

Big Issues: the end of life



ST JOHN'S
DOWNSHIRE HILL

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE MATTERS:

Books:

Assisted Suicide by Vaughan Roberts. This is a short introduction to the subject in the 'Talking Points' series published by The Good Book Company. *"In this short book, Vaughan Roberts briefs Christians on the complex questions surrounding assisted suicide. He surveys the Christian worldview and helps us to apply its principles as we navigate life and death in a society with contrasting values."*



Matters of Life & Death by John Wyatt. This is a comprehensive book written by a Professor of Ethics. *"John Wyatt examines the issues surrounding the beginning and end of life against the background of current medical-ethical thought. Writing out of a deep conviction that the Bible's view of our humanness points a way forward, he suggests how Christian health-care professionals, churches and individuals can respond to today's challenges and opportunities."*

Live and Let Live by Dr Peter Saunders. This booklet by Dr. Peter Saunders, Chief Executive of the Christian Medical Fellowship, explores what the Bible has to say about euthanasia and assisted suicide, and is available to download at: https://issuu.com/care/docs/care_live_and_let_live_peter_saunde

A Biblical Discussion for End of Life Issues by Chris Buttenshaw. This booklet gives an in-depth Biblical discussion of suffering, life and death in the context of faith in a sovereign God who is supremely in control, whose love and attention does not waiver according to circumstances and whose ways are beyond our understanding, and is available to download at:

<https://care.org.uk/sites/default/files/articles/Live%20and%20Let%20Live%20Biblical%20Discussion%20Booklet%20Original.pdf>

Organisations:

CARE is a Christian agency conducting research and advocacy in a variety of areas including end of life issues: <https://care.org.uk/cause/assisted-suicide>. Their webpage on the issue has a wealth of resources.

Care Not Killing <https://www.carenotkilling.org.uk/> is a UK-based alliance of individuals and organisations which brings together disability and human rights groups, healthcare providers, and faith-based bodies, with the aims of:

- promoting more and better palliative care;
- ensuring that existing laws against euthanasia and assisted suicide are not weakened or repealed;
- influencing the balance of public opinion against any further weakening of the law.

The website has a very good summary of the arguments against euthanasia at:

<https://www.carenotkilling.org.uk/about/>

Hospice UK <https://www.hospiceuk.org/> has helpful links for locating hospice care and finding further information about the hospice movement: *"Hospice care aims to affirm life and death. It means working with and within local communities to tailor palliative care around the needs of each adult and child with a terminal or life-shortening condition, whatever that may be, and extends to supporting their carers, friends and family before and after bereavement."* (<https://www.hospiceuk.org/about-us>)