



The Compassionate Friends

**Annual Scottish Gathering
Perth 2017
12th May till 14th May**

From Darkness into Light



***A Warm Invitation to all Bereaved Parents
Siblings and Grandparents from across the UK***

Dear Friends,

Please accept this warm invitation to join us at our Scottish Gathering in Perth in May 2017 and be with others who know the agony and anguish of losing a much loved child, grandchild or sibling. For some of you your loss may have happened recently, for others perhaps some time ago, but here with us you can share freely your own precious and special memories and speak about your loved ones with others who do truly care and understand.

Here are just a few of the comments from previous Scottish Gatherings.

"I had the tremendous privilege of being able to listen to and share other parents' experiences. I was no longer alone in my grief... I didn't have to try and explain it or justify my feelings or apologise because everyone there just understood. I felt wrapped in a blanket of warmth and love".

"It was not a sad and sombre affair but was full of lots of laughter and enjoyment and I have come away with a treasure of memories and such renewed strength. I gained so much from the weekend".

"Being in the presence of other bereaved parents, who truly understand, enabled me to let go of that mask – the mask that can at times be so tiring to wear – and to be myself – even if only for a weekend".

"This gathering is where we find the power to remember, share hope and courage and grief. It is a place of remembering and love. By helping others we help ourselves".

We are so much looking forward to meeting those who have been before and to those coming for the first time - a warm and compassionate welcome.

***Our kindest wishes,
The Scottish Gathering Organising Committee***



Sessions and Activities

Please don't feel that it is necessary to attend all the events on the programme, only participate as much during your time as you wish and that you feel comfortable and at ease with. However, if you would like to, you can take part in a variety of 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. There will also be a remembrance and candle lighting service and a special room where photos and memories of your precious children or sibling may be displayed.

Provisional programme of activities **(May be subject to minor changes)**

Friday Afternoon/Evening

Drop In Room for first timers and newly bereaved.

Welcome meeting for first timers and newly bereaved.

Welcome Drink and Dinner.

Saturday Afternoon/Evening

Discussion Groups & Craft Sessions.

Visit to the lovely Branklyn Gardens (NB small entrance fee required).

Poetry and Comfort from Music.

Dinner.

Raffle.

Saturday Morning

Keynote Speaker.

Discussion Groups.

Craft Sessions.

Sunday Morning

Ecumenical Service.

The Tay Riverside memory walk.

Catch up meeting for first timers and newly bereaved.

Closing Ceremony.

Lunch and Farewells.

The Royal George Hotel



Located in the heart of The City of Perth, Scotland on the banks of the River Tay with stunning views of the river from the conservatory. The Royal George Hotel has been attracting guests to Scotland from around the world for over 240 years.

If you come by train or coach, the nearest main line rail and bus stations are located nearby in Perth and we will be happy to arrange for you to be collected from there.

The Royal George Hotel is easy to reach from the A9 and the M9 by car. Please know there is limited car parking at the hotel (20 cars) but there are long stay parking facilities locally – please visit Perth and Kinross Council website for further details at <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/3441/Parking-in-Perth-City-Centre>

The hotel has a modern and well-equipped gym, which will be free of charge during your stay. Alternative therapies will also be available at a small charge during the Saturday.

Please follow this link to learn more about the Royal George Hotel:
<http://theroyalgeorgehotel.co.uk>

Additional Information

1. A place will be set aside for the display of photographs of our children. You may, if you so, wish bring a short article or a poem to accompany your child's photograph.
2. If you wish to attend the Comfort from Words and Music session on the Saturday afternoon please bring a poem or reading to share. If there is a piece of music or a song that is special to you and brings warm and loving thoughts and memories of your child then please bring this in CD form.
3. A stall selling small gifts and craft items will open at various times throughout the weekend. If you or your family/ friends have any items to donate please bring them along with you. This helps us to raise funds for future Scottish Gatherings.
4. On the Saturday evening after dinner there will be a raffle prize draw. If you wish to donate a prize this would be most welcome.
5. There will be a wide range of optional workshops and discussion groups. Please only attend those you feel comfortable with.
6. Could you please clearly provide your child's, grandchild's or sibling's first name and surname on your booking form. ***This is so important so that we have the correct names and spelling of your children.***
7. Cancellations: - Unfortunately in the event of a cancellation your money will be refunded minus an administration fee of £25 per person provided that your notification is received before 12th April 2017. This is to cover our admin costs.
8. Regretfully we are unable to accept bookings for anyone under 16 years of age.
9. All personal charges e.g. telephone calls, bar or room service must be settled personally before checking out of the hotel.
10. Please know that the hotel cannot accommodate pets with the exception of guide dogs.

If you have any questions or you are still uncertain about the Scottish Gathering then please do not hesitate to get in touch with Maureen (01738 631406) or by email to maureen.mcaninch@blueyonder.co.uk

Please note your booking form is included with your newsletter and can also be downloaded from our web site at www.tcf.org.uk or by contacting Maureen at 01738 631406 and/or by email.