

# GIFT A PRECIOUS MOMENT THIS CHRISTMAS

**ZOE'S  
PLACE**  
— BABY HOSPICE —



Dear Valued Supporters,

As we approach this special time of year, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support, especially during these challenging economic times. Your dedication has been the driving force behind our ability to continue our mission of providing care and support to those who need it most.

In the past year, thanks to your generous contributions, we have supported approximately 175 children across our hospices. Each child's journey is unique, and their stories serve as a testament to the profound impact of your support. We invite you to read one such inspiring story, which illustrates the difference we make.

In these pages, explore Jude's remarkable journey, which started with a daunting diagnosis, but unfolded into a heart-warming experience at Zoe's Place. Jude's happy place is the hydro pool and crafting cherished keepsakes. Our expert team not only provides essential care for Jude but also advocates for him, comprehending Jude's unique needs, making Zoe's Place an invaluable lifeline for the family

As you will be aware from your connection with Zoe's Place, our core mission is the commitment to assist children facing life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. We have made great strides in overcoming the hurdles posed by Covid-19. As a result this year we've been able to extend our operating hours compared to 2022. This expansion enables us to provide even more comprehensive support to families when they need us most. Our ultimate goal remains, to provide care round-the-clock, guaranteeing families access to care and respite, whenever it's needed.

At Zoe's Place, we recognise that our community extends far beyond our hospice walls. We are grateful to every individual who contributes to Zoe's Place being the vibrant, supportive community that it is. This includes our dedicated nurses, staff members, volunteers, families, children, and members of the public who all play an integral role in our mission.

This year, our Christmas campaign is aptly named 'Gift a Precious Moment.' If you feel moved to support our cause, there are several ways you can contribute. You can simply scan the QR code, visit our website at [www.zoes-place.org.uk](http://www.zoes-place.org.uk), use the form provided on the reverse side, send us a cheque, or even pay us a visit in person. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a meaningful impact.

Without your support, we quite simply wouldn't be able to be the lifeline to our children and families who rely on us. Your generosity fuels us, just as our care strengthens families. That's why we are grateful for anything you can give this Christmas.

Wishing you a warm and joyful holiday season,

Michelle Livingstone  
Director of Care, Zoe's Place Baby Hospice



**'When Jude is  
at Zoe's Place,  
I'm able to be  
an actual  
mum, rather  
than a medical  
mum.'**



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If you no longer wish to hear from us in this way, please get in contact by one of the following methods – Phone: 0151 252 0055 /

Email: [helloliverpool@zoes-place.org.uk](mailto:helloliverpool@zoes-place.org.uk) / Post: Zoe's Place Baby Hospice, Yew Tree Lane, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 9HH

# Jude's journey: Triumph, tears and the gift of Zoe's Place

In the spring of 2020, Eberley welcomed her son Jude into the world. **What started as a seemingly ordinary pregnancy soon took a heart-wrenching turn.**

Eberley recalls, *"From about six weeks, I knew something wasn't right, but because it was Covid it was really hard to get an appointment anywhere. At about 11 ½ weeks Jude started having seizures and after getting rushed to the hospital in an ambulance he was eventually diagnosed with a rare genetic condition. **Only 370 children in the world have it**, and it affects his muscle tone, vision, and communication."*

**Jude's diagnosis brought with it a profound shift in their daily lives.**

Eberley shares, *"Day to day life for us is very different, some days are great and others are really hard. Looking after Jude is challenging, there's lots of things we have to do like his feeds and medicine, and because he can't communicate we have to guess what he'd like to do."*

**Sleep is a luxury for Eberley**, who cherishes even a few hours of rest. She admits, *"If I get 4-5 hours of broken sleep a night then that's good for me, don't ask what I run on because I don't know!"*



**'We'd be lost without Zoe's Place, it's a massive part of our lives.'**

**Jude's condition also impacts his older brothers, especially the youngest, who worries deeply for his little brother. Witnessing Jude's struggle has left a lasting mark on their family.**

In January 2022, Jude found solace at Zoe's Place. Eberley confesses that leaving him for the first time was incredibly difficult. *"It was hard at first to leave him, you worry whether anyone will be able to care for him as well as you will, but the hospice really feels like a home away from home. You walk in and feel like it's safe, and that was the most important thing for our family."*

**Over the past year, Jude has thrived at Zoe's Place.** The hydro pool is a particular favourite, offering Jude not just therapy - but moments of pure joy.

Eberley beams, **"He absolutely loves coming to Zoe's Place, when he hears the doorbell in the porch he gets a big smile on his face."**

During a critical period in Jude's health, **the nurses at Zoe's Place stood by Eberley's side, offering unwavering support** and attending multi-disciplinary meetings.

**"I realised they actually know my son in the same way that I know him**, and when things are deteriorating, they offered their voice along with mine."



**'It's just so much more than a hospice to us, so much more.'**





Zoe's Place also extends its care beyond Jude. Eberley emphasises the impact on the entire family. ***"When Jude is at Zoe's Place, I'm able to be an actual mum, rather than a medical mum. I get to spend time with the older boys, which is so needed."***

Siblings of children with complex needs often face their own unique challenges. **Zoe's Place provides them with crucial opportunities for connection and fun, offering a sense of belonging and understanding.**

Eberley's voice brims with gratitude, "Without Zoe's Place our lives would be very different, they are an extended family to us...It's just so much more than a hospice to us, so much more."

***This Christmas, consider how you can gift a precious moment to families like Jude's. Your support can make a world of difference, offering respite, joy, and cherished memories during challenging times.***

## What our nurses say...

"Jude is a happy, cheeky little boy. He loves lots of interaction and cuddles, enjoys music and sensory toys, our light room and loves hydrotherapy.

With the one-to-one care we provide to the children we get to **understand them, their needs and conditions extremely well**. We are there to support parents such as Eberley and advocate for her and Jude to ensure Jude's health plan is correct and the best for him.

Jude's condition means he can be very demanding at times and needs constant supervision, his mood and **condition can deteriorate rapidly** and can require a lot of medical intervention.

Jude can become agitated and upset at times in response to his pain or mood, but interaction and **play therapies can be a great distraction for him."**

Carla, Registered Nurse



Carla with Jude

**Support  
children like  
Jude, aged 3**

SCAN TO SUPPORT



# Gift a precious moment this Christmas

# How to donate

Could you gift a precious moment this Christmas by making a donation?

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To make a safe, online donation, find out more about the campaign and see how much we've raised, **scan the QR code** or visit: [justgiving.com/campaign/zoesplacelivchristmas2023](https://justgiving.com/campaign/zoesplacelivchristmas2023)



**Phone:**

To make a donation over the phone please call us on **0151 252 0055**. Please note credit card details are not stored and are destroyed as soon as payment has been processed.



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If you would prefer to send us your gift then please complete the form below and return it to us in our enclosed pre-paid envelope to:

**Zoe's Place Baby Hospice, Yew Tree Lane, Liverpool, L12 9HH**

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**Cheque:** *Please make cheques payable to Zoe's Place Trust*

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\*If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

*giftaid it*

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