

On death and dying



deathfest.co.uk

**1st — 3rd
NOV 2019**

**Festival of
Death and Dying**

1st - 3rd NOV 2019

ABOUT:

Three days of workshops, talks, ceremonies and performances across Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet and Wells over the weekend 1st - 3rd of November. For details and timings go to deathfest.co.uk or contact the venues.

Inspiring a death friendly society in Somerset - festival powered by Financial Co-response Ability.

PROGRAMS: More than 30 events on deathfest.co.uk

A new day of the dead: Reclaiming the end of life for 21st century.	Goddess Hall FRI & SAT
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Bodies, graves, funerals and beyond - everything you need to know.	Elim Connect Centre SAT all day
We remember. Ceremony, sound and music to cherish the Dead.	Red Brick Buildings FRI night & 2nd all day
Help me get through this. Creative workshops on grief and suicide for young people.	St. Cuthbert's Church FRI all day
All that was never said. Creative explorations of grief for people affected by suicide.	St. Cuthbert's Church SAT all day
Dead good music. Performance, puppetry, dialogue and dancing.	Art Bank FRI all day, SAT & SUN

Glastonbury		Wells	Shepton Mallet
Red Brick Building BA6 9FT 01458 899564	Goddess Hall BA6 9NB 01458 831518	Elim Connect Centre BA5 2BE 01749 677097	St. Cuthbert's Church BA5 2AW 01749 676906
			Art Bank BA4 5AD

A

listing in the Mendip Times caught my eye, the [Somerset Festival of death and dying](#): events in Frome, Glastonbury and Wells. My eye was further taken with a man called Chukka who was scheduled to give a lecture about the importance of

talking about suicide. He is part of a nationwide organisation (actiontoprevent suicide.org) that tries to help people avoid taking their own lives by a combination of observation, talking, and intervening in a diplomatic way. About 20 of us met in a side chapel in St Cuthbert's Church, Wells. He asked how many people in the audience had had suicidal thoughts or touched by suicide in some way and the majority put their hands up.

In the UK and the Republic of Ireland there were 8,859 suicides in 2018, a rise of 10.9% over the previous year. Three quarters of the people who commit suicide are men, peaking between 45 and 49 years of age. The youngest person to ever commit suicide was four years of age. There is no type of behaviour that can be spotted associated with someone who intends to take their own life. The area with the second highest level of suicide is Cornwall, top of the list is county Durham. We were encouraged to be proactive and asked people if they had ever felt suicidal. I drew from the meeting that it was necessary to be a person who is approachable if you want to volunteer to be a listener.

We then went on to a meeting room in the Elim 'Connect' centre where various organisations, offering services for the death and dying were gathered. We talked with a lady who arranges funerals and is also a counsellor. She talked about the importance of making a will. She gave an example of a couple who had been living together for 42 years. The male partner had expressed the desire that his female partner continue to live in the house after his passing. However, he had previously been married a long time ago for two years. On his death, his ex-wife heard about it and claimed the house for her and her child. The co-habitee was thrown out on the street and that after 42 years of cohabitation.


People are talking more about this topic now which I think is a very good thing. Britishness does not involve sharing feelings so it is sometimes difficult to tell if a person is

in a suicidal frame or not.

We **All** have something we can Give,
and we **All** have something
we **Need**



connect church



**Sunday
10:30am**
at the
Connect
Centre

In the book of Acts, the Bible sets out a vision for Church as a community of believers who are committed to God and to each other. A people who are on a journey linked by worship, true discipleship, serving each other and the wider community – a people who are **giving and sharing, supporting and loving.**

This is our vision and we are working together to build a church community that makes a real difference in this area and beyond.

YOU ARE WELCOME

- Meetings usually last about 90 minutes
- You are welcome to join us at 10am or stay after midday for refreshments.
- We are geared up for all ages with specific streams for pre-schoolers, children and teenagers

Bereavement Cafe

**For anyone, who at any time, has lost
a loved one.**

Come and talk over a cup of tea.

At St Thomas Church, Wells BA5 1SF

Thursday 7th November

10:30am – 12noon

