

The University of Sheffield Memorial Event (online) 2020

In memory of those who have donated their bodies to the University of Sheffield for Medical Education.

Welcome - Professor Michelle Marshall, Director of Medical Education

Welcome to this Memorial Event we are holding online prior to being able to have an in-person Service of Thanksgiving in 2021.

We offer a warm welcome, first of all and especially to the loved ones of those who chose to make such a personal temporary donation to medical education.

We also extend a warm welcome to students & staff from the school Medicine, Dentistry and Health and from the Dept of Biomedical Science.

This memorial serves as a moment to offer thanksgiving and reflection. For friends and family members to commemorate the person they love. For university members to remember the solemn responsibility of medical education with the temporary donations entrusted to them.

We hope to see many of you, next year at the Service of Thanksgiving when it takes place, but encourage you to stay for a few minutes now, for music, reflection and prayer.

Words of Comfort - The University Chaplaincy Centre

Rev Dr Jeremy Clines, Coordinating Chaplain

Letting go, of those who we love, from physical life, is no easy process. We give it a name, we call it grief, but nothing in such a short word describes the huge journey it sets each of us upon.

One way of letting go is to bid the mortal remains farewell, to say a final farewell to the body that the person we love inhabited.

The loved ones we remember today chose to serve a wider purpose, of medical education, for a time, before a funeral. And so we are here to show respect and comfort to all who mourn and also look with deep reverence towards the learning opportunity those who have donated, temporarily, give to the members of this university.

Dr Emily Wood, Humanist Advisor

Saying Goodbye to loved ones is one of the hardest things we ever have to do. Although they may not be physically with us, they can live on, in our memories and in their legacy.

We can remember their generosity and their commitment to a better future that they have made through their donation to medical education. A gift that will spread knowledge and benefit many.

The author Terry Pratchett once said no-one is actually dead until the ripples they cause in the world die away. Leaving the world a better place than when we arrived is a legacy to be proud of and one that will last a very long time.

Imam Sheik Mohammad Ismail DL, Muslim Chaplain

In the Islamic tradition it is said that when someone dies their works come to an end since they can no longer do anything. However three things continue to accumulate rewards for them and ensure people remember their good work:

1. Any charity or good work that they left behind.
2. Any knowledge or means of knowledge they have left behind.
3. A family that continues to look after their charity.

Now in this short moment we give our full attention to those that have started a great charitable work which will benefit hundreds and thousands of human beings. They have devoted themselves, their bodies, to be the means of spreading knowledge for the benefit of others. History will always remember them because they devoted their bodies for a very noble cause.

Prayer of Acceptance

God of life,
you love everything you have made
and judge us with infinite mercy and justice.
We rejoice in your promises of pardon, joy and peace
to all those who love you.
In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven.
Amen.

Reflection

Please take a few moments to reflect on memories of those we remember today:
for all they mean to you, their families, friends and to the communities in which they have lived.

Music by the University of Sheffield Brass Band First Light by Ben Hollings Soloist: Izzy Faulkner

A Prayer for the Grieving

God, have mercy
on those who go about in mourning all the day long,
who feel numb and crushed
and are filled with the pain of grief,
whose strength has given up
and whose friends and neighbours are distant.
You know all our sighing and longings:
be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you alone.
Amen.

A Prayer for Compassion

God of all consolation,
your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears
at the grave of Lazarus his friend.
Look with compassion on your children in their loss;
give to troubled hearts the light of hope
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Commendation and Thanksgiving

Eternal God, giver of life,
we give thanks for all whom we remember at our event,,
for all they mean to their families and communities.
We give thanks for their gift to medicine and to humanity,
and we commend them to your loving care,
confident that they are at peace.

We pray for all who mourn for them;
surround them with your love to ease their pain,
and loving friends to share their burdens.

We give thanks for medical science

and for the creative work of all who study and teach it in this University;

give them wisdom, patience and compassion,

so that the lives of many may be enriched by their learning and research, and by the gift of those we remember today.

Amen.

Remember Me by Margaret Mead - Dr Rosie Broadbent, Academic Foundation Trainee Year 2

To the living, I am gone,

To the sorrowful, I will never return,

To the angry, I was cheated,

But to the happy, I am at peace,

And to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot speak, but I can listen.

I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.

So as you stand upon a shore gazing at a beautiful sea,

As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity,

Remember me.

Remember me in your heart:

Your thoughts, and your memories,

Of the times we loved,

The times we cried,

The times we fought,

The times we laughed.

For if you always think of me, I will never have gone.

Message of Gratitude - Mr Hasnain Khan, President of the Sheffield Medical Society

I am humbled to speak to you today. As President of the Sheffield Medical Society, I am the voice for the 1,500 Sheffield medical students. On their behalf, I would like to express our gratification to the donors and their families for playing a key part in our education.

When a student walks into the hall for their anatomy session, the first feeling they have is respect;

- Respect for the families who have lost a family member, who they love and cherish and will do for the rest of their lives
- Respect for the difficult discussions as a family for their selfless act to contribute to our training
- And respect to the donors, for their service to medicine, teaching and education

They have given the highest form of charity

- Each day, several sessions happen where hundreds of students attend, leaving with memories, knowledge and opportunities to learn.
- All of this was able to happen due to the goodness from the souls of the donors and their families
- This experience forms the foundation for hundreds of thousands of Doctors as well as members of other medical and scientific professions who serve in our NHS and wider community to help those most vulnerable in our society.

I would like to finish by paying my respects to the families and express students' gratification to the generosity of the donors and their families in supporting our learning.

Thank you for joining us today at our Memorial Event. We look forward to the time we can welcome you in person to the University's Service of Thanksgiving.

My fellow students would like to take this opportunity to pay their respects and show their gratitude to our donors, and their families, through the messages that will follow on screen.

Music by the University of Sheffield Chamber Choir
The Seal Lullaby by Eric Whitacre

"Thank you to the donors and their families for giving such a wonderful gift of learning to me and my fellow students, at a time of loss and sadness for them. I will always remember, respect and feel deeply grateful to you for this brave and generous choice."

Emily - Studying Medicine, Phase 2a

"A heartfelt gratitude to all the donors. You are the templates upon which our knowledge grows exponentially. Thank you for guiding our learning."

Ramsha - Studying MSc Human Anatomy and Education

"I am so grateful for the opportunity that they have enabled me to have. It is a privilege to honour their last wish by studying anatomy; I hope one day to use the knowledge I have gained to care for and improve the lives of others."

Lottie - Studying Biomedical Science, Year 2

"All sorts of last wishes exist in the world, whereas most would be to fill regrets, yours was to educate us. Thank you, and may you rest in peace."

Anonymous

"I would just like to express my gratitude for the opportunity they have given us, to learn and hopefully allowing us to make the world a better place."

Jacob - Studying Dentistry, Year 1

"To every person who has donated their body, Thank you for making the study of anatomical sciences possible. I will cherish your generosity and bravery for a lifetime. You have been the best teacher and for that I am eternally grateful. May you rest in peace."

Bethany - Studying MSc Human Anatomy and Education

"I am extremely grateful for your wonderful and invaluable gift to us. Your true act of altruism will shine through all our duties as clinicians in helping to improve the lives of others."

Esma - Physicians Associate, Year 1

"The generosity of each and every donor for medical education can never be justified with words. This gesture is priceless and everyone who benefits including myself will be forever in debt to these altruistic individuals. Thank you so much for this opportunity, rest in peace."

Rhiannon - studying Medicine year 1

The University of Sheffield Memorial Event 2020 is dedicated to all those who have generously donated their bodies to the University of Sheffield during the past year and, in so doing, have contributed to the benefit of future generations - even after death.

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Arranged and Organised by:

Revd Dr Jeremy Clines, Coordinating Chaplain, University Chaplaincy Centre
Mrs Wendy Howard, Bequeathal Officer, Department of Biomedical Science

In Conjunction With:

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health
The University Chaplaincy Centre
The Department of Biomedical Science
The University of Sheffield Chamber Choir
The University of Sheffield Brass Band

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