

Dear friend,

Well, it's nearly that time once more...Christmas. Here we are all wondering, yet again, where did the year go? As things wrap up and we frantically busy ourselves so that we can slow down for that all important day of the year, I hope you can take some time yourself to read this.

Living Every Moment – It's the endline to our new logo. Makes sense for a hospice, don't you think? A place where time is so pertinent that every moment is precious and needs to be special. Money, possessions, corporate-climbing, beautifying...all these things fall to the wayside when time is short and we actually get an insight into what means the most to us in life.

Living Every Moment

That's why Christmas is so great...the world actually attempts to standstill so that we can have a day of just being with loved ones and creating another memory to add to the lifebank. For these reasons, we encourage and support hospice patients to have Christmas in their own homes and this results in less inpatients at this time of year. However this simply isn't an option for everyone and we commonly have a few patients being cared for here at the hospice.

So how do we make Christmas special? Usually we have lovely gifts donated from other charitable associations and church groups. The food, which is always delicious, is especially so on this day. Carol singers and bands perform. And staff try to make things as festive as possible! We have lots of fabulous decorations, many handmade by staff and volunteers. They decorate food trays, medicines and even dress up in Christmas theme. Friends and family members are of course encouraged to stay and share a Christmas meal.

Although an ill family member is an added stress to the holiday period, which can be pretty taxing as it is, they also add an extra reason for us all to savour every second of the day. That's why we go the extra, extra mile to celebrate Christmas and any other events we can here at the hospice.

One event this year that we were determined to make memorable for our patient Barry was his daughter Sophie's wedding. His doctors - Dave, Sue, Tom and Anne - dedicated themselves to trying to get him well for the



*Barry's Nurses with the beautiful bride and mother-of-the-bride.
From Left: Denise van Aalst, Bridget, Lynne Mahs and Sophie.*

