

For Immediate Release to the press

The 21st Annual Oakleaf Remembrance Service For all Victims and Survivors of Road Death and Injury

Road Death - The Forgotten Killer.

During 2014 in Great Britain, the total number of road deaths was 1,775*, and the total number of casualties in road incidents was 194,477*, but except in extreme cases, their deaths or injuries go un-publicised, un-acknowledged and largely unnoticed.

SCARD (Support and Care after Road Death and Injury) believe that we should remember and commemorate the lives of those killed and injured in the carnage on our roads. So, working together with our sister charity, CADD (Campaign against Drinking and Driving) SCARD introduced their annual Oakleaf Remembrance Service. The service is always well attended and receives splendid media coverage. All are invited to attend, but especially those who have been injured or have lost loved ones on the roads.

Now in its twentieth year, the Oakleaf Service will be held at **Leeds Minster on Sunday 15th November 2015, at 3.00 pm.** The service will be conducted by Canon Corley, Priest in Charge, assisted by Canon Ann Nicholl, Lay Minister.

Hundreds of people bereaved and injured on the roads attend the service, which focuses on personal experiences, observations and readings from the victims' families. Families are encouraged to bring photos of their loved ones which are displayed around the Font. The bereaved have the opportunity to write their loved ones' name on an 'oak leaf' and carry it to the altar during the service. Leaves bearing the names and ages of loved ones are read out. A candle is also lit by the children of St Peters for every name.

Yorkshire's leading Civic Dignitaries, The Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, High Sheriffs of South Yorkshire and North Yorkshire, members of the Police, Fire and Ambulance and Prison Service, as well as other supporting agencies, will be in attendance. This service also offers an opportunity to give thanks for the wonderful work that all agencies do in supporting the victims of road death and injuries.

Patron Baroness Dianne Hayter of Kentish Town

www.scard.org.uk - info@scard.org.uk
www.cadd.org.uk - info@cadd.org.uk

A beautiful remembrance quilt which commemorates many names of those who have died on our roads will be displayed at the rear of the church. Each piece on the quilt was stitched with love (and tears) by members of deceased's families, and was put together by the SCARD founder and her friends.

Reverend Canon Corley says, "For over 1,300 years the Minster site at the heart of Leeds has been a place where the reality of human experience has encountered the reality of the God of love, peace and justice. Making sense of all that is never easy, particularly as we remember and continue to experience tragedy and loss. But we will gather on the 15th November for the Oakleaf Service to witness to the fact that the lives of those we love are not forgotten; to remind ourselves that we are not alone in our pain and also to encourage one another as we seek to continue moving forwards in the resurrection hope of Jesus Christ.'

To have an oak leaf completed, please contact SCARD, alternatively there will be oak leaves available at the church for you to fill in yourself when you arrive.

SCARD's founder, Mrs Carole Whittingham of Brighouse, West Yorkshire has been supporting the victims of road deaths and/or injuries since 1993. This vital support network was set up following the death of her son Steven in 1992. Steven was killed by a drunk, drugged car thief.

SCARD is a national charity with an office base in Brighouse, which works together with the Campaign against Drinking and Driving (CADD) to endeavour to make Britain's roads safer, and to give important help and support to those affected from an incident on our roads.

For all enquiries, please ring us on **01484 723649, or e-mail us at info@scard.org.uk .**

To learn more about SCARD and the Oakleaf Service, please visit our web site at www.scard.org.uk.

*Source: www.gov.uk Department for Transport