

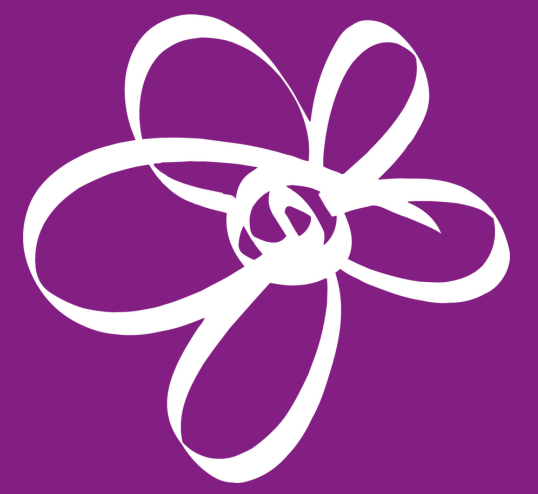


Petals

The Baby Loss Counselling Charity

CYCLING FOR
TEAM PETALS

Why Team Petals?



Our service provides a lifeline to grieving families who have nowhere else to turn in the darkest of times. It's thanks to people like you that we can offer them the full support they need when they need it most.

Petals currently works in partnership with the NHS, corporate organisations and other charities across the country. Each partnership comes with a fixed budget and specifies which types of loss we can and cannot support, as well as how many sessions we can offer. These partnerships are crucial to funding much of our work but, it is your fundraising efforts that enable us to fully support each parent no matter the circumstances of their loss.



Every year Petals secures places in two fantastic cycling events - London to Brighton and Nightrider, a 50 or 100km cycle through London at night. If you are interested in taking on one of these challenges or if you have your own place in a ride then we'd love to hear from you.

Call us on 07704 664052 or email fundraising@petalscharity.org to speak to the team.

Petals
provided over
4,400
individual
counselling
sessions in
2021

THE EVENTS



NIGHTRIDER - 11th -12th JUNE 2022

A super fun, charity cycle that gives you the opportunity to see London under the moonlit night sky, cycling past iconic landmarks and through historic streets with 50 or 100km route options to choose from.

LONDON TO BRIGHTON - 11th September 2022

Join 4,000 other riders and take on the hugely popular London to Brighton cycle ride. Covering the 55 miles from Clapham Common in London to Madeira Drive on Brighton Sea Front. This is an iconic cycle ride not to be missed.



TRAINING & SUPPORT



Whether you are looking to achieve a PB or you are just looking to make it round and have a fun day out having a training plan will help. We have included links below to some really useful articles from Cycling Weekly that have information for every type of cyclist:

[Cycling For Beginners](#)

[How to Become a Better Cyclist](#)

The Petals team is always here to support you through your challenge and here's some of what you can expect:

- Join Team Petals Club on Strava
- Invitation to be part of Team Petals Challengers closed Facebook Group
- Team Petals branded technical top
- Regular email hints and tips to help you reach your distance.
- Cheer squads on race day
- Dedicated support from Petals fundraising team to help you smash your target.



“No parent ever forgets their loss, it’s there with you every day, but the invaluable support from Petals provides the tools you need to survive.”

Need more advice, then simply call us on 07704 664052 or email: fundraising@petalscharity.org to speak to the team.

FIVE TOP TIPS TO GET YOU TO THE FINISH LINE



For those new to cycling, we have put together 5 top tips to help you make the most of your challenge.

Prevent Injuries

You got this far the last thing you want to do is have to drop out of your challenge due to injury. So, make sure you are fully warmed up before each ride and stretch! Your cool down is just as important as warming up, make sure you stretch out all those muscles at the end of every training session. Don't overdo it – follow your training plan. Small gains are the way forward and if you have a pain that won't go away, see your GP.

Eating Well

To make sure you have enough energy to complete each session, you will need to make sure you are eating enough of the right type of food. You need to follow a balanced diet that meets your needs. On race day, make sure you have plenty of snacks which are tried and tested before the ride!

The Right Kit

To help make your challenge as comfortable as possible, it's a good idea to have the right kit. If you haven't used your bike for a while, make sure you get it checked over. Getting your bike serviced is a great thing to do to make sure it's in good working order before you take on any challenge. There's lots of advice online and in specialist cycling shops to help you choose the right clothing. Again, make sure everything you wear on race day you have worn before!

Keep Hydrated

It's important that you stay hydrated before and after training days. It's also good to plan how much water you will need on race day, along with any isotonic drinks you may need.

Rest Days

These are just as important as training days, giving your body time to repair and recover. At least one day of rest a week is recommended.

SUPPORTING PETALS

Every year hundreds of parents experience the devastating loss of a pregnancy or baby and we're working hard to make sure we can support as many of these parents as possible.

Whether you are raising £200 or £2,000 for Petals, every pound raised takes us closer to achieving our goals. When you support Petals, you are supporting bereaved parents, ensuring they get the right, specialist support when they need it most.

Raising £80 will enable
Petals to fund one
counselling session

£1,200 will fund one
new Petals approved
counsellor

Liam & Daria's Story

On 24 November 2018 Liam and Daria's daughter Paloma was stillborn at 41 weeks + 2 days old. The couple both received counselling from Petals. Liam says:

My wife Daria and I, we had a perfect pregnancy. Everything was fine and we were set for a home birth. We had the pool set up in our front room as we approached the due date. We went over the due date by a few days but were told everything was ok. We were excited. We were on the couch the night before talking with our other daughters and I can remember feeling Paloma kicking, and going to bed that night and feeling that tomorrow was going to be the day.

We got up in the morning and were excited. I remember Daria ran a bath and could feel contractions and then we rang the midwife. The midwife came over and went into the bedroom with Daria. Lillie our daughter was baking in the kitchen. I just remember stopping because it was silent. The midwife had the machine to listen to the baby's heartbeat, and when you've been to enough scans you get to know the whooshing sound you should be hearing. I remember the midwife looking at Daria and I and saying 'I don't want to alarm you but I think you need to go to hospital because I can't hear a heartbeat.'

In that moment I just shuddered. I remember thinking 'well ok that's wrong but sure we will go'. All three of us grabbed our stuff, shooting out of the door to the car and driving as fast as we could to the hospital. The midwife had phoned ahead. There was lots of panic, Daria was crying.

We got to the hospital and were ushered into a room. A doctor came in with the scanner, and I remember them turning to us and saying; 'I'm really sorry'.

It's in those three words where you shatter.



Daria, Liam & Paloma

This must be wrong. I couldn't understand, no one tells you that you could lose a baby – it's not mentioned in your NCT class. We were just crying, and they had to bring another doctor in to verify and the hope builds. They just couldn't hear a heartbeat. In that moment Paloma had gone.

The contractions were still coming. We stayed at the hospital. Daria gave birth to Paloma at 9.32pm that evening. You don't know what's going to come but the midwife made it so much like she was still living, and like this is still your baby. I am so thankful for how the midwives helped us in that moment. They got us to hold her, stroke her hair, hold her hand.

You don't expect to lose a baby, it hit us. I think I'm a strong person, but I don't know how anyone gives birth to a child after knowing they've lost them. How my wife managed to do that I don't know. It takes so much courage and strength, then to be handed a baby who has passed away – it's really so sad.

We found out about Petals through a referral from our midwife. They told us there and then. In a world where there isn't much information about losing a child you reach out for hope.

Counselling has been an enormous help for us. The support we received was as a couple and I think that's really important. I know the stats are quite high for couples who break up after losing a child.

You do grieve differently as a mother / father, and what having counselling together enabled us to do was to talk through the differences. The couples counselling allowed us to understand the differences between what each other was feeling and why we felt that. It puts an enormous strain on you when you lose a child. Being able to talk through it with someone who understands and has experience of dealing with other couples helps you so much to move through the grief. I 100% believe Petals kept our relationship going. Daria excitedly fell pregnant again and we also had an extended period of counselling to help us through that anxious time.

Our future is very different from how I thought it would be the first time we had counselling. We suffered such loss and were in such a dark place.

We've gone on to have another child – Betty – she lightens our life. You need to have that light in your life when you have such sadness as well. We're incorporating Paloma into Betty's life. You worry that you will replace one with another and our counselling made sure we knew that wouldn't happen. But our future is exciting. It's nice to be in a loving marriage with our children.

The reality is there were times when I didn't think this is where I would be two years later. I say it to everyone I meet, this wonderful charity kept our relationship going. Betty wouldn't be here without our Petals counselling that helped my wife Daria, and I, unlock how different our grief was.

Now when I think of Petals I see it as safety. In a time of my life that was really difficult, they wrapped around me and kept me safe.

BOOST YOUR TOTAL

Gift Aid

Make every pound count with gift aid, for every £1 donated with Gift Aid, Petals will receive an extra 25p from the government at not extra cost to you or your donor!

Match Funding

Many companies offer employees the chance to increase their fundraising total by matching the amount raised. Some companies will match the full amount whilst other may offer a maximum amount. Why not ask your HR department if your company will match your total?



“I will always believe that counselling saved my life. I nearly gave up, but the support and genuine care that I felt from the counsellor made me believe I could get through it – words will never be enough to explain this. ”



QUICK & EASY FUNDRAISING IDEAS

It's always good to have a few tools to help give your fundraising a boost to help you reach your target. Our favourites are:

Petals Sweepstake Poster – ask everyone to guess how long it will take you to do your challenge in return for a donation of course.

Hold A Quiz Night - either virtually or in person, quiz nights are a great way to get people together whilst helping your favourite cause.

The Great Petals Bake Sale – it's been a long tradition in Petals fundraising circles to hold bake sales to raise money. Who doesn't enjoy a natter and a slice of cake?

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to sign up for a cycling event or would like any further information, please contact us using the details below. We can't wait to welcome you to Team Petals!

email: fundraising@petalscharity.org

call: 07704 664052

social: [@petalscharity](https://www.instagram.com/petalscharity)



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