Infected Blood Inquiry

Reflections, Central Hall Westminster, 20 May 2024

Reflections was developed by the Infected Blood Inquiry with input and support from a group of campaigners of long-standing. This mirrors the Commemoration held before the preliminary hearings at Church House, Westminster in September 2018.

This is a time to come together and reflect on this significant milestone for everyone involved.

The Memorial

The Memorial includes nearly 1,000 glass bottles, each containing a message written by one of the infected and affected. The first messages were written at the Commemoration in September 2018 and more have been added over the course of the Inquiry. This gives everyone the opportunity to say what they want in a way that is either public (with the message visible to the reader) or private, with the message known only to the person writing.

Choir

Reflections brings together two choirs with history related to infected blood.

London Contemporary Voices (LCV) performed in the 2018 Commemoration, and the choir of St. Botolph-without-Bishopsgate in London is central to the annual memorial service for people with haemophilia who died as a result of infected blood. For Reflections, LCV is led by the Welsh-born, London-based musical director Meg Ella Brookes, a multidisciplinary musician, arranger and singer songwriter.

The choir of St Botolph-with-Bishopsgate is led by lestyn Williams, the Organist and Director of Music. He has performed as a soloist and accompanist in the UK and internationally.

St Botolph-without Bishopsgate is home to the Book of Remembrance for those with haemophilia who have died as a result of contaminated blood. One was Mark, the son of a former Rector Prebendary, the Reverend Alan Tanner.

Programme

Read All About It. Part III.

This song was used in the 2018 Commemoration. The video includes photographs of their loved ones provided by the infected blood community.

Face to face 2018

Extracts from interviews with people infected about their hopes for the Inquiry (shown at the Commemoration).

This is what we know now

A reading by actor Alistair Petrie.

Testimonies

This film includes actual audio extracts of 12 people (infected and affected) giving oral evidence to the Inquiry.

Roads

The choir of London Contemporary Voices who performed this song at the opening of the Inquiry in 2024. It is set against footage of the bottles from the memorial, with messages both visible and private.

Face to face 2024

This returns to the people in Face to face 2018, reflecting on their experience of the Inquiry.

What is justice?

A reading by actor Seb Carrington, who has a personal connection to the infected blood disaster. Written by BAFTA award winning writer Peter Moffat (who is writing the forthcoming drama series about the infected blood scandal for ITV).

This is Me

Sung by both choirs t against footage of campaigning.

The Message

A reading by actor Frances Barber.

Music When Soft Voices Die

Both choirs.

Adagio for Voices

A moment of reflection for all those here today and watching online. Leads into a minute's silence.

Your Eyes Fall Upon Us

Written by Andrew March with words from scripture by Sue Threakall. This specially commissioned piece is sung every year at the memorial service held at St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate. It is performed here by the choir of St Botolph's.

Something Inside So Strong

By Labi Siffre.