



Sheffield
**Life, Loss and
Death Festival**
May 2025

Death is part of life. Let's talk about it.

A month of free events
in Sheffield exploring life,
loss and death.

Everyone is welcome.

Why talk about life, loss and death?

- **We can build our confidence to support others through death, dying and loss.**
- **It's going to happen to all of us, it's something we all have in common.**
- **By talking about death we come to understand what's important in life.**



"Sharing stories and thoughts about loss helped me feel less alone with my feelings."

"I have been given a snapshot of different perspectives on death, from people I otherwise wouldn't have met and who are quite different from me."



"I would like to explore the subject a bit more, I have always been shy about it. But now, I'm more confident."

Here's some feedback from people who attended events at last year's festival:



"The facilitators were very approachable and empathetic. They created the right atmosphere to encourage the participants."

"Helped me feel more confident in approaching talking about what I want at the end. Also how to talk to others about what they want."



Illustrations by Storyset

Compassionate Sheffield are bringing together individuals, communities and organisations for a month of free events.

Open up this booklet to see all of the events.



Related resources

Compassionate Sheffield has collaborated with organisations, communities and individuals, to develop a variety of free-to-access resources that you may find helpful.

Advance Care Planning

This online resource page supports people to explore options for planning ahead for their end of life. It shares videos and tips about having conversations with loved ones about end of life care choices. There's a variety of practical steps and information about options such as creating living wills, sharing plans with GPs and writing advance statements.

Spiritual Care

This video explores how you can access support with your spiritual needs, questions and beliefs when you are in hospital. Chaplaincy teams are there to help and this resource has information about their role in supporting all patients.

End of Life Care – We Answer your Questions

Created with Sheffield's Swahili speaking community and United Women Affiliation, this video answers important questions about death and how we can prepare for the end of our lives.

What Should I Do Now?

This booklet has been developed to support people with navigating both the emotional and practical processes that take place after someone dies.

Facilitation Guide

If you're interested in facilitating an event on the topic of death, dying or bereavement with people who are important to you, your community, or colleagues, we've developed a facilitation guide full of tips, ideas and guidance to support you to do this.

Access these resources and more, here:

www.
compassionate-
sheffield.co.uk
/resources



**Sheffield
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Death Festival**
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Sheffield Life, Loss and Death Festival May 2025

**Free events across
Sheffield and online
this May!
Everyone welcome.**

THURSDAY 1ST MAY
1:30–2:30pm

Supporting Ourselves and Others Through Baby Loss

This event offers a space to think about different ways that people may be affected by the experience of baby loss. It will include discussion about how we can support ourselves and others through this, how to recognise when someone may need some extra support, what that support might be and how to access it. There will be time for questions.

The event is suitable for those who have experienced baby loss or who wish to learn more about supporting others through baby loss. Facilitated by Dr Laura Francis, Principal Clinical Psychologist.

Booking required
Online

THURSDAY 8TH MAY
12–2pm

What a Good Death Means to You

St Luke's Hospice is inviting people to join them at the Moor to discuss what a "good death" means. Join the hospice team for open conversations, with their experienced staff, sharing your thoughts in a supportive space.

Contribute anonymously to the unique "Tree of Reflection" by adding a leaf with your reflections. This shared discussion aims to gather valuable insights from local people and shape compassionate end-of-life care. Whether you seek information, wish to share your perspective, or simply want to reflect, your voice matters.

No booking required for this drop-in event

Outside the St Luke's shop
on The Moor, S1 4PB

THURSDAY 8TH MAY
6:30–8pm

Assisted Dying – Panel Discussion

In November last year, MPs voted to allow a proposed law on assisted dying to progress to the next stage in Parliament. This topic is both complex and shrouded by misinformation, so join us for a facilitated panel discussion featuring local care professionals as well as prominent community figures. You'll have a chance to get the facts about the bill's current form, as well as the opportunity to ask your questions to our panel.

This event is being produced by the Festival of Debate in partnership with Compassionate Sheffield.

Booking required

Dorothy Fleming Lecture Theatre,
Charles Street Building, S1

SATURDAY 10TH MAY
10am–12:30pm

Men Talking... About Loss and Grief

Men can find it difficult to share experiences about loss and grief. This event provides an opportunity to explore together, learn from each other and to join in the conversation.

Four men (Chris, Mike, Milan, Mubarak) will share their experiences following the death of, or separation/divorce from, their partner. We welcome other men to attend this session to listen to experiences of others and if you feel comfortable, share your experiences.

Booking required

Room 5, Showroom Cinema, S1 2BX

TUESDAY 13TH MAY
10–11:15am

Talking About Suicide – Awareness, Conversations and Support

This session will support you to grow your understanding and awareness of suicide prevention. It's a space to learn key facts, debunk myths and stigma, and learn how supportive conversations can make a difference. It'll explore why bereavement by suicide is a unique grief experience, and highlight local support resources in South Yorkshire and nationally.

Whether you're seeking to deepen your understanding, or help those affected by suicide, facilitator Joanna Rutter will guide you through essential insights for building confidence and understanding.

Booking required
Online

*All events are free,
but you must book your
place for each event
in advance.*

THURSDAY 15TH MAY
1–3pm

Life, Loss and Death: An LGBTQIA+ Community Conversation

This event creates a space for Sheffield's LGBTQIA+ community, of all adult ages, to come together to talk openly about feelings surrounding life, loss and death, and what brings us together. The facilitated discussion offers a non-judgemental space to ask questions and share thoughts, feelings and ideas. There'll be opportunities to learn about and access helpful resources, created for and with the queer community, relating to end of life care, death and grief. The event is kindly being hosted by Zest's 50+ LGBTQIA+ Group and facilitated by Ash Hayhurst, funeral professional and author of the Queer Funeral Guide.

Booking required

Weston Park Museum, S10 2TP

SUNDAY 18TH MAY
1–4pm

Compassionate Conversations About Life, Loss and Death

Talking about life, loss and death can be tough, but it can also be a positive and meaningful experience. This session aims to create a welcoming space to reflect on what truly matters, where we will share ideas and tools which can support you to start these conversations. Whether you want to have these conversations yourself, with those close to you, or to help others navigate them, join us to explore creative, interactive, and sensory ways to think, and talk, about life, loss, and death. Facilitated by Helen Fisher and Claire Craig from Designed with Care. Sessions will be facilitated on a rolling basis.

Booking encouraged,
but drop-ins are welcome

Hallam View, Owen Building,
Hallam Square, S1 2LX

WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY
2–4pm

Living with Grief Workshop

Join us to explore what grief is, how we might experience grief, and gain confidence in supporting yourself and others through grief. This workshop will include information sharing, time to reflect on your own experiences, and a gentle creative activity. No art or crafting experience is needed. This workshop is open to all adults, whether you're experiencing grief yourself, or hoping to support others through theirs. Facilitated by Cally Bowman and Caroline Plenty from Compassionate Sheffield.

Booking required

Activity Room, Millennium Gallery,
S1 2PP

SATURDAY 24TH MAY
1:30–4pm

What Do You Believe?

"What Do You Believe?" is a multi-faith and belief panel exploring perspectives on life and death. Chaired by Lindsay de Wal, it will bring together people from diverse belief systems and professional backgrounds. This event aims to create a space to explore different worldviews and how they shape our understanding of life, death, and meaning.

The 1-hour panel discussion will be followed by an audience Q&A, then, an opportunity for conversation and reflection with refreshments from 3pm.

Booking required

Peak Lecture Theatre,
Owen Building, S1 2LX

FRIDAY 30TH MAY
1:30–3pm

Outdoor Death Cafe

A Death Cafe is a space for people to come together and talk openly about topics and questions related to death, dying, loss and grief. The death cafe will take place outdoors, around a campfire. There is no agenda and the conversation is led by the group, meaning no two death cafes are the same. The aim is to normalise conversations around death, by creating a space where the topic of death is not stigmatised or taboo. This event is facilitated by Charlie Hill and Rose Tomson.

Accessibility is weather dependent, so please view Eventbrite for full accessibility info.

Booking required

Manor Fields Park, S2 1GF

**To view full event
details and book your
free tickets, please
visit the website
below, scan the QR
code, or contact us.**



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www.compassionate-sheffield.co.uk/life-loss-and-death-festival