

Cruse Bereavement Care Golden Jubilee Quilt

Rays of Hope

Much thought has gone into the design of this commemorative quilt.

The thought behind choosing a quilt is that it brings warmth and comfort to the user, in line with what clients receive from Cruse Bereavement Care.

The design is an adaptation of a well-known Amish Fan pattern. Most of the design is symbolic, as follows:
There are 50 'patches', clearly to commemorate each of the fifty years since Cruse's foundation by Margaret Torrie, in 1959.

Each fan comprises seven segments, each one in a different shade of gold. No fan is the same as another, just as bereavement is unique to the person who has lost a loved one.

Each 'patch' comprises seven separate rays of hope. The number 'seven' is a sacred, mystical and magical number across many, many cultures and belief systems. For some, the days of the week were named after the seven dynamic celestial bodies – the sun and moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn. Earth and Heaven were divided into seven zones and the 'Tree of Life' had seven branches. The Bible refers to blessings on the seventh day; there are seven Pillars of Wisdom; it was the number of Jewish feasts, festivals, purifications and years between sabbaticals.

The Egyptian god, Osiris, held seven to be sacred and the symbol of immortality, whilst the Greek god Apollo had seven strings to his lyre. Buddha has seven emblems and Hindu tradition has seven faces in the world mountain and seven rays in the sun. In Islam, the number symbolizes perfection and there are seven heavens, earths, seas, hells and doors to paradise. Its pilgrims walk seven times the sacred Ka'aba at Makkah.

The colour gold represents a multitude of meanings: perfection, durability, purity, refinement, spiritual enlightenment, truth, harmony, wisdom, majesty and nobility, to name a few. There is also a belief that gold is a residue of the sun itself, its illumination left as threads in the earth, a mineral form of light as in Hindu thought.

The background is cream, chosen to complement any other furnishing colour, because the intention is for the quilt to be used rather than hung as wall ornamentation.

A team of dedicated craftsmen, together with the generosity of fabric retailers and manufacturers and kindly folk, has made this creation possible for Cruse Bereavement Care.

