. These have been requested by their parents or loved ones.

After the candles have been lit, you are welcome to come forward to light candles of your own. You can also write special names on the stars and hang them from the prayer tree.

During this time of reflection and remembrance, the choir will sing 'Mother of God, Here I Stand' by John Tavener and 'In Paradisum' by Gabriel Fauré

Prayers

Revd Joyie Mayisiri

Let us pray, firstly for our loved ones:

We remember with thanksgiving all who we have named today.

Thank you for everything we remember and treasure about them, for all that they mean to us.

Take care of them, Lord, until we all reach that time and place where every tear is dry, every question answered, and all things are made new.

Lord, in your love,

Hear our prayer.

Father of all mercy and giver of all comfort, give hope to those who are sad, console those who still miss someone special, grant peace to those who are angry.

Help us to cast every care onto you, and guide us gently by your Holy Spirit through the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

In thankfulness for the past, help us to live our lives to the full in love and joy and peace.

Lord, in your love

Hear our prayer.

A prayer for all those who provide care:

Loving God, we thank you for making us in your likeness, with a spirit of concern and love.

Thank you for giving us one another to care for; child, parent, spouse, friend, or neighbour.

Bless all who work in the medical and social professions, in surgeries, hospitals, the hospice, and in the community.

Keep us sensitive to the needs of others and give us the grace to respond with patience and generosity.

Lord in your love

Hear our prayer.

Blessing

Our service ends with a blessing, please do feel free to stay in this special space for as long as you wish.

God of the deep,
Father and Mother to all,
Who knits all life together,
and who knows the darkness of grief.
Bless all those who mourn precious children,
Comfort them in their pain,
hold them in their confusion and anger,
And make yourself known in glimpses of hope and joy.

And the blessing of God almighty;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with each one of you and all those who you love
today and all days.

Amen