

# The Venerable Mary Aikenhead Legacy Appeal



St Margaret of Scotland Hospice  
Open to All in Need of Care



## Honouring the Legacy of The Venerable Mary Aikenhead in Providing Service to Our Community

*Mary Aikenhead (1787-1858), founder of the Religious Sisters of Charity in 1815 to provide services to “to suffering poor” has been declared Venerable by Pope Francis in March 2015, reaching the second of four steps in the Catholic Church’s canonisation process.*

*Throughout the world today Religious Sisters of Charity are in Ireland, England, Scotland, Zambia, California, Nigeria, Malawi, and Australia. It works with people who are poor in the areas of healthcare, education, pastoral and social work. They actively engage in advocacy, action and prayer for people in need, linking and networking with others in the quest for justice, peace and integrity of creation.*

*When Mary Aikenhead set up her Congregation two hundred ago, there were only a hundred women religious in Ireland. Mary applied to Rome for Permission for her Sisters to take a fourth vow, “Service of the Poor” enabling them to visit poor people in their own home; those who were sick and hungry and cold and penniless and with no one to turn to. With the support of Archbishop Daniel Murray of Dublin, she received her training in Religious Life at the Bar Convent, York where, under the guidance of the Loreto Sisters, she was formed in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Mary and her sisters became the first women religious to visit prisoners in Kilmainham Gaol. In 1830, she opened her first Catholic school for poor children in Gardiner Street, Dublin. She further went on to found St Vincent’s Hospital in 1834, the first Hospital in Ireland to be run by women to care for patients of all creeds and where doctors and nurses could receive training.*

*All around her Mary Aikenhead saw the plight of the poor and suffering. Her great faith and trust in Divine Providence enabled her and the first Religious Sisters of Charity to provide education for poor children, establish medical facilities for those in need of health care and to visit the sick and poor in their homes. Her life teaches and inspires us to dream courageous visions, to have compassion for human pain, to analyse unjust structures which are the cause of poverty, to work with others to solve problems and to remain resolute in the face of hardship.*

## St Margaret of Scotland Hospice: A Legacy Worth Funding

St Margaret of Scotland was the first Hospice to open in Scotland (1950), it has touched the lives of thousands of patients with advanced life-limiting illness and older people with complex medical and nursing needs, their families and friends. It is also the largest Hospice in Scotland, with 58 in-patient beds.

In recent years, the Hospice has received unparalleled praise from Healthcare Improvement Scotland. In an unannounced inspection in 2012, the Hospice scored the maximum 'excellent' rating in every category assessed – an unprecedented achievement for a Scottish Hospice. We then repeated the feat in 2014 and 2016, proving that our passion and commitment to offering the very best of treatment to patients and their loved ones remains as strong as ever.



We provide a wide range of facilities to the local and wider community which include:

St Joseph's Ward – Palliative Care Centre is a 30 bedded unit in which we provide the highest standard of care to patients requiring symptom management and end of life care.

Our approach to providing care is holistic, taking into account the uniqueness of the individual and the spiritual, physical, psychological and social needs of both patients and their carers. A multi-professional team approach to providing care is undertaken within the hospice. The multi-professional team comprises of nursing and medical staff, physiotherapists, pastoral care staff, counsellors, complimentary therapists and occupational therapists.

Mary Aikenhead Centre is a 28 bedded unit dedicated to the continuing care of the older person requiring complex medical, nursing and end of life care. We provide the highest standard of nursing care in a caring and peaceful atmosphere for both patients and relatives.

Outings are arranged in the Spring and Summer months for patients who are able to participate. Families are encouraged to participate and are welcome to take their relatives out. We have beautiful grounds and gardens and we encourage families to take their relatives out in the



summer months. We also have video nights, dominos and relaxation therapy. Physiotherapy services are available to all patients as appropriate.

The Edwina Bradley Day Hospice provides access to Specialist Palliative Care support and advice as well as a range of services provided by the Hospice multidisciplinary team. The team includes both Nursing and Medical staff, an Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Social Worker,

Counsellors, Chaplains and a variety of Therapists.

The aim of the Service is to be flexible and responsive to patient needs in order to enhance their independence and quality of life. The Service also aims to provide respite for patients' families and carers. The Hospice also provide Out Patient Facilities, Community Specialist Palliative Care, Counselling/Bereavement Services, Pastoral Care, Complementary Therapy services, Hydrotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.

## Key Milestones in the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice Story

**1950** – Religious Sister of Charity nun in Clydebank approached by a man with advanced throat cancer from these beginnings a small hospice at Millbrae Crescent established.

**1971** – A new hospice was opened to accommodate sixty patients: 30 patients with Palliative/End of Life Care needs and 30 patients with complex medical and nursing needs.

**1988** – A Community Palliative Care Service introduced.

**1993** – A Day Care Centre was opened.

**1998** – The Sir Patrick Hamill Education Centre integrated within hospice.

**2000** – A Hydrotherapy Pool that patients could benefit from opened.

**2006** – Mary Aikenhead Centre – a 30 bedded unit is established to enhance existing hospice estate.

**2012** – State of the art Hospice Kitchen completed.

**2012** – HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visit the Hospice on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.

**2015** – Ceremony to mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hospice and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sisters of Charity, the congregation founded by the Venerable Mary Aikenhead.

## **Remembering the Hospice in your Will and Honouring the Work of The Venerable Mary Aikenhead**

At St Margaret of Scotland Hospice we know the value of life. As Scotland's oldest hospice serving the community since 1950 we have been providing Specialist Palliative Care and End of Life Care for People with Life limiting illnesses, and their families, and in this 200th anniversary year of the founding of the Religious Sisters of Charity and as the founder Mary Aikenhead is declared Venerable by Pope Francis this year, in a ceremony in March 2015 can we together give patients and their families the greatest gift we can give them – Precious Time.

By the act of making a Will it ensures your family and loved ones are cared for after you die. At St Margaret of Scotland Hospice we believe family comes first. This is reflected in the way we integrate the needs of patients' families into the care we provide for patients with life-limiting illnesses.

You can donate a specific sum (however large or small), property or a percentage of your estate to continue the work of the Hospice under the guiding light of the Venerable Mary Aikenhead. After making provision for your own family in your will, why not consider leaving a gift to the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice.

### **Give the Hospice the Greatest Gift you can give, remember us in your Will**

If you would like more information about making a Will or remembering St Margaret of Scotland Hospice in your Will, please contact the fundraising department for a legacy pack and an informal chat at [fundraising@smh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@smh.org.uk)

If you have already remembered us in your will, thank you, also if you are happy to share this information with us, please could you contact Sister Rita, Chief Executive at the Hospice as it



will be very helpful to us to know as it helps us with our long term planning of Hospice services – and all at the hospice would like to be able to thank you in the strictest confidence.

## *Here is what a gift can achieve for the Hospice*

### **A Personal Testimony**

“Mum has been in St Margaret of Scotland Hospice for three months. When she was first diagnosed with terminal cancer I was afraid I wouldn’t be able to look after her.

“The Hospice has given mum the kind of close personal care and attention that families provided in the old days, as well as treating her condition. I have no doubt this has kept her alive for this long.

“I feel that I owe the Hospice so much for caring for both of us in this way. In recognition of this I made the decision to leave the Hospice a gift in my will – so that people like my mum and me can get the same care.”

### **Leaving a Gift in your Will**

A gift in your will however large or small is a gift to the Hospice to continue its work. A will demonstrates your intentions. It is the only certain way of ensuring your wishes are implemented in consideration of your family and friends. A will with your clearly signposted intentions will give you peace of mind and puts your family’s mind at rest in their hour of need.

### **How to make a will/change existing will**

To make a will or to change your will, you will need to take legal advice. St Margaret of Scotland hospice can book an appointment on your behalf, or you can of course discuss process of making a will independently. The most important steps in preparing a will are to:

- Discuss implications of will with immediate family;
- Prepare a document listing your assets (what you own and the value if possible) and liabilities (what you owe)
- Preparing document will help you and your family understand what your estate (what you own minus what you owe will be worth)



## The benefits of leaving a Will

- Making a valid will lessens the administration burden and will reduce costs during a difficult time.
- If you die intestate (without making a valid will) the state will impose intestacy rules which may conflict with your wishes.
- If you are not married or in a civil partnership, your partner may not inherit your estate if you haven't made a legal and valid will stating your wishes.
- A valid will should also reflect your up-to-date circumstances and wishes.

## Why leave a gift in your Will?

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice was founded in 1950, when a man with advanced throat cancer approached a Sister of Charity nun. From that initial appeal for help the modern hospice sprung, it now offers specialist palliative care and end of life care for people with life-limiting illness and their families.

The excellence of services provided is reflected in the exceptional scores and comments contained in a series of inspections undertaken by the Healthcare Improvement Scotland regulator. [Link required](#)

The Hospice Mission Statement and Core Values of dignity, quality, compassion, justice and advocacy, drive forward a culture of excellence and philosophy of care to improving the quality of life and allow rehabilitation within the limits imposed by the patient's illness.

The history of the Hospice is one of innovation, creativity and dynamism serving a catchment area of North West Glasgow, East and West Dunbartonshire. The next page of this success story can be enhanced by your generosity by leaving a gift in your will. A gift is a demonstrable way of showing that you support the work of St Margaret of Scotland in providing specialist care and support to those who need it within your community.

Everybody at St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, the patients, their families, and all the staff and volunteers greatly appreciate the contribution that your gift and support means to the community.



## Leaving a gift in your Will

Once you have kindly decided to leave a gift to St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, what kind of gift could it take?

**Residuary** – this is the kind of gift that relates to the residential value of your estate after deductions. It is permissible to leave the whole estate or a percentage to St Margaret of Scotland hospice. An example of the wording is below:

**“I give free of inheritance Tax (xx% or total in monies) of the residue of my estate to St Margaret of Scotland Hospice”**

**Pecuniary** – leaving a specified amount.

**“I give free of Inheritance Tax the sum of £xx to St Margaret of Scotland Hospice”**

**Specific non-monetary gift – leaving a particular item**

If you kindly consent to leave a gift to the St Margaret of Scotland Hospice please include the following:

**Address:** St Margaret of Scotland Hospice

East Barns Street

Clydebank

G81 1EG

**Telephone:** 0141-435-7018

**Website:** [www.smh.org.uk](http://www.smh.org.uk)

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice is a Company Limited by Guarantee – Company No. 280689.  
Scottish Registered Charity Number SC005623

For more information on leaving a gift you can visit the following independent websites: Directgov, Scottish Legal Aid Board, and Good Life Good Death Good Grief Website , [www.rememberacharity.org.uk](http://www.rememberacharity.org.uk)

