

“I know Prospect will look after me when the time comes”

Read Alex's story



Alex and her daughter

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Welcome to The Hug

Every act of your support — every donation, event, and kind word helps us provide the best palliative and end-of-life care. Our Autumn/Winter newsletter is full of updates celebrating what we've achieved together this year — and looks ahead to what's coming up.



Thank you from our Chief Executive

As another year draws to a close, we can reflect on another challenging period for hospices. One of the biggest sector challenges is a lack of Government funding. So far this year, 14 hospices have publicly announced service and staff cuts. At Prospect Hospice, we have not had to consider doing this. Why? Because of you.

The incredible, continued support of our community has made a huge difference to the lives of others. Every day, I'm inspired by the stories I hear about acts of genuine kindness from individuals, community groups and corporate organisations.

There are too many to list, but on a personal level, the Starlight Walk was a particular highlight. It was a joyful celebration of the difference that my colleagues have made to the people they care for – and the heart-warming kindness of our supporters. And as a Swindon Town fan, I was overjoyed when the Official Supporters Club announced that Prospect was their chosen charity for the season. Wonderful!

The financial challenges of providing person-centred care for our patients and their loved ones remain. But



with your support, we will be able to do more of the same for generations to come. We couldn't do what we do without you.

Thank you

Jeremy Lune
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Lune'.

Thanks to you,
you are making every day count!

Because of you, our care continues

700
volunteers power
Prospect Hospice's
delivery of
free care

Right now, government funding covers only 18% of the £10 million it takes each year to run Prospect Hospice. Everything else comes from people like you.

Because of your immense generosity, we have been able to keep many of our essential services open – at a time when one in five hospices nationally have had to cut theirs. But we still can't open all the beds we want to.

We have space for 12 hospice beds, but can afford to open only six. Every extra bed would ease the pressure on the NHS and give more local families the compassionate care they deserve

More people than ever need our expert end-of-life care, yet costs keep rising. National Insurance and living-wage increases alone added £0.3m to our bill this year. And a £380,000 government grant we received for buildings and assets will be spent on replacing our ageing heating system before winter kicks in.

With your continued kindness we can keep our doors open, keep our nurses on the road, and make sure patients and loved ones in our region get the outstanding care they need – for at least another 45 years.

The difference you've made

In the past year, your support made this possible:



2,000

patients and families cared for



1,451

specialist nurse visits



636

people supported
through therapy



320

adults & children helped
with bereavement

The hospice sector is under threat.
Write to your MP today to demand fairer funding:
prospect-hospice.net/hospice-voice



Alex's story

“I’m not afraid of dying - I’m afraid I won’t be able to look after my husband and children. Kim, from Prospect Hospice, visited us at home and was so reassuring.”

I was diagnosed with stage three primary breast cancer in 2015, when I was in my early 30s. After treatment, I was in remission for almost eight years. Unfortunately, two years ago, I found out that secondary cancer had spread to my spine and hip. It was a shock. My daughter was nine, my son seventeen, and I was the carer for my husband, who is disabled by long Covid. Suddenly my whole future changed.



I tried to compute it all. I read that the typical life expectancy was three years, and thought: will I get to see my daughter go to secondary school? Will I see my son get his university degree? All the things you hope to do. It all came crashing down.

Pretty quickly, the wonderful cancer nurses at the Great Western Hospital referred me to Prospect Hospice. At the time, I didn't think the hospice would help unless it was at the end of life. But that's not the case at all.

Kim, from Prospect's Family Support Team, was so reassuring. I got the chance to ask her lots of questions. I explained that the cancer in my spine



means I'm at risk of sudden paralysis, and I was really worried about what would happen. I'm not afraid of dying. But I am afraid of not being able to look after my husband and children properly.

That was my biggest fear. Kim was so reassuring. She said we could get a hospital bed for our living room really quickly if we needed one. And, if I wanted a break or time to heal after an operation, I could stay at the hospice to manage my symptoms.

Complementary therapy gave me space to deal with my diagnosis

After my diagnosis, I was also offered complimentary talking therapy, as well as six massages. These sessions gave me valuable space to reflect on it. I could talk openly with the volunteer therapist. The combination of relaxation and conversations gave me some physical comfort, and emotional support during a challenging time.

It feels like a safe home from home. I know I'll be looked after when the time comes.

It was wonderful to get this outpatient care and find the headspace to catch up with everything that was happening to me. I looked around and saw a patient out in the sun in her garden — and I thought that was really lovely, it just feels like a really safe and warm space.

I haven't needed emergency care yet, but I can picture what would happen when the time comes for me.

Prospect are specialists in caring for patients and their families. Whatever happens, they're by my side. They'll know what I need before I do! And they'll take the strain off my family during the years I have left. All the time I know that, with Prospect, I won't be alone, and we won't be forgotten.

Every event helps fund expert, compassionate care
- every pound goes directly to our hospice.

Our colourful Summer events

Starlight Walkers

raise over £120,000!

The streets of Swindon lit up once more as **670 walkers** joined the 17th annual Starlight Walk on 28 June — raising an impressive **£124,000**. Sponsored by Imagine Cruising, the much-loved community fundraising event saw supporters gather at The Deanery Academy before walking under the stars in memory of loved ones.

It was a truly special night for the whole community. Members of the public cheered on the Starlight Walkers as they shone brightly.

A particularly moving part of the event was the illuminated remembrance area at the bandstand in the Old Town Gardens. It offered a peaceful moment for the walkers to reflect, remember and celebrate loved ones with messages or photographs.

Registration for Starlight 2026 is now open, with an early bird entry fee of just £15.



Starlight 2026 sign up: prospect-hospice.net/starlight26



Over 550 people **Run the Rainbow** for Prospect Hospice!



Swindon's beautiful Lydiard Park was awash with colour on Saturday 16 August. More than **550 people** of all ages (and 12 dogs!) took part in Prospect Hospice's Run the Rainbow. The event raised over an amazing **£40,000!**

Participants ran, jogged, walked or danced their way through the 5k course, getting showered with clouds of rainbow powder at every colour station.

Funds raised through our events go directly towards **providing free specialist care and support** for people with life-limiting illnesses.

Your gift can help care for tomorrow

For 45 years, our hospice has been here for the community. A gift in your Will helps ensure we're here for generations to come — for all, for now, forever.

1 in 7
of our patients is cared for thanks to gifts in wills



Find out more about leaving a gift in your will:
prospect-hospice.net/giftsinwills



A big thank you!



Here are just a few of you wonderful supporters...



Ways you can support Prospect Hospice



Volunteer

With your time and skills in varied, flexible volunteer roles



Events

Support the local community and remember loved ones while raising vital funds



Competitions

Join our lottery or play the Christmas raffle.



Gifting

Help support us through regular or one-off donations or a gift in your Will

We are so grateful for the support of local people, businesses, and groups. This support helps us to deliver vital services to people with life-limiting illness and their loved ones.

Donate today: prospect-hospice.net/donate



Festive dates to remember

Light Up A Life

Ready to brighten your December?

Explore everything we're up to at
prospect-hospice.net/christmas
or call **01793 816161**



★ Remembrance Service Sunday 7 December 2025

You're warmly invited to our annual remembrance service to celebrate loved ones no longer with us.

As the festive season approaches, this service provides a comforting space for those who are feeling the absence of a loved one. By dedicating a light, you can help support families facing similar journeys this Christmas.

★ Christmas lunches

Throughout December, our café becomes a cosy corner of Christmas cheer.

Join us for a festive lunch with all the trimmings and a welcoming atmosphere that feels like home. Whether it's a treat for yourself or a seasonal get-together, we'd love to share the season with you. Booking recommended.

★ Christmas cards

Our Christmas cards are now on sale in all our shops - £4.50 for a pack of ten.

Each one ready to sprinkle a little light and love through the letterbox. This year's Nutcracker design was lovingly created by one of our supporters.

★ Christmas tree collection 9 to 11 January 2026

Take the hassle out of your festive clear-up, and let us collect your Christmas tree - while supporting our vital care.

Simply book your collection online at: prospect-hospice.net/treecollection before midnight on **Tuesday 7 January. On collection day, pop your tree outside and our brilliant volunteers will whisk it away - no mess, no stress, just a brighter start to the New Year.**

A suggested donation of **£20** per tree helps cover our costs and goes directly to supporting our care.