

TEEN PAGE

Teen Page editor pete walton kit@stanboroughchurch.org **AUTUMN KIT 2017**

Saying Goodbye



Every day in the UK over a hundred children face the death of their mum or dad. Behind this statistic are many untold and heart-rending stories. *Saying Goodbye*, a special film for BBC Children in Need, features a group of seven- to 17-year-olds who have been bereaved and a few who are facing the death of a parent. In their own words, these brave children share their heart-wrenching experiences and memories, with the aim of helping other young people who are facing a similar situation.

If you are one of those children who has lost a parent or someone close to you I am sure you will identify with these children's experiences and find them helpful. And even if you've got no worries their stories of how they felt and how they cope with their situations will help you understand how they are feeling and how you can all help each other.

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SAYING GOODBYE

Many of the contributors in the film have received counselling, some of the children and young people have been helped by projects around the UK supported by BBC Children in Need. Those who have already experienced bereavement form a chorus of voices - sisters Lilia, seven, and Ellie, ten, brothers Ben, nine, and Sam, 11, 13-year-old twins Sam and Ellie, Bethany, 14, and Shayna, 17. In turn they explain their grief, from the moment they first learned that a parent was ill, to when they understood they were not going to get better, the moment of death and the difficult aftermath of funerals and grieving.

Here are just a few questions, comments and snapshots taken from their conversations that highlight some particularly significant things they picked out. They are not in any particular order

QUESTIONS:

“What is happening?”

“I felt scared about when my mum has gone.”

“Nobody can steal your memories.”

“Things are never the same.”

“Your never get over it.”

“Communicating is massive.”

“Counselling helped me the



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most."

"I found counselling a waste of time."

"I had never seen anything dead."

"Children meet to talk to each other about their feelings."

"It changed me. I feel a lot different."

"I feel a lot stronger mentally." "I face the world in a different way." "You can still do amazing things, although this has happened to you just keep going and persevere."

Remarks made ... "...she was Christian so we went to the church, where she would go, like every week."

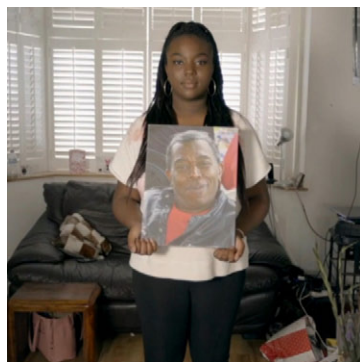
"I saw this massive wooden thing being carried and I didn't know what it was and I was told it was a coffin and that 'your mum's dead body's in it' - that's what Christians do, like, they bury their bodies in the ground."

"I usually to the cemetery every day and water the plants - I feel sorry, usually when I see other dads really."

"Honestly.. I just LIVE. I live to remember dad - you know. As long as I'm alive I feel like he is alive too."

ANSWERS

I saw that the bereaved children showed great strength of mind, courage to face the future and an unselfish desire to



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help other children and family who shared their experience. And yet a great sadness had entered their lives, one that could not be consoled. As one small girl said "You never get over it". I found it heart breaking that no one asked or answered the question that surely any small child must have asked - "Will I ever see my daddy again?" Like their childhood it looked like all hope had been stolen from them.

So, can we answer that question "Will I ever see my daddy again?"

You do not need to give up hope, there are good reasons to believe the well-tested Christian story that death is not the end

of everything. It has a promise of life everlasting and it applies to everyone especially the ones who have lost everything or been wrongly treated or abused. Kristine Brown (above) writes: "My parents taught me to never give up hope. My teachers inspired me to dream big. I still hold on to those ideals today." One of the most famous things Jesus said is this: "...and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" He was promising a life everlasting in a place called heaven.

The Christian leader called Paul wrote about his " ... hope of eternal life, which God who never lies, promised before the ages began"

So, the answer to that question "Will I see my daddy again?" is "I hope so". and you can have good reason to hope so too. Don't let anyone steal that hope from you.

