

# How to ...

## Light the Night

Light the Night has been created to give friends and family an opportunity for shared remembrance of loved ones past in a place of unique calm, peace, hope and community - and takes place once a year in November.

The idea is quite simple; however, the experience can be quite moving. From early evening a graveyard, cemetery or churchyard is filled with candles and open for anybody to drop by and walk, linger, perhaps light a candle and contemplate family and friends, past and present...the world, universe and beyond.



As Canon Nick Hay, priest-in-charge of St Paul's in Bristol, who hosted the first Light the Night says, *"Rituals are really important to people, but we don't have many rituals about death in the UK. We've hidden death away, shoved it in the corner. This is something that people can access in a very easy way to maybe give thanks or remember - there's not many spaces in our culture to do that."*

### To host a Light the Night you will need:

- 1. A location** – i.e. a graveyard, cemetery or churchyard. Whilst it is possible to host Light the Night in other places, they probably won't have the ethereal and architectural qualities necessary.
- 2. A date and time** – Light the Night is inspired by similar events in Eastern Europe which take place at the beginning of November and means the clocks have already gone back - which is helpful for an event to run 4 - 8pm.
- 3. Funding** – most of the cost involved is in the buying of candles, this can be approx. £500. This can be raised through sponsorship with local businesses, supplemented by crowdfunding and the taking of donations during the event from people lighting candles in memory of loved ones.
- 4. Promotion** – this can be done through the local press, social media, church noticeboards and other advertising. Make sure your promotion invites people to come and experience and be moved by this special event
- 6. Volunteers** – Whilst visitors are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one, it is important to begin with a large number of candles lit by the start of the event. Lighting candles can be quite time consuming (although most enjoyable) and thus you will need volunteers to help with this task before the start of the event and to keep an eye on things during it.

### Further Information

For more information about Light the Night and a more detailed guide of *How to Light the Night* please visit [www.lightthenight.site](http://www.lightthenight.site).

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