

Our patients are inspiring...

*“It makes you
feel calmer.”*

The Reverie Harp was originally designed for patients like Jane, but it also has many other uses. It can bring comfort and occupation to the relatives and carers of patients, as they sit at their bedsides for long stretches of time, and can be used to help patients with dementia, when language is no longer an effective way to reach them. It can also be used to help to create a ‘sacred space’ in order to explore themes of spirituality, in prayer or worship gatherings, or in complementary therapy sessions.

Phyllis Tuckwell’s Reverie Harp is kept in the Chaplains’ room on the IPU, which is situated next to the coffee shop. It forms part of the pastoral care that we offer our patients and their families, and illustrates how this care isn’t only provided by our Chaplains, as the harp was suggested to Jane by one of our Social Workers, Caroline.

We are privileged to care for people like Jane and her family, at probably the most difficult time in their lives, but we can only do this with the generosity of our local community.

We have to raise over £20,000 every day in order to provide care, free of charge, to our patients and their relatives.

For further information about how to support Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care, contact our Fundraising team on:

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support@pth.org.uk

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Jane's Story

The benefits of using a Reverie Harp.

Phyllis Tuckwell[®]
Hospice Care 

...because every day is precious

July 2019

Jane's Story



The Reverie Harp is a musical instrument which can be played by anyone. It produces soothing music and vibrations, and was designed by Australian music therapist Peter Roberts.

Peter was inspired to create the harp after meeting with a patient who had motor neurone disease. Seeing the patient's frustration at not being able to play an instrument due to his illness, led Peter to decide to design **an instrument that anyone can play, regardless of their health, age or musical ability.** The Reverie Harp that he designed is now used in



many settings including nursing homes, hospices, nurseries and even yoga studios. It can be played by anyone and, because it is lightweight, it can be held by patients themselves, or laid on them so that they can feel the vibrations it makes. The music it creates is beautiful and calming, even when it is played by someone who has no musical background, and **it can help calm anxiety and promote peace and restfulness.**

Jane, a patient on our In-Patient Unit (IPU), had never heard of the Reverie Harp until one of our Social Workers, Caroline, suggested she might find it beneficial. Jane has motor neurone disease (MND), a progressive disease that attacks the nerves that control movement, stopping muscles from working.

"When I could walk, I used to go out into the garden and scream," says Jane. *"I used to scream at Him*

*up there, but since my voice has been going I can't do that. The harp takes away the need for that though. It's a beautiful thing. I'm not musical, but just to touch it, just to run your fingers across it, it gives you a lovely feeling. It makes you feel calmer. **I get a bit agitated, but just touching it and hearing the music, it's comforting. I don't need to scream now I can play this.** He can hear this better, I think. Perhaps He'll like it more than me screaming."*

"You can feel the vibrations of the harp as you play it," explains Caroline, who sits with Jane. *"It can help with the emotions that you carry. It's quite a comfort. You just strum it, you don't need to know anything about music or have any musical training."*

*"**It's very tactile, so even if you can't strum it, you can hold it and feel it,**"* says Jane. *"It's so beautifully made. I defy anybody to sit there with this and not want to just run your fingers over it. You can feel the vibrations. It's lovely."*

