



The
Compassionate
Friends

Supportive National Gathering 2017

10th – 12th November 2017

Together in comfort, understanding and hope

Friday 10th – Sunday 12th November 2017



Walk to Remember

A supportive weekend with others who understand for bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents.

Sedgebrook Hall Hotel
Chapel Brompton,
Northampton NN6 8BD



Memory candle bags



Sedgebrook Hall Hotel

Dear Friends,

Continuing love, regaining hope

You are warmly invited to our National Gathering - a warm and supportive weekend away in safe surroundings. This is a special time to spend with memories of your precious son or daughter, brother or sister, or grandchild who has died. Whether your loss has happened recently, or some time ago, here with us you can share your memories and love, and talk about how you really feel, in the company of others who share and understand your pain.

Together in comfort, support and understanding

Being together with others who have also experienced the pain of losing a much-loved son or daughter, sibling or grandchild, can give you the hope that the despair and anguish you may now feel is shared – at the Gathering you don't have to put on a brave face and cope on your own. For a couple of days we will travel our paths together, whilst also making firm friends to keep in touch with when we are back home.

A time for you

Although the organisers of the Gathering will be offering you a range of supportive and creative activities, these are entirely optional. If you wish to spend your weekend chatting with others, enjoying the hotel facilities and surroundings or having quiet time on your own, you can. Nothing is expected.

However, if you would like to, you can take part in

discussion groups; art and writing workshops; a sharing session to which you can bring a piece of music or a poem that has special meaning for you; **a remembrance and candle lighting** event and a special **room where photos and memories of your child or sibling** can be displayed. Please do remember **all activities are optional**. You only do, or attend, what you are comfortable with.



Craft activities

Are you feeling unsure?

If you would like to speak to someone before booking for the weekend, or have any questions about the Gathering, please feel free to call Gina on 07873 21 1172 or Liz on 01759 303341 or e-mail them at info@tcf.org.uk.

In late October, we will write to you with the programme for the weekend and a reminder of things you may wish to bring along with you.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you at the weekend – we intend and hope to make you feel as comfortable, safe and supported as we possibly can.

Full payment is required at time of booking (if this causes you a problem, please get in touch and we will try to be flexible).

A limited number of **full and part bursaries** are available for those experiencing financial hardship. Please contact the National Office on 0345 120 3785 or info@tcf.org.uk for a bursary application form.



BOOKING

Go online to www.tcf.org.uk/nationalgathering2017

or complete below

Please indicate as appropriate:	Numbers	Cost £
I AM a donating member of TCF and enclose payment for full board from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon: £215.00 per person		
I am NOT a donating member of TCF and enclose payment for full board from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon: £245.00 per person (includes one year donating membership of TCF)		
I would like to contribute towards the Bursary Fund for the National Gathering to allow others with limited financial means to attend.		
It is also possible to attend the Gathering on Saturday only, Sunday only, or to extend your stay to include Thursday and/or Sunday evenings (B&B only or evening meals as an optional extra. A cost sheet for these additional options is available by emailing or calling us (info@tcf.org.uk or 0345 120 3785).		
TOTAL PAYMENT		£

Person 1 _____

Person 2 _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Tel _____

Please answer the following questions to help us plan the Gathering and tailor our weekend together so that it is right for you.

Are you attending the Gathering for the first time? YES/NO (delete as appropriate)

Are you a bereaved parent(s)/sibling(s)/grandparent(s)? (delete as appropriate)

Room type required: double/twin/single (indicate as appropriate).

Do you have any **dietary requirements?** _____

Do you have any **disability requirements?** _____

(please note Sedgbrook Hall is not suitable for wheelchair users)

Please turn over...

Your child's/children's (or sibling's) full name(s) _____

(Please note that this is the name we will read out when we are remembering all the children and brothers and sisters during the Candle Lighting).

Cause of your child's/children's or sibling's death (if known and you wish to tell us)

Date of death _____

Age of your child/children or sibling _____

Do you have surviving children? YES/NO (delete as applicable)

Discussion groups – Is there any particular topic you would like covered in a discussion group?

Do you think you will need a lift from Northampton train station? YES/NO (delete as appropriate). *We will get in touch to ask for your travel arrangements nearer the time.*

If you are a TCF volunteer would you like to volunteer to help at the Gathering? YES/NO *If so what sort of things would you like to do? E.g. take a discussion group, offer a craft or other session etc* _____

Book ONLINE at www.tcf.org.uk/nationalgathering2017

Or return this booking form and full payment to:

The Compassionate Friends, 14 New King Street, Deptford London SE8 3HS *(We are moving! After 30th June 2017 please check website for correct postal address).*

I enclose payment of £ _____ **by cheque** payable to *The Compassionate Friends*

or
by **debit card** number: _____

expiry date _____ **security code** _____ *(please note this information will not be retained)*

Or **call us** on **0345 120 3785** to book by debit card over the phone.

CANCELLATIONS

Should you need to cancel your booking, please do so by **29th September 2017**, and we will refund your payment. After this date, we are sorry but we are **unable to offer any refunds.**



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