

Newsletter

ISSUE 27 | SUMMER 2026



Kirsty's Story

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 **East Lancashire
Hospice**

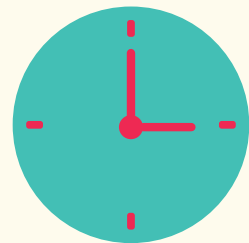
How our volunteers make a difference



We have a team of

272

dedicated volunteers



Our volunteers on
average, work

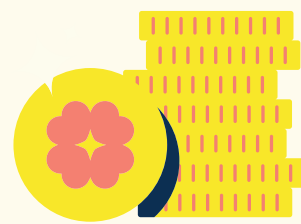
3 hours

a week for the Hospice



150

of our volunteers work
in our charity shops



Last year, our volunteers
saved the Hospice
an incredible

£485,422.08

A message from our interim CEO

It is a privilege to write my first Newsletter welcome as Interim Chief Executive of East Lancashire Hospice. Although I am new to this role, I have been leading Income Generation and Marketing for the past three years and I have never stopped being amazed by the compassion, dedication, and skill shown every day by our staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Hospice care stands at a unique and vital point in our communities – supporting people and their families through some of life's most challenging moments, with dignity, kindness, and respect. That commitment is evident in everything I see every day, from the quality of clinical care to the warmth of each personal interaction.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teams and volunteers, whose tireless efforts make such a difference to those we serve. I am equally grateful to our donors, partners, and the wider community – your continued support ensures that we can maintain and develop the services so many people rely on.

As Interim CEO, my focus is to provide stability, continuity, and support to our organisation, whilst ensuring we remain true to our values and mission. At the same time, I am keen to listen, learn, and work alongside colleagues and stakeholders, to build on our strengths and look ahead with confidence.

This edition of the newsletter highlights just some of the incredible work taking place across the Hospice. I hope it gives you a sense of the impact we are making together, and the importance of sustaining this work for the future.

Thank you for being part of our hospice community.

Warm regards,

Nicola Hanna

Nicola Hanna
Interim Chief Executive



Kirsty's Story

Raising Awareness of Cancer in Pregnancy

Kirsty, aged 42 from Great Harwood, was referred to East Lancashire Hospice for Complementary Therapy, following a cancer diagnosis.

From the outside, her life looked full and busy; a growing family, an NHS career, and the anticipation of welcoming a third child. But in June 2023, during what should have been a joyful pregnancy, everything changed.

At 25 weeks pregnant, and just 39 years old, Kirsty discovered a lump in her breast. Like many mothers who had breastfed, she initially thought it was a blocked milk duct, a common symptom with breastfeeding. But just two weeks later, at 27 weeks pregnant, she received the devastating news that she had breast cancer.

Kirsty began chemotherapy while still pregnant. What should have been a time of excitement and preparation became a period filled with uncertainty, hospital appointments, and fear of the unknown. She faced hair loss, the physical toll of treatment, and the emotional weight of carrying both her baby and a cancer diagnosis. Despite everything, she persevered.

Her experience was isolating. Kirsty often felt she didn't quite belong anywhere; was she a pregnant woman with cancer, or a cancer patient who happened to be pregnant? She felt like two different patients, rather than one whole person.

Searching for connection, she created an Instagram page, @mummyvscancer. What started as a way to process her own journey soon became a lifeline, not only for Kirsty, but for others. Through sharing her story, she connected with women facing similar diagnoses, built meaningful friendships, and offered support and guidance.

"People talked about the Hospice early on in my diagnosis, and it felt scary. But it's so much more than that. I've found acceptance, and feel in very safe hands at East Lancashire Hospice," shared Kirsty.



In September 2023, at 36 weeks, Kirsty gave birth to her daughter via C-section. Despite everything she had endured, her baby was born healthy, spending just one day in NICU and unaffected by chemotherapy.

Shortly after birth, Kirsty continued chemotherapy, completing her final session in December 2023. Just one month later, she underwent surgery to remove cancerous lymph nodes. Although earlier scans had suggested a positive response to treatment, surgery revealed a different reality.

Plans for further preventative surgery were put on hold when, in March 2024, Kirsty was diagnosed with Stage 4 metastatic cancer. The disease had spread to her spine and sternum. She also discovered she carries the BRCA2 gene, meaning her children have a 50% chance of inheriting it.

Kirsty was first introduced to East Lancashire Hospice in April 2025, when her step-dad, Kevin, received care on the Inpatient Unit. It was here she met Danielle, a Complementary Therapist, who introduced her to a different kind of care, one that focuses on the whole person. After taking time to grieve, Kirsty was referred to the Complementary Therapy service in January 2026.

Now, she attends one-to-one sessions with Danielle and takes part in the Hospice's Complementary Therapy Relaxation Group. From her very first appointment, Kirsty felt something she hadn't felt in a long time; relaxed, listened to, and understood. Danielle took the time to get to know her, not just as a patient, but as a person with a life, a family, and a story.

Kirsty has experienced the Hospice from both sides: as a daughter saying goodbye to her step-dad, and as a patient seeking support. In both roles, she felt cared for, respected, and never alone.

Today, life for Kirsty is a constant balancing act; hospital appointments, blood tests, and recovery

from ongoing treatments, all while raising three young children and continuing to advocate for cancer awareness during pregnancy. She uses her platform to raise awareness of cancer during pregnancy, encouraging others not to ignore symptoms.

"Being a mum doesn't stop, just because you have cancer. I'm a mum before I'm a cancer patient. Living with cancer is not the death sentence people perceive it to be," she shared.

Her youngest child is now two years old, living a full and healthy life. However, for Kirsty, uncertainty continues. Kirsty's cancer has since progressed into a more aggressive form, requiring additional treatment and carrying an increased risk of spreading to the brain.



Despite it all, Kirsty continues to face each day with strength, honesty, and determination, not just for herself, but for her family, and for others who are in a similar situation.

Your donation, helps people like Kirsty feel seen, accepted, and supported, through compassionate care and Complementary Therapy.

The Importance of Complementary Therapy

The Complementary Therapy service provided at East Lancashire Hospice focuses on supporting the whole person, not just physically, but psychologically and spiritually too.

Our team works with our patients in either a one-to-one or group setting, giving them space to pause, reflect and recharge during what can be an incredibly challenging time.

Many of our patients come to the Hospice experiencing symptoms like pain, fatigue, nausea, or breathlessness; but we also support our patients living with stress, anxiety, insomnia and emotional exhaustion after being diagnosed with a life-limiting illness.

Every patient is individually assessed. Our team takes the time to understand their needs, their preferences, and what matters most to them. From there, we create a personalised therapy plan, because no two people are the same. This may include treatments such as aromatherapy, reflexology, the HEARTS process, M-technique, Reiki, guided relaxation, mindfulness, or breathing techniques.

Complementary Therapy is flexible; we adapt the service to meet the needs of our patients. For instance, patients on our Inpatient Unit can receive therapy at their bedside, with our team delivering treatments directly in their rooms rather than in the therapy suite.



Complementary Therapist, Danielle shares, "Complementary Therapy is about helping our patients to feel cared for as people, not just as patients, and giving them moments of comfort and reassurance when they need it most."

Kirsty's perception of hospice care has completely changed. Where she once associated hospices with fear and end-of-life, she now sees East Lancashire Hospice as a place of warmth, compassion, and support. At the Hospice, Kirsty found acceptance and expertise.



Compassionate Care and Complementary Therapy

The Hospice gave Kirsty a place to feel **seen, accepted, and supported** as a whole person.



Each year East Lancashire Hospice needs to raise more than £4.5 million to provide specialist palliative care to the people of Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley.

Your donation of **£20** could provide any of the following for our patients and their friends and families:



A relaxing one-to-one therapy session, tailored to the individual's needs



Improved physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing



A personalised therapy plan



A place to belong



A group relaxation session



A range of therapy treatments such as, Reiki, reflexology, aromatherapy, or the HEARTS technique

Your donation helps people like Kirsty feel seen, accepted, and supported, through compassionate care and Complementary Therapy.

Scan to donate





Patient Stories

At East Lancashire Hospice, our patients and their friends and families are at the heart of what we do. They inspire us every day, and we're proud to share their stories below.

If you or someone you know has been cared for by East Lancashire Hospice, and you'd like to share their story, contact our marketing department: marketing@eastlancshospice.org.uk

Maggie's Story



Maggie, aged 78, from Blackburn, was cared for on the Inpatient Unit at East Lancashire Hospice in April 2026.

After first being diagnosed with breast cancer, Maggie's illness later spread to her bones. She spent six weeks on the Inpatient Unit, where she received specialist care to help manage her symptoms.

"From the moment I arrived at the Hospice, I felt a sense of relief," Maggie shared.

"Before coming to the Hospice, I was frightened being at home on my own. I worried about taking my medication and getting it wrong. Although I had carers visiting four times a day, I became more unwell and needed extra support."

"At East Lancashire Hospice, I've felt safe and at ease. The nurses are always there when I need them. They make sure I have the right medication at the right time, manage my symptoms, and check in on me. It's taken away so much of the worry."

As Maggie's symptoms improved, she began looking ahead to returning home.

"I'm looking forward to being back in my own space, watching TV, doing my crosswords, and catching up on my favourite programmes," she said. **"But I'll also miss being here. The friendships I've made with the nurses and volunteers mean so much to me. I can't fault them, they're truly wonderful and go above and beyond every day."**

John's Story

John, aged 73, was referred to East Lancashire Hospice for Physiotherapy in December 2025, after being diagnosed with liver cancer.

Before his health declined, John lived a full and active life and had a passion for photography. Following a life-changing accident, John lost the ability to use his left arm due to severe nerve damage and had to adapt to taking photos using his right arm and specialist equipment.



In November 2025, John was admitted to the hospital with sepsis. Following this, he experienced a noticeable decline in his balance and mobility, leaving him feeling unsteady, lacking confidence, and increasingly isolated. The impact was not just physical, but emotional too, as the risk of losing his independence also meant the possibility of losing the ability to do what he loves most, photography.

Determined to regain his strength and get back outdoors with his camera, John was referred to the Hospice Physiotherapy team by the Macmillan Hub.

In December 2025, a Physiotherapist from East Lancashire Hospice visited John at home to carry out an initial assessment and create a personalised exercise programme, giving him the tools and confidence to begin rebuilding his strength safely in his own environment.

By January 2026, with early improvements already visible, John was invited into the Hospice to continue his rehabilitation. He joined the 'Strength and Balance' programme, a six-week course designed to improve mobility, stability and confidence through cardio, strength, core and balance work; personalised to each patient by Alicia, the Head of Palliative Specialist Physiotherapy Care, at East Lancashire Hospice.

John is showing great progress both physically and in his confidence, due to the support of the Strength and Balance programme and the Physiotherapy team, which is carefully adapted to each individual.

Educating Healthcare Professionals on End-of-Life Care



At East Lancashire Hospice, we are committed to educating healthcare professionals about end-of-life care across our community.

Following recent engagement with nursing and residential homes across Blackburn and Darwen, we have identified a growing need for additional support and training, for staff caring for residents with complex health needs.

By sharing the expertise of our Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) team, we hope to strengthen confidence and knowledge across care settings, helping more people to receive the right care at the right time, through bespoke training sessions focusing on key areas such as; 'Recognition of Dying', 'Symptom Management for Registered Nurses', and 'Care in the Last Days of Life'.

As care needs become more complex, staff in these settings have seen an increase in supporting patients who require palliative and end-of-life care, often in situations that can change quickly.

Without specialist training, recognising when someone may be approaching the end of their life can be difficult. This can lead to uncertainty when making clinical decisions or responding to symptoms.

We recognise that nursing home staff work incredibly hard and face significant pressures in their day-to-day roles. These pressures, combined with a gap in specialist knowledge, can result in patients and their friends and families experiencing inequality in the care available to them.

Supporting staff with the right knowledge and guidance can help ensure residents receive compassionate and informed care that they deserve. Ultimately, this initiative reflects East Lancashire Hospice's wider strategy; ensuring everyone receives the care and dignity that a hospice provides.

Educating Medical Students on Palliative Care

At the start of the 2025-26 academic year, the Support and Wellbeing team at East Lancashire Hospice were invited to present their services to UCLan Year 4 medical students, during their monthly palliative care education sessions held at Royal Blackburn Hospital.

Focusing primarily on the Support and Wellbeing services provided at East Lancashire Hospice, which include Bathing, Complementary Therapy, Creative and Support Therapies, Counselling, and Bereavement Support, these sessions provide an overview of the palliative services available to the local community. Students have the opportunity to ask questions, gain

a deeper understanding of who may benefit from hospice care, learn more about referral criteria, and learn how to refer patients they may support in the future. They're also invited to visit the Hospice and experience the facilities first-hand.

So far, the sessions have been a huge success, with strong attendance and more than 150 students benefiting. Due to this positive impact, the Support and Wellbeing team at East Lancashire Hospice will continue delivering these sessions in the next academic year, starting in September 2026.

Meet the Team

Meet Steph, our new Clinical Head of the Inpatient Unit!

Steph joined East Lancashire Hospice earlier this year and has already made a big impact.

After qualifying as a nurse, she began her career at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust before moving to The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester, where she worked across inpatient services and as a Breast Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist. She also spent time in New Zealand working in hospice care as a Community Palliative Care Specialist Nurse. Most recently, Steph was Assistant Director of Nursing for Cancer Services at ELHT.

Palliative care has always been a passion of hers: **"You only have one chance to get it right for patients and their friends and families at such an important time."** Her connection is also personal, having experienced hospice care within her own family.



Six Months of our Bereavement Support Café

It's been six months since we launched our Bereavement Café at East Lancashire Hospice, and so far, it's been a great success! During the last six months, we've held 13 sessions and have seen over 90 individuals. Over 80% of attendees have returned for more than one session, with 24% of attendees previously accessing one-to-one Bereavement Support. There has been a mixture of both male and female individuals, and a range of ages in attendance, from 25 to 65 years and over.

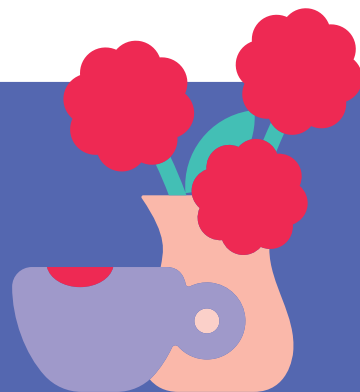
The Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen report, 'Understanding People's Experiences of Bereavement Support in Blackburn with Darwen (2025)', identified a Bereavement Café as a valuable and much needed local resource. With high demand for one-to-one bereavement support and limited bereavement-specific drop-in options, the café provides an accessible, community-based alternative.

The Bereavement Café, located at Café Retreat, inside the Hospice, offers a safe, friendly, and informal space for anyone in our catchment area who has experienced a death. People can talk, listen, or simply sit alongside others who share

similar experiences. There is no pressure, no commitment, and no cost, just warm, welcome support from qualified, trained facilitators.

By reducing loneliness, offering early and flexible support, and creating opportunities for peer connection, the Bereavement Café strengthens community resilience. It ensures that people have somewhere to turn on their hardest days, even when they are not ready for, or do not require, formal therapeutic intervention.

"When we first launched the Bereavement Café, we had no way of knowing how successful it would become. Watching attendance grow and seeing new friendships form has been a real privilege. The café offers a space where people can be honest about their grief, and cry if that's what they need, but it's also a place where people can laugh again and know that it's OK to do so," shared Lucy Fish, Counsellor at East Lancashire Hospice.



Kathleen's Story

After Kathleen's husband, Colin, was diagnosed with skin cancer, he was referred to East Lancashire Hospice for support from the Hospice at Home team.

In the last three weeks of Colin's life, the Hospice at Home team visited regularly. They helped with washing and personal care, both during the day and overnight, giving Kathleen time to rest or go shopping for a few hours each day.

"They gave me time to breathe. The support I received meant everything; it meant I could properly rest, knowing Colin was in safe hands," shared Kathleen.

After Colin's death, Kathleen decided to attend the Bereavement Support Café at East Lancashire Hospice. **"I love coming to the Bereavement Cafe, the group has helped me so much, I feel I'm meant to be here for some reason; it gives me comfort visiting the Hospice, and it's been a great place for me to meet new people who are going through the same thing as me,"** said Kathleen.

For Kathleen, the Hospice is not just a place of care, but a place of connection.

"When I come into the Hospice, it's nice to see the people who cared for my husband, like Chris and Leah from the Hospice at Home team. Seeing those familiar faces reminds me of him, but also how well he was cared for."

For many, the idea of visiting a Hospice can feel daunting, but Kathleen wants to reassure people that East Lancashire Hospice is a place of warmth, laughter and care.

"For anyone thinking of attending the Hospice, I would definitely recommend it. It gives you a feeling of belonging. It's a very welcoming space. Some people question me when I tell people that I really look forward to going to the Hospice, but I explain it's not what you imagine, it's welcoming, not clinical at all."

Despite Colin's death, Kathleen feels grateful for the life they shared.

"I consider myself very lucky. What Colin and I had was something very special. I hope everyone finds a Colin, because this world would be a better place. I've got a good support network of friends, and my two daughters, Alison and Carol, look after me. I'm very grateful."

If you would like to find out more about the services available at East Lancashire Hospice, visit www.eastlancshospice.org.uk/our-care



Our Volunteers are at the Heart of East Lancashire Hospice

Become a Volunteer!



From patient-facing roles to fundraising, retail and support services, to gardening; volunteering is a chance to use your skills, meet new people and be part of something special.

Whatever time you can give, and whatever your background, there's a place for you here.

Last year, our incredible team of volunteers saved the Hospice £485,422.08. Each year, East Lancashire Hospice has to raise over £4.5 million, and the contributions of our volunteers help us to provide specialist palliative care to our community.

Currently, we have a team of 272 dedicated volunteers, who work on average 3 hours per week for the Hospice.

We're looking for new volunteers to join our team; if you'd like to try something new, meet new friends, and develop new skills, complete our volunteer application form on our website eastlancshospice.org.uk/join-us/volunteer-vacancies

Befriending Volunteers Wanted!

We're looking for Befriending Volunteers to join our team and support our patients through simple, meaningful moments; a chat, a shared story, or just being there when it matters most.

You don't need any previous experience, just time, kindness and a willingness to listen. We'll provide full training and support to help you feel comfortable and confident in the role.

If you're interested in becoming a Befriending Volunteer, complete our volunteer application form on our website: eastlancshospice.org.uk/join-us/volunteer-vacancies

Meet our new Volunteer!



Meet Anne, who recently joined our volunteer team, and works at our new charity shop in Accrington.

As a Retail Volunteer, Anne's role is to support the Shop Manager, serve customers on the till, replenish stock, tag and hang new items, steam clothing, sort through donations, and help to keep the shop running.

Anne has only volunteered for a short time, but has already made a huge difference. She has quickly settled in, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and a big heart to her role.

Anne has always wanted to volunteer, and when she saw the new retail role advertised in November, she didn't hesitate to apply.

Her connection to East Lancashire Hospice is deeply personal. **"My dad was cared for by the Hospice 10 years ago, and I still remember the care he received. The support me and my brother were given at the time was second to none,"** Anne recalls. **"I wanted to give back."**

Anne has loved meeting customers and getting to know the team. **"The staff are all really nice, and it's great working alongside other volunteers. It's also exciting to see all the stock that arrives in; the donations are fantastic!"** Volunteering has already given Anne a strong sense of purpose and personal satisfaction. **"I'm really enjoying it, and it feels great to make a difference,"** she added.

When asked what she'd say to anyone considering volunteering, Anne doesn't hesitate, **"I would highly recommend it. Get your application in and come join in the fun!"**

Ten Years, Nine Challenges, One Extraordinary Reason to Keep Going

When David Clarke's mum spent her final three days on the Inpatient Unit at East Lancashire Hospice, he was moved by the care he witnessed. At home, her final days had been surrounded by lots of visitors; however, once she was admitted to the Hospice, her immediate family got to spend a lot more time with her. David remembers, "It was calm, peaceful, and gave us time to really be together as a family."

After David's mum died, his dad received Counselling support from the Hospice team, helping him navigate his grief. Inspired by the compassionate care their family experienced, David's grandad chose to give back by volunteering with the Hospice's retail team.

The strong sense of community at East Lancashire Hospice left a lasting impression on David, igniting a passion that has driven him to take on fundraising challenges for more than a decade.

Over the past ten years, David has raised an impressive £29,000 for East Lancashire Hospice. His goal is to raise £30,000, covering the cost of the care his mother received.

David's fundraising began in 2015, when he decided to turn his 40th birthday into something meaningful. A family fun day, complete with stalls, a magician and a tombola, helped to raise funds for the Hospice, totalling an incredible £1,800. "I never thought we'd raise that much," he says. "That's what first gave me the bug for fundraising."

The following year, David took on the National Three Peaks. Accompanied by his 17 friends, two minibuses and a local personal trainer guiding them along the way, the team completed the challenge in just 24 hours!



After completing the National Three Peaks the previous year, David decided a new challenge was on the horizon for year three; this time, he tackled the Yorkshire Three Peaks. Along with his five friends, a few wrong turns, and plenty of laughter, the team completed the challenge in an impressive 9 hours.

When COVID-19 struck, and the Hospice's fundraising events were cancelled, David refused to stop his fundraising efforts. He livestreamed a 9-hour workout from home, which even made a feature on the national news. David shared, "I loved this challenge because my wife and children got to see me complete it and cheer me on throughout. It was a particularly important year because it was hard for the Hospice to fundraise during COVID-19."

The West Highland Way was next on David's list. For year five, David's brother and his 10 friends walked a gruelling 96 miles from Glasgow to Fort William, finishing at the summit of Ben Nevis.

Year six was the hardest to date, with David tackling The Welsh 3000s, a 15-peak mountain challenge in North Wales. David completed the challenge with a knee injury and challenging weather conditions.

David revisited an old route for his seventh challenge; however, he wanted to up the ante, by completing the Yorkshire three peaks, three times over, within three days. On the third day, David was accompanied by his family, including his aunties, uncles and cousins. David shared, "It felt like a procession; I felt especially connected to the challenge, as I was surrounded by my family."

Year eight saw David take on the Jurassic Coast Challenge. David walked an incredible 103 miles over four days along the South West Coast, finishing in Exmouth.

Year nine saw David take part in not one, but two challenges! The first was the Great Glen Way, walking 78 miles over three days. Deciding one challenge simply wasn't enough, he decided to walk 162 miles over seven days on the John o' Groats trail for his second challenge. "The sunrises and views of the cliffs were spectacular, we spotted seals, puffins and herons because the route was so remote, it was truly special."

In December 2025, not only did David turn fifty, but he also reached his tenth year of fundraising for East Lancashire Hospice. For his tenth year, he wanted to up the challenge even further and to celebrate the milestone, he is taking on his most ambitious challenge yet; climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in September 2026, in memory of his mum.

Over the years, David has climbed many mountains across the UK, but this one is different. His journey will start in a tropical rain forest and end surrounded by snow-covered peaks. With a vast spectrum of weather conditions, this will be a huge challenge.

David shared, "I'm buzzing for this challenge. I'm a little bit scared of getting altitude sickness, but I'm currently training with a mask that simulates high altitude. Nothing else I've done comes close to this."

If you've been inspired by David's story and would like to make a donation in contribution to his fundraising challenge, please visit www.justgiving.com/page/david-clarke-kili50

Become an Ambassador!

Supporting East Lancashire Hospice as an ambassador is a prestigious way for your business to make a significant impact to our patients and their friends and families. By becoming an ambassador, you can help ensure we continue to deliver specialist palliative care and support to the people of Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley.

We have three tiers available – gold, silver and bronze – with gold being the most prestigious. Each tier provides your business with recognition and benefits, including event invitations, publicity, network opportunities, and a plaque presentation.

We're so grateful to all our ambassadors, including Gold Ambassador Nybble IT, Silver Ambassador Pierce Accountants, and Bronze Ambassadors PM+M Accountants, Euroslit, James Dewhurst, Media Village, and Lancashire Evening Telegraph.

If you'd like to find out how you can become an ambassador, or for any other corporate opportunities, please contact fundraising@eastlancshospice.org.uk



Celebration Giving

Mark life's moments while supporting hospice care.

Whether you're celebrating a birthday, wedding or anniversary, Celebration Giving is a thoughtful way to mark your special day while supporting East Lancashire Hospice.

We offer celebration favours from just £2.50 per card. These are perfect for weddings, birthdays and other occasions, and each favour comes with a card and a Hospice pin badge, as a small but meaningful token of thanks.

If you'd like to include Celebration Giving as part of your special day, you can purchase our celebration favours through our online shop on our website.



Attend our Spring/Summer Events!

Attend one of our Hospice events and be part of something special.

From pub walks and gravy wrestling, to car shows and in-memory events, there's something for everyone. You'll meet like-minded people, challenge yourself, have fun, and raise vital funds for hospice care.

Take a look at our events calendar by visiting our website, or by picking up one of our What's On Guides from the Hospice, our charity shops, or Café Retreat.



Success For Our New Accrington Shop!

It's been a few months since we opened the doors to our newest charity shop, based in Accrington.

Located on Hyndburn Road and open seven days a week, our newest shop is a convenient destination for shoppers looking to support their local hospice while picking up some great value pre-loved items.

The shop marks an important step in building a stronger community presence in Accrington, and we've been amazed by the support we've received so far from the local community.

Claire Shilton, Head of Retail at East Lancashire Hospice, shared, **"We've been blown away by the kindness and generosity of the people of Accrington, we've never had so many donations! It's been great meeting new volunteers, supporters, and customers who have all helped to make this shop such a success already."**



Since the opening, the charity shop has sold a huge 1,671 items of clothing, 390 books and CDs, and 1,012 household items. A total of 3,668 products have been sold in the first month, and 48 new supporters have signed up to Gift Aid.

The Accrington shop is currently on the lookout for retail volunteers to join the team, if you'd like to learn new skills, meet new friends, make a difference to your community, and support hospice care, then apply to be a volunteer using the application form on our website: eastlancshospice.org.uk/join-us/volunteer-vacancies/

New Look for Café Retreat

Café Retreat, our welcoming café based at the Hospice, has had a makeover, with brand new staff uniforms and a refreshed logo to complement East Lancashire Hospice's rebrand.

Café Retreat offers a light, modern, and welcoming space where people can relax, meet friends, or take a moment to unwind. Whether you are stopping by for breakfast, lunch, or something sweet, you will always receive a warm welcome.

The café has always offered visitors great food with the knowledge that you are helping to support patient care across our community, as all profits go to the Hospice. This June, a brand-new menu of our famous fresh, homemade food will be available.

**We are open
Tuesday – Friday
9:00am – 14:00pm**



A New Look For Our Charity Shops!

Our shops across Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley are looking a little different, with new signage and uniforms now in place, as part of our recent rebrand.

It's a small change, but an important one. Helping more people in our community to recognise our charity shops and understand the role they play in supporting East Lancashire Hospice.

When you shop with East Lancashire Hospice, you're doing more than picking up a bargain. You're helping us to provide specialist palliative care and support to our patients, and their friends and families.

From pre-loved clothing and childrenswear, to books, homeware, furniture and hidden treasures, our shops turn generosity into care. Whether you're donating or shopping, you're making a difference.



Life of Pie

Our popular Life of Pie scheme allows members of the public to pre-order homemade pies and collect them directly from Café Retreat. Each pie serves four to six people, making them ideal for family meals, gatherings, or special occasions.

We offer a range of flavours, including plate meat, chicken, leek and mushroom, and our much-loved cheese and onion pie. Pies are available from £10 each and need to be ordered 24 hours in advance.

Call 01254 965830 to order yours!



24 Years By Our Side

Louise first joined East Lancashire Hospice on a college work placement in Cafe Retreat. 24 years later, she's still here and is now our longest-serving member of staff.

As a Kitchen Assistant, Louise plays an important role in the day-to-day life of the Hospice, including preparing meals and serving food, supporting events and helping keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes.

Louise's dedication has been constant over the years. She's known for the way she connects with our patients. Whether it's taking time for a chat or sharing a smile, Louise is incredibly passionate about what she does.

She added that she cherishes working at the Hospice as it has helped her develop new skills, make lifelong friends, and become more sociable.



Secure your family's future, and **remember us in your Will**

You could leave
East Lancashire Hospice
even 1% in your Will,
so those closest to
you inherit 99%



Get in touch

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our website!

