



# The Blessing of The Oaklands' Memory Garden

**The Oaklands have a wonderful new Memory Garden. This was created for those who live and work at the Oaklands, also for anyone wishing to remember loved ones in a special and peaceful place.**

Creation of the garden is a fantastic achievement, 150 people attended the opening ceremony and blessing by the Rev Angela Fletcher was on 29th April 2019. This was an amazing turnout and a worthy reflection of all the work, dedication and love that has gone to bring the garden into being.

The team at The Oaklands are deeply appreciative of the vision of Steve Lunn (Chairman of the Oaklands and Head Gardener) in envisaging so beautiful and tranquil a place and inspiring so many people to be involved in creating it. They have been humbled by all the heart felt donations and support, along with the hard graft involved!

The Oaklands aims to provide the highest possible standard of care. They specialise in providing care for adults with a learning disability suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's, memory loss and similar disorders.

The seed idea for the Memory Garden came from a question which has appeared over recent months, how do you support someone with special needs to handle grief? Grief is a subject that touches so many of us and which many find overwhelming, let alone some of the most vulnerable in society. Love, understanding and patience certainly help.

Also recognising that each person will react in different ways and being keenly aware that grief, and confusion around grief, may well be communicated non-verbally. Sometimes this can appear as very subtle changes in behaviour which only give an indication of the depth of hidden feelings. The garden, as it comes fully into bloom, will therefore provide a gentle, reflective and beautiful place to support people living with grief.

The memory garden will be open for anyone wishing to reflect and remember, you will be very welcome and please ring 01623 842080 before you visit.

