

# Spiritual Care Bulletin

## Remembrance Day

The First World War ended 100 years ago. This devastating conflict resulted in up to 19 million deaths (military and civilian) and up to 23 million casualties. Some called it "the war to end all wars". They hoped it would never be repeated.

The first ever Poppy Day in Britain was held on 11th November 1921. The poppies were supplied by a French organisation, which used its profits to help children in the war-devastated areas.

People have many different reasons, past and present, for observing remembrance.

**Who might be observing Remembrance in your wards?** For instance:

- ◆ A lady whose brother was declared missing in action?
- ◆ A man whose grandparents were conscientious objectors?
- ◆ A lady who fled her home country as a child refugee?
- ◆ A man living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder following his military service?
- ◆ Someone whose relatives live in a country where there is armed conflict today?

What memories and emotions might this time of year bring people in your care?

**Remembrance Sunday services will be held at 10:30am on Sunday 11th November at LRI, LGH and Glenfield hospitals.** Patients, visitors and staff are welcome to attend. Phone your site's chaplaincy office for details or email [chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

**An Act of Remembrance will take place in the Recreation Room, Bradgate Unit, on Friday 9th November, 10:45 to 11:45am on** for patients, visitors and staff.

For details contact: Revd Sarah Wright, tel: 0116 225 2642 or email: [sarah.j.wright@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:sarah.j.wright@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)



REMEMBRANCE DAY  
*Let Us Forget*

## More dates for your diary:

**Diwali Celebration** - Monday 12th Nov, 1:00pm in the **LRI Chapel**  
(for info contact: [sonya.wratten@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:sonya.wratten@uhl-tr.nhs.uk))

**Chanukah Celebration** - Monday 3rd Dec, 4:30pm outside the **LRI chaplains office**  
(for info contact: [mark.burleigh@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:mark.burleigh@uhl-tr.nhs.uk))

## Staff Christmas Carol Services

(for info contact: [chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk))

- ◆ **LGH Chapel** - Tues 18th Dec 12:30 to 1:15pm
- ◆ **Glenfield/BMHU** - Wed 19th Dec 12:30 to 1:15pm in the **Learning and Development Centre** (on the perimeter road near GH South Entrance)
- ◆ **LRI Chapel** - Thurs 20th Dec 12:30 to 1:15pm

## Chaplaincy - here for you...

Phone: LRI: 258 5487 | LGH: 258 4243 | GH: 258 3413 | LPT: 229 4055

Email: UHL: [chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk) | LPT: [chaplaincy@leicspart.nhs.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@leicspart.nhs.uk)

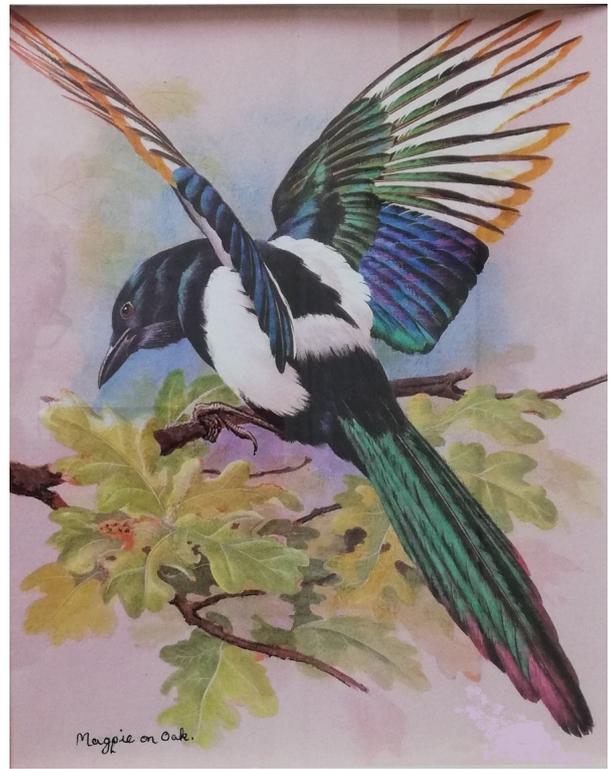
Twitter: [twitter.com/Leic\\_Chaplaincy](https://twitter.com/Leic_Chaplaincy)



## Magpies

by Revd Sarah Wright

*'I like magpies.  
Other people don't like magpies,  
They hate them, they say they are awful evil things that  
should be scared off or killed.  
They get angry with me for liking magpies.  
They want me to hate magpies too...  
But I like magpies!  
They make me smile,  
The way they almost fall out of the air when they fly,  
Or how their tail flicks up when they land.  
I remember the one who followed us round Paignton Zoo,  
showing off;  
The thirty-five plus holding a parliament in Sefton Park;  
And the pairs I followed on bus trips into Nottingham.  
I like magpies!  
God likes magpies too...  
After all he did create them!  
I wonder if they make God smile?'*



Sarah goes on to say: "Who are the 'magpies' for you? People who are very different from you? Can you try to see the beauty in each magpie?"

"To whom are you a 'magpie'? Would you prefer it if people got to know you and liked you for who you are?"

"I visited a gentleman who was in hospital and we got chatting about magpies and my poem.

Working in the countryside as a young man, he'd

seen magpies and crows hanging dead on the barbed-wire fences. 'But they were so beautiful' he said, 'I couldn't leave them there'. So he buried them respectfully.

"In later life he studied illustration. His portfolio was full of beautiful watercolour paintings of birds. When we came to the magpie painting (*copied above*) he said with a smile 'You can have this one. You like 'magpies' too!'"

## The Winter Solstice

Jane Flint, our Non-religious Pastoral Carer, has been reflecting on the winter solstice with someone who follows a Pagan spirituality.

"For many cultures around the world, the winter solstice, which falls on 21st December, marks an important milestone. It's the shortest day and longest night of the year and signals a powerful transition point between seasons. Because of this, it has been celebrated and revered in ancient civilisations, indigenous cultures, and various religions, all of which have their own rituals for taking advantage of the unique energy.

"One way to embrace a more spiritual take on the solstice and celebrate it is to take part in Christmas traditions, as the holiday is actually strongly based on Pagan beliefs and tied to the winter solstice. If

you aren't a religious person at all, you can still take part in the spirituality of the day, through the many rituals that are linked with the solstice.

"The spiritual and energetic significance of the winter solstice is multi-layered, but the most direct relevance is that it symbolizes the birth of the sun. The solstice is essentially tied to a personal awakening."

