



The
**Compassionate
Friends**

Supporting bereaved parents and their families

**Annual Scottish Gathering
Perth 2018
13th April till 15th April**

Oasis in the Desert of Grief



***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 Perthshire in April 2018 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 precious and special memories and speak about your loved ones with others who truly care and understand.

Here are just a few of the comments from the Scottish Gathering in 2017.

"This weekend has been an oasis in the desert of grief. Now it is back to the real world with all it's problems but this experience will keep the pain at bay for a few days. Thank you so much".

"The warm and love from everyone here this weekend has made me feel as though I have a new extension to my family. To all of those who made this weekend possible, a special thank you. It was perfect".

"Please keep all the wonderful thoughtful touches".

"The walk, talk and planting of the memory tree were wonderful and I will remember it for ever and revisit".

"The care and love showed in everything – loved all the new things".

We are so much looking forward to meeting those who have been before and to those coming for the first time – we wish you all a loving, sincere and compassionate welcome and safe trip to Perth.

***Our warmest wishes,
The Scottish Gathering Organising Committee 2018***



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.

Memory Walk

Comfort from Music.

Dinner.

Raffle.

Saturday Morning

Guest Speaker.

Discussion Groups.

Craft Sessions.

Sunday Morning

Ecumenical Service or Poetry and Prose, both will include candle lighting.

Craft Sessions

Closing Ceremony.

Lunch and Farewells.

Murrayshall House Hotel



Surrounded by acre upon acre of woodland and Perthshire countryside Murrayshall House has stood in its beautiful 350-acre estate near Scone, Scotland for over 300 years. Wild roe deer, red squirrels and hare still roam the grounds, and falcons and owls still hover in the skies above.

Handed down through a succession of aristocratic and high profile owners since first built in 1664, including Lords, Viscounts and leading businessmen, the house is as stylish, secluded and tranquil as it's always been.

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.

Car parking facilities for 150 cars are provided at the Hotel.

Please follow this link to learn more about the Murrayshall House Hotel:

<http://www.murrayshall.co.uk>

Additional Information

1. A memorial room will be available 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 them with you to the gathering. (Smartphone. Ipod or CD)
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. ***It is so important so that we have the correct names and spelling of your children for reading out at the memorial service.***
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 25th March 2018. 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.

To Book : There are 3 ways, including online reservations, to book your place at the Scottish Gathering. We have various residential and non-residential options to suit your personal needs - these are detailed on the paper booking form.

Please visit - www.tcf.org.uk/scottishgathering2018 for further information, if you wish to book online or download a booking form.

If you are concerned or unsure about anything please contact Maureen on 01738 631406 - mobile 07952 405329 - email at hughmac17@icloud.com Maureen will be only too pleased to help.