

Updated: Tuesday 23rd December 2020



Pilgrims Hospices Fundraising Events

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is at the forefront of all of our minds and, here at Pilgrims Hospices, we are regularly monitoring the guidance from the authorities to inform how best we can do our part to protect our patients, staff, volunteers and, of course, the wider community that we serve through our community fundraising activities and events.

Following updated government guidance, we have made the decision to make the following amendments to our events portfolio:

Cancellation of Christmas Tree Recycling following announcement of new Tier 4 restrictions

As we navigate a very challenging winter, stringent, COVID-secure measures had been put in place for the operation of our locally-renowned **Christmas Tree Recycling** fundraising scheme; plans approved with Kent County Council and local recycling centres to go ahead safely within the Tier 3 government restrictions.

However, due to the unforeseen government announcement on Saturday 19th December 2020, relating to the current spread of COVID-19 across the region and the introduction of new 'Tier 4' restrictions affecting Kent, Pilgrims Hospices can no longer safely continue with our planned Christmas Tree Recycling scheme.

It is with sincere regret and resignation that the decision has been made to cancel the event for the safety of all involved in-line with the government's new 'Stay at Home' guidelines.

The Christmas Tree Recycling scheme relies on a large number of volunteers (working in small family bubbles) to carry out the logistics necessary for such an initiative; during collections in the Ashford area, at the drop off stations in Canterbury and Thanet, and in the many days beforehand as event logistics, equipment and collection routes are arranged. Their safety, and that of our supporters is our highest priority and that is why, in light of these new guidelines, we must make this unfortunate decision.

While we understand that this decision may come as a disappointment to some, we hope that you will agree that it is a necessary one in the fight to delay the spread of coronavirus in our community.

We are saddened that we will be unable to fulfil tree recycling bookings as requested. Over the past 8 years, the scheme has raised in excess of £115,000 for local hospice care and

Ashford

Hythe Road, Willesborough,
Ashford, Kent TN24 ONE

Call: 01233 504100

Canterbury

56 London Road, Canterbury,
Kent CT2 8JA

Call: 01227 459700/812612

Thanet

Ramsgate Road,
Margate, Kent CT9 4AD

Call: 01843 233920

Visit: www.pilgrimshospices.org [f pilgrimshospices](https://www.facebook.com/pilgrimshospices) [@PilgrimsHospice](https://twitter.com/PilgrimsHospice)
Registered charity number: 293968. Registered company number: 2000560.



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many hundreds of you had already pledged your support this festive season. It is only through the kind donations from members of our community, like you, that we are able to continue providing skilled and compassionate end-of-life care to all who need it across east Kent. This year more than ever, your support is so important to us, thank you.

What will happen with my Christmas Tree Recycling entry?

In light of the event's cancellation, we are offering refunds to all donors upon requests to fundraising@pilgrimshospices.org. Please submit your request to receive a refund before **Sunday 17th January 2021**. All refund requests will be automatically processed commencing 18th January 2021.

However, if you wish for **Pilgrims Hospices** to keep your donation to support the care of our patients over the festive period and beyond, **there is nothing further you need to do**. If we haven't received a refund request by the above deadline, we will ensure you are thanked for your kind gift.

During this health crisis, Pilgrims nurses, doctors and support staff are still here providing specialist end-of-life care for some of the most vulnerable people in our community, making them comfortable, alleviating pain and enabling them to live well for the time that they have.

Other Pilgrims Hospices events and fundraising activities

All Pilgrims Hospices events are under review on an ongoing basis. We will continue to follow and monitor Government advice over the coming weeks and months regarding social distancing measures for mass gatherings which may continue for the foreseeable future. We will continue to plan ahead with our other fundraising events into 2021. We will be in touch as soon as we can should there be any further postponements or date changes.

We thank our community immensely for your continued support to end-of-life care in east Kent and flexibility in these challenging times.

We hope you are able to join us at our fundraising activities in the future. If you have any questions or would like to fundraise please email: fundraising@pilgrimshospices.org.

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