

Press release: Baby Loss Awareness Week Event Sunday 12 October 2025

Healthcare partners and local charities across Coventry and Warwickshire are supporting Baby Loss Awareness Week 2025 by hosting a short service at Coventry Cathedral for anyone who has ever been affected in any way by pregnancy loss or the death of a baby. The service is on Sunday 12 October 2025 at 2.00pm. Last year over 300 people attended this beautiful event.

Organisers of the event said: *"We hope our beautiful and uplifting service will help those who have been affected feel more connected and less alone.*

"We want to support families to help to break the silence and talk openly about baby loss.

We also want to share the hope that can be found even in the darkest moments.

The event is an informal service, for anyone who has ever been affected by the loss of a baby for any reason, whether the loss was recent or long ago. Everyone taking part in this service has their own experience of pregnancy or baby loss.

There will be some readings, and some music as well as a talk by Alicia Burnett, the Founder of Black Babyloss Awareness Week, which takes place in May each year, highlighting the disproportionately high rates of pregnancy and baby loss in Black communities and raising Black communities' awareness of the professionals and services that provide care and support for those who have experienced these types of loss.

There will be opportunity for people to light candles in memory of their little ones.

It's a chance to meet others who have some understanding of the impact of baby loss over a cup of tea and some cake.

Everyone is welcome. No one will ask you to talk about your experience unless you want to. The cathedral is a big space and you can join in or stand at the back, whatever you prefer. Children and babies are welcome too.

The cathedral welcomes everyone, from every religious or cultural background.

Afterwards people can draw chalk hearts on the floor of the Cathedral Ruins.

The national Baby Loss Awareness Week is led by Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, in collaboration with more than 40 charities across the UK. Locally, NHS Trusts, groups and charities across Coventry and Warwickshire have shared information and organised events each year to support local families during this valuable campaign week.

Wave of Light: This marks the end of Baby Loss Awareness Week. All over the world, at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 15th October, candles are lit as a way of remembering all babies who have died too soon. Photos of the candles can be posted on social media using #WaveOfLight

For more information about national baby loss awareness week please visit www.babyloss-awareness.org.

Editor information

For further information about this local event, and details of local people with experience of pregnancy and baby loss who are willing to tell their story, please contact

Ricarda Witcombe
Ricarda.witcombe@swft.nhs.uk

07876 577993

For information about baby loss locally and nationally contact
Sam Collinge, Bereavement Lead Midwife George Eliot Hospital
Co chair of the Independent Pregnancy Loss Review
and member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Baby Loss

07795100664
samcollinge1965@gmail.com

Alicia Burnett



Alicia is a registered midwife who founded Black Baby Loss Awareness Week in 2023 to bring attention to the disproportionately high rates of pregnancy and baby loss in Black communities and raise Black communities' awareness of the professionals and services that provide care and support for those who have experienced these types of loss.

Black babies are twice as likely as white babies to die in the first 28 days after birth, and black women are 43% more likely than white women to suffer miscarriage.

Alicia has personal experience of pregnancy and baby loss, as well as years of professional experience of supporting bereaved parents. She understands how crucial it is to build supportive, culturally sensitive and understanding networks for everyone affected.

Most recently, Alicia founded the Equitable Bereavement Care Conference 2025: Honouring Loss & Confronting Racial Disparities. This first of its kind, this gathering connects bereaved Black and Asian families with clinicians and researchers working to prevent baby loss and improve perinatal bereavement care. Through panels, conversations and collective reflection, we aim to explore what

equitable, compassionate and culturally responsive care truly looks like, and how we can work together to make it a reality.

Date: 19 November 2025

Location: Harris Birthright Centre | 20 Windsor Walk #16 London SE5 8BB United Kingdom

Nearest Station: Denmark Hill Station

Doors Open to Public: 9:00 AM

Event Starts: 10:00 AM | **Ends by:** ~4:00 PM

alicia@blackbabylossawareness.com

Instagram

@midwife_alicia

@blackbabylossawareness

For information about the Equitable Bereavement Care Conference 2025: *Honouring Loss & Confronting Racial Disparities* please email events@equitable-care.com