

**29 November, 2011**

**'Lights of Love' provides a special time during Christmas period to remember babies who were stillborn or died shortly after birth**

With the Christmas season nearly upon us, Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, is organising a series of six 'Lights of Love' evenings across the UK for parents, family and friends of those whose baby has died.

In Nottingham, the evening of traditional carols, inspiring readings and beautiful music will be hosted at **St Peter's Church, St Peter's Square, Nottingham** on **Friday 9th December at 7.30pm.**

Those attending the Nottingham service are able to sponsor a light on the 'Lights of Love' Christmas tree and add a special message in memory of their son or daughter.

Sue Hale, of Sands and organiser of the Nottingham event, says: 'The death of a baby or another loved one is difficult to bear at any time of the year. Yet at Christmas, with so much emphasis on children, families and sharing happy times together, those feelings of grief can often seem even more acute. We hope that everyone who comes to one of our 'Lights of Love' evenings will find it a time of peace and reflection and an opportunity to cherish the short time they had with their baby.'

Incredibly 17 babies are stillborn or die shortly after birth every day in the UK (11 are stillbirths, 6 are neonatal deaths), totaling almost 6,500 baby deaths a year - the equivalent of 16 jumbo jets crashing every year with no survivors.

'Lights of Love' evenings are being hosted across the UK on 9th December in London, Stirling, Portadown, Liverpool, Cardiff and Nottingham.

For further details please visit: <http://www.uk-sands.org/Get-involved/Take-part-in-an-event/Lights-of-Love-2010/Nottingham-Lights-of-Love.html> or call Sue Hale on 0845 6520 443

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For further information, please contact Sands press officers:

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Or

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**Key Information about Sands:**

Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, was established by bereaved parents in 1978 and obtained charity status in 1981.

Sands core aims are to:

- Support anyone affected by the death of a baby;
- To work in partnership with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services offered to bereaved families; and

- To promote research and changes in practice that could help to reduce the loss of babies' lives

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