



# Headlines

Members' Headlines Summer 2023



The Christie  
at Oldham  
gets a facelift



Membership  
at The Christie

pg 3



Patient  
stories

pg 4 & 5



News from  
The Trust

pg 8-11

# Contents

- 3 Membership at The Christie
- 4-7 Patient stories
- 8-11 News from The Trust
- 12 Invitation to the Annual Member's Meeting

We are interested in your comments and feedback on the content of Headlines – if there is something you would like to see in the next issue, please email the membership office: [the-christie.members@nhs.net](mailto:the-christie.members@nhs.net)

## How to contact us and your governor

You are a key part of The Christie and, through the Council of Governors, influence how The Christie is run. Your governors are here to represent you at the highest level. If you have any suggestions, views or concerns and would like to contact your governor please get in touch with the membership office:

The Christie Membership Office,  
550 Wilmslow Road,  
Manchester  
M20 4BX  
Email: [the-christie.members@nhs.net](mailto:the-christie.members@nhs.net)



You can follow The Christie on Twitter [@TheChristieNHS](https://twitter.com/TheChristieNHS), or our charity [@TheChristie](https://twitter.com/TheChristie)



You can also follow us on our Trust Facebook page [TheChristieNHS](https://www.facebook.com/TheChristieNHS) or our charity Facebook page [TheChristiecharity](https://www.facebook.com/TheChristiecharity)



And if you're a member of LinkedIn, why not connect with [The Christie](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-christie) company profile?



Follow The Trust on Instagram [@thechristienhs](https://www.instagram.com/thechristienhs) or our charity [@christiecharity](https://www.instagram.com/christiecharity)

# Welcome to the new edition of Headlines

Thank you for being a member of The Christie and to everyone who has shared their thoughts and comments or attended a membership focus group. We hope you enjoy reading about The Trust's highlights and achievements over the last twelve months.

Apart from Headlines magazine, all of our communications to our members are sent by email. If you haven't heard from us in a while, it's likely we don't have an email address for you. To update your record, please send your name, postcode and email address to: [the-christie.members@nhs.net](mailto:the-christie.members@nhs.net)

If you have friends or family who would like to become members, please ask them to visit our website and complete the membership form at [www.christie.nhs.uk/members](http://www.christie.nhs.uk/members)

If you would like to update your membership details or let us know what information you would like to receive, you can do this on our website: [www.christie.nhs.uk/join](http://www.christie.nhs.uk/join)

We would particularly welcome an update about your age and ethnicity so that we can better understand which groups our members represent.

## Invitation to the Annual Members' Meeting

We would like to invite you to attend this year's Annual Members' Meeting on Thursday 20th July at 1pm.

The meeting will last about an hour and will include Trust achievements in 2022/23, highlights of the year followed by a Q & A session with Chief Executive, Roger Spencer and Chair, Chris Outram.

Please take a look at the back page for more details on how to join the virtual meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Governor Elections

Governors have the opportunity to influence our work and help develop and improve The Christie for the benefit of patients, their families and local communities. All governors receive training and support and it is an excellent way to learn more about The Christie and gain a real sense of achievement by helping us to improve.

**We have governor elections running in the following areas:**

Bolton, Bury, Cheshire, North West, Oldham, Rochdale, Tameside and Glossop.

The notice of elections was issued on Thursday 18th May 2023 with the deadline for nominations closing on Monday 5th June 2023.

Voting packs will be issued on Friday 23rd June 2023 to all members to vote for a governor to represent them. **Please cast your vote by the deadline of Thursday 13th July 2023.**

Any queries can be directed to the Returning Officer below:

Abi Walcott-Daniel  
Civica Election Services Limited  
The Election Centre  
33 Clarendon Road  
London  
N8 0NW

Tel: 0208 889 9203

[ftnominationenquiries@cesvotes.com](mailto:ftnominationenquiries@cesvotes.com)

## Keeping in touch

Our membership database has around 9,000 public members who have joined over a number of years. As with most organisations today, we use email as the main way of letting our members know about news, information and events from around The Trust.

We currently have email addresses for less than half of our members and we want to increase this number to make sure we can send you the information you have requested and communicate with as many of our dedicated members as possible.

There are 3 levels of communications to choose from:

- **General information** (sent to all our members) – this includes Headlines magazine, your invitation to the Annual Members' Meeting and other Trust wide events such as open days. We will also contact you to vote for your governor when elections take place.
- **Events and meetings** – We will let you know about any departmental events or meetings that you might be interested in.

- **Focus Groups** and online surveys – this is a great way to have your say on how we shape and improve our services at The Christie. We will email you with information about these as they are arranged.

To make sure we have your correct details and that we are sending you the information you would like, you can complete the form on our website: [www.christie.nhs.uk/join](http://www.christie.nhs.uk/join) and we will update your details.

Of course, if you no longer wish to be a member and would like us to remove you from our records, please let us know by emailing us at **the-christie.members@nhs.net**.

## Keeping up with news from The Trust

Another great way of keeping up to date with news from around The Trust is to visit our news webpages. Here you can read about the latest Trust developments, patient stories and news from around The Christie. Take a look here: [www.christie.nhs.uk/news](http://www.christie.nhs.uk/news)



Robert Glynn

## Clinical trial clears Manchester man's terminal cancer

A man from Greater Manchester, who had less than 12 months to live is now clear of cancer, and back at work, thanks to a Christie clinical trial.

Robert Glynn, 51, a welder from Worsley, went to his doctor with a severe pain in his shoulder which meant he couldn't sleep. Despite scans and blood tests, the cancer was only detected by chance when he got an infection in his gall bladder and was diagnosed with biliary tract cancer – a rare cancer with a poor prognosis and few treatment options.

Robert's cancer was at an advanced stage and had already spread. He was referred to The Christie and was offered the opportunity to participate in a clinical trial. The immunotherapy treatment together with chemotherapy helped shrink the tumour in his liver and adrenal gland from 12cm and 7cm to just 2.6cm and 4.1cm respectively, which meant Robert was able to have surgery. Only 'dead tissue' was found during surgery which showed the treatment killed off all

the cancer cells. Since the operation, Robert hasn't needed any more treatment and his three-monthly scans show he's clear of cancer. But he will continue to be monitored.

Oncologists worldwide are eagerly awaiting the results of this research, and a further study with more patients, as it could lead to a change in the treatment of biliary tract cancer. Manchester United fan Robert Glynn, who enjoys snooker, golf and fishing said: "I wouldn't be here today without the trial. When I was given the option to take part in research, I jumped at the chance. You do anything you can to extend your life."

This clinical trial was run by Professor Juan Valle, consultant oncologist at The Christie and a world-leading expert in biliary tract cancer. He said: "Adding immunotherapy to chemotherapy when patients are first diagnosed with biliary tract cancer has been shown to boost survival. Robert has done very well on this combination, due to his tumour having a 'high mutation burden' or a high number of genetic mutations. Most patients with this diagnosis do not have as many mutations in their cancer cells, so the treatment won't be as effective, but it does highlight the importance of personalised medicine. The results of this research, and another larger study, are keenly anticipated by colleagues worldwide as it could lead to a change in how we treat patients like Robert in the future."

# 1,000 proton patients at The Christie

The Christie has celebrated treating 1,000 patients with the pioneering cancer treatment of proton beam therapy (PBT).

Adrian Bishop, aged 56, from Rotherham, became our 1,000th patient to receive PBT after he was diagnosed with tonsil cancer last year when he noticed a painful ulcer at the back of his throat was getting bigger.

Doctors at his local cancer treatment centre in Sheffield explained that Adrian would be an ideal patient for the specialist form of radiotherapy that targets certain cancers very precisely, reducing side effects.

Whilst the current standard treatment is usually effective, patients with head and neck tumours, can suffer from long-term side effects including dry mouth, loss of taste, difficulty chewing and swallowing and problems with hearing. Some patients might need to use a feeding tube for the rest of their lives.

Grandad of two Adrian, who is married to Marie and works for Royal Mail, said: "I'm quite proud to be the 1,000th patient at The Christie to receive proton treatment. I hadn't heard of it before. Everyone has heard of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, but not proton beam. When I learnt more about it, it looked an ideal way to help me suffer less side effects than the usual treatment can cause. I'm really pleased I was deemed eligible to be treated at The Christie."

Adrian's treatment regime included 33 sessions of daily PBT treatment as well as two chemotherapy sessions. He stayed at specially arranged and NHS funded accommodation in Manchester throughout his time in the city.

As well as his treatment, Adrian is also part of the pioneering first proton beam therapy clinical trial in the UK currently taking place at The Christie. The 'TORPEdO' trial, co-led by The Christie and The Institute

of Cancer Research is aiming to determine whether the use of proton beam therapy reduces long-term side effects and improves quality of life for patients treated with radiotherapy for throat cancer.

The Christie became the first centre in the NHS to offer the life-saving high energy proton beam therapy in 2018 as part of a £250m investment by NHS England. It is now one of two specialist centres in the UK, the other being at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which started treating patients in 2021. Before 2018, the highly specialised treatment was only available abroad with the NHS funding patients' treatment, but over the past decade the NHS has invested and trained its workforce so PBT can be delivered in the UK.

Clinical Director of Proton Beam Therapy at The Christie, Professor Ed Smith, said: "We're delighted to reach this milestone of 1,000 PBT patients at The Christie. While PBT is not appropriate for all patients, Adrian is a prime example of how it can be used to reduce side effects for some of our patients. We're very proud of what we have achieved since we opened our doors in 2018."



## CAR-T therapy patient on BBC Breakfast

Some of you may have seen the heart-warming story in the national media about Christie patient Sammy Gray who became one of the first CAR-T therapy patients in the UK to give birth after treatment. Sammy and her family, along with Professor Adrian Bloor, appeared on BBC Breakfast TV. Her story featured in most of the national newspapers including this piece in The Mirror.



# First NHS breast cancer patients start proton beam therapy

A Christie patient has become one of the first people in England to have NHS proton beam therapy for breast cancer as part of a pioneering clinical trial.

The PARABLE trial will compare proton beam therapy with conventional radiotherapy for treating breast cancer patients who are at higher risk of long-term heart problems after radiotherapy treatment.

The trial will determine the effectiveness of proton beam therapy and whether it reduces the risk of cardiac side effects from radiotherapy amongst the target group of patients who have existing heart concerns.

PARABLE aims to recruit 192 patients from as many as 22 recruiting centres when fully open. Accommodation will be provided for those travelling far from home.

Kim Jones, 44, a school caterer from Ely, was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2022 after noticing some thickening of the skin and painful twinges in her left breast.

Kim said: "I was told I might be suitable to participate in the PARABLE trial as it would potentially benefit patients with a high risk



Kim Jones

of long-term heart complications. As I already had an issue with my heart, the trial seemed like a great idea.

"When I was told that I'd been accepted onto the trial, I felt very lucky to have the opportunity to get this treatment. Clinical trials are incredibly important as they are the best way to evaluate which treatments work the best."

Dr Carmel Anandadas, Consultant Clinical Oncologist from The Christie added: "It is important to recognise that conventional radiotherapy is very safe and effective with exemplary outcomes for the vast majority of breast cancer patients.

"We are excited to be able to offer the first NHS proton beam therapy treatments to breast cancer patients as part of the PARABLE trial and were very pleased to welcome Kim to The Christie for her treatment.

"We hope proton beam therapy will allow doctors to deliver the required dose of radiotherapy where it's needed, while minimising the dose of radiation delivered to the heart, and without increasing the risk of early side effects such as skin redness and changes in breast appearance."

The PARABLE trial is being led by The University of Cambridge, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, and The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust.

# Clinical trial at The Christie cleared patient of cancer

When Jasmin David, 51, from Fallowfield in Manchester, discovered that her cancer had spread to the lungs, lymph nodes and chest bone, she was given the devastating news that she had less than a year to live.

Jasmin was offered the opportunity to be part of research by participating in a phase I (early phase) clinical trial. She was given an experimental medicine combined with Atezolizumab, an immunotherapy drug administered intravenously, which she continues to have every three weeks. She is now showing no evidence of the disease and enjoying life with her husband David and grown-up children Ryan and Riona.

Jasmin David, said: “I was 15 months down the line after my initial cancer treatment and had almost forgotten about it, but then the cancer returned. When I was offered the trial I didn’t know if it would work for me, but I thought that at least I could do something to help others and use my body for the next generation. At first I had many horrible side effects including headaches and spiking temperatures, so I was in hospital over Christmas and quite poorly. Then thankfully I started to respond well to the treatment.

“I celebrated my 50th birthday in February 2020 while still in the middle of treatment and not knowing what the future held. Two and a half years ago I thought it was the end and I now feel like I’ve been reborn. There is a change in my life after returning from India to see family in April and I have decided to take early retirement and to live my life in gratitude to God and to medical science. My family have been very supportive of this decision. I will be celebrating my 25th wedding anniversary in September. I have so much to look forward to. My Christian faith helped me a lot on this journey and the prayers and support from family and friends gave me strength to face the challenge.”



Jasmin David

By June 2021 scans showed no measurable cancer cells in her body and she was cancer free. Jasmin will remain on treatment until December 2023.

Professor Fiona Thistlethwaite, Medical Oncologist and Medical Director of Manchester CRF at The Christie, who is leading on the study in the UK, said: “We are really pleased that Jasmin has had such a good outcome. At The Christie we are continually testing new drugs and therapies to see if they can benefit more people.”

# News from the Trust

**It has been another busy 12 months at The Christie as we continue our work at the forefront of cancer treatment, research and education. Here are a few of this year's highlights.**

## Oldham gets facelift

This year we have been busy giving our radiotherapy centre in Oldham a refurbishment – 12 years after it opened in a blaze of glory.

The centre has benefited more than 15,000 patients in 13 years and a team of Christie engineers began the complex task of replacing the two linear accelerators used to deliver life-saving radiotherapy treatment and a CT scanner last year. The £6.3 million refurbishment has been carried out in a phased way over 12 months to keep disruption to patients to an absolute minimum. The replacement of each treatment machine takes around six months due to the complex nature of building the equipment and ensuring expert physicists carry out the necessary safety work before it is used to treat patients.

Since the centre opened in 2010, the machines have delivered more than 160,000 treatments and were replaced as part of a routine programme to ensure patients benefit from the latest and safest technology and treatment techniques available.

During the refurbishment, The Christie team has worked hard to ensure the majority of patients are unaffected by the extensive work. Some patients with more complex tumours have had their care transferred to The Christie's main site in Withington during the works.

The Christie at Oldham was the first in a unique network of Christie radiotherapy centres allowing thousands of patients to be treated closer to home. The centre, which was opened in March 2010, cost £17m and was funded after the

generous people of Oldham and surrounding areas supported a major fundraising campaign by The Christie charity to bring the first facility of its kind in the UK to The Royal Oldham Hospital. Previously patients across Greater Manchester could only access radiotherapy at The Christie's site in South Manchester.

The drive to provide care closer to home where possible for patients is one of the main aims of The Christie to make cancer care as easy and convenient for patients as possible. Since Oldham opened in 2010, The Christie has gone on to open two other radiotherapy centres in Salford and Macclesfield as well as introduce local chemotherapy clinics at 12 other sites, and in patients' homes.



## Awards and accolades

This year we were delighted to win the 'Best Social Responsibility' category at the prestigious Nursing Times Workforce Summit and Awards 2022 in November. The Christie was given the accolade for its work on green issues as we continue our work to make The Christie as sustainable as possible.

Meanwhile, in this year's Nursing Times Awards hosted in London on 26 October, two Christie teams were finalists. The Bloods Closer to Home team from SACT services was a finalist in the Cancer Nursing category, and our complementary therapy team was a finalist in the HRH The Prince of Wales award for integrated approaches to care for its entry 'Address the Distress'.

## Top marks again

Patients at The Christie have given the internationally acclaimed cancer centre top marks once again for the quality of care. In the results of the annual national inpatient survey, published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), The Christie performed 'Much better than expected' compared with other hospital trusts.

## Supporting our staff

Congratulations to our complementary health and wellbeing team which recently won a national mental health award at the Integrative Health Convention in recognition for the staff service it has provided since the start of the pandemic.

The SOS (Supporting our Staff) initiative, uses complementary therapies to enhance resilience and wellbeing. Set up due to the complex pressures caused by COVID-19, this service continues to deliver both virtual and face to face interventions, providing bespoke physiological and psychological support. Over 200 staff have accessed the service so far, with staff reporting the benefits in both their work and home life. A common quote is 'life changing', especially after supporting staff who felt claustrophobic, enabling them to wear PPE, and remain working onsite.

## STOP PRESS:

Congratulations to our proton beam therapy team who received national praise when it made it to the final of The Sun's 'Who Cares Wins' awards.

## Award for our Macclesfield team



The Christie at Macclesfield has scooped a national award for its commitment to patients living with incurable blood cancer.

The haematology team was presented with the Myeloma UK Clinical Service Excellence Programme (CSEP) Award in recognition of its outstanding care and unflagging dedication to patients with myeloma, an incurable blood cancer which claims the lives of 3,000 people in the UK each year.

The accolade, awarded by charity Myeloma UK, recognises hospitals' commitment to raising the bar for treatment and providing compassionate and individualised care to patients.

## Support for Ukraine

The Christie has donated more than 50 items of medical equipment to a cancer hospital in the west of Ukraine, the Lviv State Regional Oncology Treatment and Diagnostic Centre. The items sent include an ultrasound unit, a patient trolley, five defibrillators and 13 patient monitors. They were surplus stock or had been recently replaced or decommissioned.

## Happy birthday to our team

The Christie celebrated the 20th anniversary of its peritoneal tumour service this year. These tumours, found in the abdomen, are rare and often require complex treatment. The Christie is one of only two centres in the UK to treat them.

Over the last 20 years, the team has received 5,153 referrals and carried out 2,077 major surgeries. Clinicians from as far away as Sri Lanka and Pakistan have benefitted from the expertise of the 40-member multidisciplinary team of experts at The Christie.

One of the cancers the team treats is pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP). It starts in the lining of the appendix where it produces a jelly-like substance (mucin) that bursts out of the appendix and spreads cells and mucin around the tummy. People with PMP need major surgery to remove the tissue lining in the abdominal cavity (the peritoneum) and involved organs that are at risk of implants from the abnormal cells. Once the surgery has been performed, heated chemotherapy (HIPEC) is introduced into the abdomen to kill any tumour cells that could remain unseen.



## Bloods closer to home

Cancer patients at The Christie are benefitting from a new service closer to home for those who need regular blood tests during their treatment.

The local blood testing service will operate from 11 convenient locations throughout Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Derbyshire using existing Christie local treatment centres, health centres, district hospitals and local hospices. Around 1,000 patients each year are set to benefit. The locations include Altrincham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, Bury, Cheadle, Crewe (Leighton), Little Hulton, Macclesfield, New Mills, Oldham and Winsford.

Patients on drug treatments need to have a blood test prior to treatment. This is to check how their organs are functioning and protein levels, which can also act as markers to see how the patient is responding to treatment. Previously, many patients had to travel to The Christie's Withington site for the blood tests, with round trip journeys lasting up to two hours.

This pioneering approach has been funded through The Christie charity.

## A world-class cancer research centre in the heart of Manchester

**The building work on a new £150m cancer research centre – the result of a partnership between The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, The University of Manchester and Cancer Research UK has been completed. The development will be one of the world's leading cancer research facilities.**

The new research centre, situated on The Christie campus in Withington, replaces a previous building that was severely damaged in a fire over five years ago. It will be the first Cancer Research UK scientific institute to be directly attached to a comprehensive cancer centre.

At over 25,000 sq metres, the building is twice the size of the previous facility, allowing experts to deliver discovery research and translate their discoveries into innovative clinical trials at scale within the partnership's Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC).

Together, a multidisciplinary team of over 300 scientists and 400 clinicians and operational staff – practising what is known as 'team science' – will deliver clinical trials covering the full extent of the patient pathway, from prevention and novel treatments to living with and beyond cancer. The ambition will be to drive team science and double the number of cancer patients taking part in clinical trials by 2030.

## First birthday for The Christie at Macclesfield

The Christie's £26m cancer centre in Macclesfield has marked its first anniversary.

Funded through £23m from The Christie charity, The Christie at Macclesfield has transformed cancer care for NHS patients, not just in East Cheshire but in the rest of the county, North Staffordshire and the High Peak area of Derbyshire. In its first 12 months, The Christie at Macclesfield has provided a total of over 32,000 appointments, including 12,820 radiotherapy appointment for 1,211 radiotherapy patients, 6,517 chemotherapy and haematology treatment sessions and over 12,000 outpatient appointments.

One of the many patients to benefit from The Christie at Macclesfield over the past year is Philip Harris, 69, from Nantwich. The retired Managing Director was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in November 2021 and started radiotherapy treatment at The Christie at Macclesfield in December 2022.

Philip had 20 daily radiotherapy sessions over a four-week period, including on New Year's Eve. He said:

"I can't praise The Christie at Macclesfield enough. The staff were incredibly professional, as one would expect. However, they go above and beyond to make you feel at ease, removing any fears you might have during treatment. They are using the very latest equipment, they answered all my questions and helped me understand how the treatment machine works".

**"A lot of care has gone into the design of the building and training of staff at The Christie at Macclesfield. It really is the Rolls Royce of cancer treatment facilities, and we are so lucky in Cheshire to have it on our doorstep."**

"Macclesfield is a better location for me compared with the Withington site. Coming to Macclesfield from Mid Cheshire saved me at least 20 minutes each way and meant I didn't have to use the motorway. The journey time was much more predictable too, which is important to me, as I hate to be late for anything."



Philip Harris

## High profile accreditations

The Christie has been named as one of the inaugural European Prostate Cancer Centres of Excellence – the only facility in the UK to be given the accreditation.

To be given this status, The Christie had to meet a number of criteria across three key areas: clinical care, research and education. The criteria were set by the European Association of Urology.

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers, with around 400,000 UK men currently living with and beyond the disease. By establishing these centres of excellence, experts from across Europe can share information and work together on the biggest challenges in prostate cancer science. As well as leading the way in clinical care and research, the centres will also be training grounds for the next generation of clinicians and scientists.

Meanwhile, anaesthetists at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust have been recognised for providing the highest quality care to their patients. The Anaesthesia and Critical Care department has achieved the prestigious Anaesthesia Clinical



Services Accreditation (ACSA) from the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) demonstrating their commitment to patient safety and excellence of care.

ACSA is the RCoA's peer-reviewed scheme that promotes quality improvement and the highest standards of anaesthetic service. To receive accreditation, departments are expected to demonstrate high standards in areas such as patient experience, patient safety and clinical leadership.

## Invitation to The Christie NHS Foundation Trust Annual Members' Meeting 2023

Please join us for our virtual Annual Members' Meeting on **Thursday 20th July 2023 at 1pm**. The meeting will last about an hour and will include Trust achievements in 2022/23, highlights of the year followed by a Q & A session with Chief Executive, Roger Spencer and Chair, Chris Outram.

The meeting will be live streamed and we will be using ON24 for this session. In order to access the meeting, you just need to do the following:

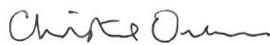
1. Visit the Annual Members' Meeting webpage on The Christie Website: [www.christie.nhs.uk/amm](http://www.christie.nhs.uk/amm)
2. Click on the link: Register for the Annual Members Meeting 2022 on ON24 and complete the registration details.
3. You will then be emailed a link from our webinar provider to access the live session, you will be able to join from 15 minutes before the start date of the meeting.
4. You can watch the session in either Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge. Internet Explorer will not work.
5. If you are unable to join live, the catch-up link will be released on the website page below after the session has finished.

For more information about the Annual Members' Meeting, please visit the website here: [www.christie.nhs.uk/amm](http://www.christie.nhs.uk/amm)

There are many ways in which you, as a member, can support The Christie such as voting for your local governor or taking part in surveys. Some of you are active supporters of The Christie charity as well as members and we really appreciate the time and the hard work you give.

I hope you will join us on Thursday 20th July. If you intend to come to the Annual Members' Meeting it would help us if you could let us know emailing us at [the-christie.members@nhs.net](mailto:the-christie.members@nhs.net)

Warm regards



Christine Outram MBE  
Chair

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**Notice is given that the Annual Members' Meeting of The Christie NHS Foundation Trust will be held at 1.00pm on Thursday 20th July 2023 virtually via ONS24.**

The business will be as follows:

1. To receive the annual report and accounts 2022/23
2. To receive the report of the auditor
3. To receive a report on membership issues
4. To receive the results of the election and appointment of governors

By order of the Council of Governors, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust