Acts of Remembrance that have been used in memorial services

##### Introductory Act of Remembrance

We have gathered here today to remember those we love who have died. We light a candle to burn during our time together. The flame from this candle symbolises,

Hope flickering in the darkness and sadness of our grief

Love enduring in the darkness of our helplessness and loss

Life continuing to burn despite the darkness of death

###### Commemoration

The names of your loved ones will now be read out (in alphabetical order). Candles have always symbolised the prayer we cannot put into words, the concern we feel for others, and a light for guidance. They are lit from the Easter candle – a symbol of resurrection and eternal life. When the names have been read we pray together…

Eternal God, from whose love we cannot be parted, by anything in life or even death: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for those we remember today; we commend them to your love, and place our trust in your kingdom of eternal joy. **Amen.**

###### Remembrance cards

We will focus our thoughts on those we have loved and cared for and as we remember them the names of your loved ones will be read out loud…then this is your time to write something in your remembrance card.

After you’ve written in it please take it forward to the front of the room and place on the table with the flowers and candles…

We will sit quietly after all the cards have been gathered forward and reflect on those we love and miss whilst the music fades…

The cards will be collected after the service and placed in our chapel for a week and then prayerfully removed.

###### Lighting of Candles

Members of staff and patients’ families take forward twelve candles representing the twelve months of the year. The cushion representing the hospice itself, together with Books of Remembrance are also brought forward.

Members of the congregation are then invited, in their own time, to place candles on and around the Peace Globe, under the guidance of the sidesmen. Please return to your seat when you are ready. Whilst this is taking place, the Organist plays Morricone’s ‘Gabriel’s Oboe’, followed by the choir with Rutter’s ‘Lux Aeterna’.

###### Memorial tree

You’ll have noticed a tie-on label on your seat as you arrived. May I invite you now, as we listen to some music, to write something in memory of the person that you’re here to remember, and then come forward and tie it onto the tree. After the service, we’ll take the tree back to the hospice, and place it in the reception area there, in their honour.

###### Memorial flowers

At the front here, are selection of flowers, and you may have noticed the empty vase(s) on the table. May I invite you, as we listen to some music, to come forward, select a flower and place it in the vase in memory of the person you’re here to remember. As we do so, we’ll create a flower arrangement in memory of everyone we’re remembering today. After the service, we’ll take this to the hospice, and place it in the reception area, in their honour.

###### Pebbles in the memorial pool

On the table at the front is a pool of water, with a bowl containing a selection of glass pebbles\* next to it. May I invite you, as we listen to some music, to come forward and select one of the pebbles, and place it in somewhere in the pool in memory of the person that you’re here to remember. After the service, please do feel free to come back and retrieve the pebble from the water, and take it with you as a memento.

\* We found a large, irregular-shaped wooden bowl about 60cm across for this, and a selection of glass pebbles sold by garden centres – the hearts are the most popular.



The wooden memorial bowl

###### Reflection

After a moment of silence those we have come to remember today will be named. If you would like to light a tea-light candle when your loved one is named please come forward – if not, I will light a candle for you.

###### Act of Remembrance

In the rising of the sun and in its going down

**We remember them**

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter

**We remember them**

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring

**We remember them**

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of the summer

**We remember them**

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn

**We remember them**

In the beginning of the year and when it ends

**We remember them**

When we are weary and in need of strength

**We remember them**

When we are lost and sick at heart

**We remember them**

When we have joys we yearn to share

**We remember them**

So long as we live

**They too shall live, for they are part of us as we remember them**

###### Roll of Remembrance

This will be read by a bereavement volunteer, the fundraising manager, volunteers, chaplaincy volunteer and occupational therapist (all named)

The names of those who have died will be read in between the verses of the following poem.

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter

**We will remember them.**

In the opening of buds and in the warmth of summer,

In the rustling of leaves and the beauty of autumn

**We will remember them.**

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

When we are weary and in need of strength

**We will remember them.**

When we are lost and sick at heart,

When we have joys we yearn to share,

**We will remember them.**

So long as we live, they too will live

For now they are a part of us.

**We will remember them.**