

Thursday 8th December 2011

PRESS RELEASE

Local hospital supports bereaved families at Christmas time

MORE than 140 people from across the Fylde coast remembered their loved ones at a special ceremony at Blackpool Victoria Hospital this week.

The annual Tree of Lights Ceremony, organised by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, was held on Monday and gave the chance for members of the public to remember friends and family who are no longer with us.

Chaplaincy Team Leader, Rev. Graeme Harrison said: "At Christmas time it can be hard for people who have lost loved ones, whether they are recently bereaved or it happened some time ago in the past.

"We hold the Tree of Lights Ceremony to try to help people mark Christmas time and remember those who are no longer with us.

"Almost 150 people attended the event which we were really pleased to see and we hope that in some way it has helped with their loss. It was a positive event and gave the opportunity to remember those who are not with us anymore. There were readings and live music and then afterwards the bereavement team spent time talking to attendees over a drink and some mince pies.

"A lot of people who attended also donated money to go towards bereavement care at the Trust and to date more than £1,800 have been raised. We want to thank everyone who donated money at the event."

This is the sixth Tree of Lights service to be held for people of the Fylde Coast and it included the opportunity to enter names of loved ones into a special Book of Remembrance which will be on display in the Hospital Chapel throughout December.

To make a general donation to the Tree of Lights Appeal, please send a cheque made payable to 'Blue Skies Hospitals Fund' to: Tree of Lights Appeal, Fundraising Office, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool, FY3 8NR.

If you would like to make a secure, tax efficient donation online, please visit www.justgiving.com/Tree-of-Lights2011 , where you can also leave an optional message remembering a loved one.

Finally, you can donate by text. Just text TREE50 and the amount you want to donate to 70070. Blue Skies Hospitals Fund receives 100% of the donation which will be taken from your phone credit or appear on your mobile phone bill.



PIC: L-R Rev Graeme Harrison, Trust Chairman Beverly Lester and Mayor and Mayoress of Fylde COUNCIL Henshaw.



PIC: Members of the Fundraising Team, Nicci Hayes and Kathy Ancell.



PIC: Attendees at the Tree of Lights Ceremony.

For further information about this Press Release, please call Heather Eckton, Communications Officer, on 01253 655614 or email heather.eckton@bfwh.nhs.uk