

A tribute to Christine Israel



Christine Caroline Israel, born 4th July 1953, died 30th March 2013.

Chrissie, as she was known to all her friends and colleagues, trained as an enrolled nurse in 1971 at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton before moving to Manchester where she started her career in neonatal nursing in 1977 in the neonatal unit at St Mary's Hospital. During her time working in Manchester, Chrissie joined the North West Flying Squad. In 1981 Chrissie was awarded a Florence Nightingale Scholarship and she travelled throughout the USA and Canada studying neonatal transportation, the management of hypothermia and discharge of the preterm infant.

In 1985 she moved to Bristol where she worked at St Michael's Hospital until 1996. She was awarded a Royal College of Nursing Scholarship in 1987 and once again travelled to the USA studying parents' experiences of neonatal units. In 1989 she began working as a research nurse on the Avon Premature Infant Project alongside Dr Neil Marlow, during which time she co-authored 'The Parent-Baby Interaction programme'.

Chrissie moved to Southmead Hospital, Bristol, in 1996 where she undertook the conversion course becoming a Registered

Nurse. During her time working at Southmead Chrissie continued her passion for research participating in the Premature Infant Parenting study alongside Professor Andrew Whitelaw. Chrissie was passionate about developmental care interventions.

In October 2006 Chrissie was awarded the Neonatal Nurse Lifetime Achievement Award in the BLISS Baby Charter Neonatal Awards for her long-term dedication to the neonatal profession.

Chrissie was well known in the world of neonatal nursing, she worked tirelessly to improve the care of premature infants and their families and was an active member of the Neonatal Nurses Association and BLISS and a valued member of the *Infant* editorial board. Chrissie will be sadly missed by all who knew her both professionally and personally. As a nurse she strove for excellence and always said she felt privileged to be part of the families' lives. The legacy she has left behind will remain – she really was the perfect neonatal nurse.

By Su Monk

Clinical Matron, Child Health
North Bristol NHS Trust