

Your St Giles

Spring 2026

News and updates
from your local hospice

**“The nurses
were incredibly
helpful, and the
care was always
top class.”**

Benedict,
fundraiser for St Giles

Read more of Benedict's
story on **page 4**



Welcome to Your St Giles

Welcome from our CEO	2	Our stores	9
Donna's story	3	Light the Night	10
Benedict's story	4	Get involved	11
Government funding	6		
Pete's story	8		

Inside
this issue

Welcome



A warm welcome to our spring edition of 'Your St Giles'.

Since our Autumn edition, it has continued to be a challenging few months for St Giles but, despite the challenges facing the hospice sector, our incredible community continue to stand by our side and we're incredibly grateful to you for that – thank you so much.

It is with your generosity that we can continue to provide the best possible care for our patients, and their loved ones. You may have heard that hospices have recently benefited from funding to support building improvements. Whilst we are grateful for this funding and the improvements it has enabled us to make to our facilities (read more on page 6-7) we recognise that this funding alone cannot solve the challenges facing hospice care.

Less than a quarter of our £10 million running costs come from Government funding and, with rising costs and

increasing demand for our care, we are dependent on our community to support our daily operations including staffing, lighting and heating.

On pages 4-5 you can read Benedict's story - he shares his experience of the 'top class' care we provided for his gran and why he is now taking part in our upcoming Cycle St Giles challenge to raise vital funds so that other families will benefit from the same care his did. I will always be humbled and filled with admiration for the kindness of our supporters.

I hope you enjoy this edition of 'Your St Giles' and can truly see the difference that your kindness continues to make - we genuinely couldn't do what we do without you.

With thanks and best wishes,

Elinor

Chief Executive Officer

Did you know?

We cared for

224

patients on our Inpatient Unit in 2024-25

Donna's story

Donna with IPU Manager, Kirsty



On our Inpatient Unit, Donna and the team provide specialist care for patients, supporting not only those in our care but their loved ones too. Their work also focuses on the wellbeing of patients and their families.

Thanks to the ongoing support of our community, Donna and her colleagues are able to continue to care for local people, and their loved ones, living with a terminal illness. In her own time, Donna has been crocheting small hearts for patients and their loved ones - a simple token that allows families to feel close with their loved one even when they are apart. Each patient is given a heart, and then family members also receive a matching one.

This initiative was inspired by Donna's experiences of loss. After the death of her dad, her children were given crocheted hearts by a nurse to remember their grandad. Those hearts brought great comfort to her family and are still treasured today. Wanting to extend that same gesture, Donna began creating hearts for the patients and families she cares for at St Giles.

Donna said:

“As part of my role, supporting loved ones is just as important as caring for patients. After my own family found comfort in such a simple gesture following the loss of my dad, I felt it was something I could introduce on our Inpatient Unit. I crochet the hearts in my own time and it gives families something to hold on to during a difficult time. Families often share the hearts between them, keeping one close to the patient and one with their loved ones - a symbol of connection, even when apart.”

Leon Ratcliffe, Director of Clinical Services, added: **“Our nurses are at the heart of everything we do. They provide not only outstanding clinical care, but also compassion, comfort and dignity to our patients, and their loved ones, during some of their most difficult days.”**

Benedict's story

“The nurses were incredibly helpful, and the care was always top class.”

Someone who truly understands the impact of the care #TeamStGiles provides is Benedict Perry, whose gran, Mary-Margaret, was supported by our Community team in 2022.

Benedict's families experience highlights just how vital community hospice care is - not only for patients, but for their loved ones too.

In 2020, after breaking her arm, Margaret was admitted to hospital, where she developed a stomach infection. During scans, doctors discovered she had cancer.

As his gran's condition progressed, she received additional care and support at home from our Community team. Benedict said: “Gran regularly had nurses visiting to provide care, medication, and advice - even on things you wouldn't think about, like financial support and benefits.

“Although Gran was offered a bed at the hospice in Whittington, she chose to die at home. The nurses were incredibly helpful, and the care was always top class. Having respite care also made such a difference to other members of the family too, particularly my aunty.”

Benedict with his late Gran



To give back and honour his gran's memory, Benedict is taking part in our Cycle St Giles events this year to raise vital funds.

He said:

“I wanted to challenge myself and inspire others to get on their bikes to support the work St Giles does.”

Benedict, training for Cycle St Giles



Benedict hopes the funds he raises will help other families like his receive the same care and compassion he experienced during such a difficult time.

Reflecting on what motivates him, Benedict shared: **“Sometimes I talk to Gran when I'm on the bike and things get tough. I'm doing this for her.**

He said: **“St Giles receive less than a quarter of their funding from the Government. The rest comes from generous donations and fundraisers, like you and me. Every penny really does help keep this incredible service going.”**

“If I ever get emotional, I allow myself to be - it's love I couldn't show her while she was here, and I'm using that to push myself to make a difference for other people like her.”

Benedict will be taking part in the 50-mile ride at Cycle Spring, taking place at St Giles, on Sunday 10th May.

Benedict and his late Gran



Did you know?

£30

could help fund an hour of specialist care on our Inpatient Unit, for a patient at the end of their life.

Creating spaces that truly support families



Our quiet room

An update from Leon Ratcliffe, our Director of Clinical Services

Thanks to recent Government capital funding, our Inpatient Unit is undergoing a transformation, and we're delighted to share that this is already making a real difference to the patients and families we care for. We've always prided ourselves on providing incredible care, and now we're creating an incredible facility to match.



Our overnight stay suite

Following the opening of our family lounge last summer – a welcoming space for loved ones to spend time together away from the bedside – we've also introduced an overnight family stay space. This sanctuary allows loved ones to remain close during those precious final days together.

The capital funding has also allowed us to fully refurbish the first of our patient bedrooms. The refurbishment showcases the standard we're working towards across all patient rooms to enable our teams to provide the best possible care.

These improvements also include a quiet room which provides families with a private, calming space for difficult conversations during end of life care.

Our new spa bathroom features mood lighting and music, creating a soothing environment where patients can relax. For many patients, it's a chance to enjoy the therapeutic benefits of a spa bath with the warm water to help ease pain and tension.



Our pilot bedroom

We're also upgrading our education and training facilities to ensure our team continues to develop the skills needed to provide outstanding end of life care.

Every space we create is designed with one purpose – to support families during life's most challenging moments.

As Elinor noted in her 'Welcome' on page 2, we are grateful that the recent Government funding has allowed us to make these wonderful improvements but, we recognise that this funding alone cannot solve the challenges facing hospice care.

We spend close to £10 million a year providing our care, with less than a quarter of this funded by the Government. With rising costs and increasing demand for our care, we are dependent on donations and our community to support our daily operations so that we can continue to care for patients in our local community - a heartfelt thanks from all of us for your incredible support.



Did you know?

We have over

800

volunteers who make up #TeamStGiles



Pete in the St Giles van

Pete's story

With over 800 incredible individuals generously giving their time and skills to St Giles, we simply couldn't do what we do without our volunteers – thank you.

One of those remarkable people is Peter Brindle, who has been a volunteer driver with us for more than twelve years. Peter's connection with the hospice began long before he officially became a volunteer. He said: "Before retiring, I ran an embroidered clothing business and was proud to be one of St Giles' suppliers."

Peter describes the role as one that has certainly kept him on his toes. He said: "At one point, I was volunteering five days a week - so much so that the hospice minibus became my second home!"

As the years have passed, the role has grown. These days, Peter may also transport blood to local hospitals or collect medical equipment.

Peter goes above and beyond to support St Giles. Just last year, Peter helped make a special memory for a patient, receiving end of life care.

Thanks to the compassionate efforts of our team, Lee and his loved ones enjoyed a peaceful canal trip aboard a boat. Peter and his colleague Adrian ensured the family arrived comfortably at the marina and returned safely to the hospice after an unforgettable day.

Reflecting on his volunteering, Peter said:

"For me, the best thing about volunteering is knowing that every journey matters."

Thinking about volunteering for St Giles?

For more information please visit: www.stgileshospice.com/volunteer

Our stores



Our chain of 26 charity stores is a vital source of income for St Giles, and we're investing in our stores through a refurbishment programme, to help us raise vital funds for the patients, and loved ones, we support.

Last year alone, our stores raised over £400,000. If you've donated items, added Gift Aid, or shopped with us, you've helped make that possible. Thank you.

It's an exciting few months for our Retail team and we're delighted to share some recent highlights, including the opening of a second store in Tamworth, as well as the relocation of our Burton bookshop.

Our longstanding store, on George Street, in Tamworth, also has a brand-new concept - selling a selection of wonderful furniture, along with electrical and white goods.

When you shop in a St Giles store, you're not just picking up a bargain - you're making a real difference to local people, and their loved ones, living with a terminal illness.

Find your local store at: www.stgileshospice.com/findastore



Did you know?

We sold over

800,000

pre-loved items through our shops in 2024-25!

St Giles LIGHT the NIGHT

**Join us for Lichfield's biggest night out!
Saturday 27th June 2026**

Expect glowing lights, a city walk with a buzz, and an unforgettable atmosphere!

As a thank you for being a loyal supporter of St Giles you can get your tickets for just £10!

Use code: **YSG10** at checkout!*

Visit www.stgileshospice.com/lightthenight
or call 01543 432538



**Lichfield Sports Club,
Eastern Avenue,
Lichfield**



**7pm:
Welcome Party**



**9pm:
8k city walk with a buzz!**



*Terms apply, please visit our website

Get involved!

Join **#TeamStGiles** and fundraise your own way!

Upcoming events:



Celebrate Lives Lived gardens open

Join us to remember someone special this Spring.

May



Cycle Spring

Get ready to ride in memory, for fun, or to challenge yourself.

10th May



Light the Night

Join us for Lichfield's biggest night out!

27th June



Keepy-Up Challenge

Complete as many keepy-ups as you can!

June



Summer Raffle draw

Your chance to win prizes worth £8,000!*

29th July



Cycle Autumn

Support us from your saddle!

27th Sept

Other ways to support:



Leave a gift in your will

Leaving a gift to St Giles costs nothing today but will help us to continue to provide our vital care services.



Take on a challenge

From mountain treks and wing walking, to skydives and mud runs – there's lots of challenges to choose from whilst raising funds for St Giles.



Host a coffee morning

Pop on the kettle and host your own coffee morning to raise vital funds for your local hospice.



Corporate fundraising

Your business can support St Giles through fundraising, volunteering, or choosing us as your charity of the year – together we can build a rewarding partnership.



Play our weekly lottery!

For just £1 a week you can support your local hospice and be in with the chance to win fabulous prizes every week.



*18+ GB only please gamble responsibly
www.gambleaware.org.

St Giles Hospice (Promotions) Limited T/A St Giles Hospice Lottery is licensed and regulated in Great Britain by the Gambling Commission under account number 4914. Responsible Person(s): Helen Curran, William McLoughlin and Elinor Eustace. Our full Lottery Terms and Conditions are available on our website. St Giles Hospice Lottery is a wholly owned subsidiary of St Giles Hospice and all profits go to St Giles Hospice (Registered Charity No. 509014).

Keep up to date with all of our events at www.stgileshospice.com/events

We're here for you...

Whether you're living with a terminal illness, or your loved one is nearing the end of their life, we're here for you.

Our advice and support line is available 24/7 on **0300 330 9410**.



Leah, Jess, Ainsley and Dina

...because you're here for us

We spend close to £10 million a year providing our specialist services. With less than a quarter of this funded by the Government, we rely heavily on donations and income generation from the local community to continue our vital care.

If you can, please consider donating today. Your support will help us continue to be here for our patients, and their loved ones, living with a terminal illness.

It takes a community to make a hospice. Thank you so much for your support.

Ways to support:



Donate online:

www.stgileshospice.com/yourstgiles



Donate by phone:

01543 432538

We're available weekdays, 9am - 5pm



Donate by post:

Your St Giles, St Giles Hospice,
Fisherwick Road, Whittington,
Lichfield WS14 9LH

Please do not send cash in the post.
Please make cheques payable to St Giles Hospice.

Why not become a Friend of St Giles and give a monthly gift to help support local people living with a terminal illness?

Visit: www.stgileshospice.com/RegularGiving