

Kieron's Story

Dedication

To Kieron

Mummy and Daddy's special "Little Man"; a fighter and a hero.

To Our Families and Friends

Thanks for everything we wouldn't have finished this part of the journey without you.

To the nurses and doctors at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Jessops Hospital for Women, Sheffield and Special Baby Care Unit, Bassetlaw Hospital, Worksop

Thank you for all you did for Kieron without you we would never have celebrated the day in September 2000 when Kieron came home.

Foreword

On April 20th 2000 Andrew's (my husband) and my life was turned upside down. Due to complications with my pregnancy at week 24 our son Kieron was born, our lives and that of our families would never be the same again.

Despite being very ill myself, I started to write a diary that took the form of a mothers (and fathers) thoughts and feelings. It was set out as if I was talking to Kieron, which I often did, I told him how he was doing and what was happening around him

The first 6 months of Kieron's life was spent in hospital, this is his story of those days; it contains times of pain and despair but even more times of happiness and hope. For those of you who have or are going through this we hope what follows lets you know you're not alone; for the rest of you all we can say is this is what it was like to be the proud parents of a very premature baby.

Sharon,
Kieron's Mummy

Diary of a Little Man

Thursday 20th April (Maundy Thursday)

Kieron Francis Norton you came into this world at 21:18 as a Yorkshire lad at Jessop Hospital for Women. You came rather earlier than your mummy and daddy expected, but you were perfectly formed. You weighed 0.595g (1lb 5ozs) only a couple of days before Mummy had been making a fruit cake for your daddy and I'd put 1lb of currants and raisins in. I was told you gave a little whimper when you were born and that they lifted you out in your sack. Daddy came to see you after you were born and once you were up in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Mummy was very tired and I didn't see you until the following afternoon, but Daddy kept me informed on what you were up to.

Friday 21st April (Good Friday)

I came to see you and you were very active, break dancing the midwife said. Your little legs were kicking and your arms were all over the place. Daddy brought Auntie Ruth and Uncle Mark to see you. Your Grandma and Granddad Whybray came to see you as well; they were amazed by how perfectly formed you are. Your Grandma said she could have watched you for hours. Uncle Andrew, Auntie Emma and Auntie Naomi came to see you and Auntie Emma says she will teach you to play the piano because of your long fingers. Daddy came up to say goodnight to you but I was still very tired, but after all the visitors had gone home Mummy decided that she needed to say goodnight, so the nurses brought me up to see you at about 11.30pm, way past your bedtime and mine to. You were active though you held my hand and wouldn't let go and your legs were everywhere. Mummy stayed with you for about 3 quarters of an hour just looking at her little fellow (as your daddy calls you). You looked very tanned when I saw you and I'm sure you're dying to open your eyes and see your Mummy and Daddy. I don't think Mummy and Daddy can wait either. I came downstairs and had a good nights sleep and you were a good little boy and didn't pull any

tubes out. Keep going just remember those cherubs are sitting with you. Mummy has got the bigger angels watching over her and daddy too. So Gods got us all wrapped in his love.

Saturday 22nd April

You had more visitors today. Grandma and Granddad Norton are along way away in Poland, I'll explain where that is when you're older, but Daddy is giving them regular updates on you.

You were not as active as yesterday but I suppose you're relaxing now and you had a nappy on. You did pull a wire out last night; you must have listened to Mummy and Daddy because you haven't done it since. Daddy and I came to say goodnight you were very relaxed and peaceful that helps Daddy and I when we see you like that.

Sunday 23rd April (Easter Sunday)

Today you were having a lie in when I came up at 11am. I held your hand I didn't stay long because you needed your sleep and I did. It's tiring for Mummy walking to see you. Daddy came up at 3pm to say hello he said how relaxed you were. I've started expressing my milk for you and the midwives are going to give you some. So drink it like a good boy. More visitors again, Daddy and I came up about 6.30pm and you were sleepy Daddy tickled your feet which you loved. Daddy and I came to say goodnight to you about 9pm. Hang in there buddy! You're doing brilliant!!

Monday 24th April (Easter Monday)

I was up early today 9.15am and you had the sun shining in on you. Mummy got a little upset because she wanted to hold you, but there'll be time for that. Daddy is convinced you will open your eyes for me and not him, but what a surprise he'll get when you do.

Mummy came down and had a rest it's very tiring for Mummy coming up and down you know.

At about 4pm Mummy, Daddy, Grandma Whybray and Auntie Emma came up to see you, but you'd let your oxygen levels drop. So your Daddy and I had to come back to the ward while they stabilised you. What a wait we both had, then when the midwife came half an hour later to say you were stabilised your Daddy and I just cried with relief thanking God at the same time.

We came to see you; you were on your side so that they could open one of your lungs up more. Daddy and I stroked your little hand then beepers went off not necessarily yours, but a little disconcerting. So Daddy and I went out to talk to a consultant (that's a big doctor) about how you were progressing. He left Mummy and Daddy to think and talk about what he'd said, just as we were about to leave Sharon the midwife came to us and said your oxygen levels had dropped again probably due to your infection, which they told us is normal, Kieron, in a baby your age. Daddy was asked not to leave the hospital, which shocked us both a bit and Daddy ended up with a ride in an ambulance because he had chest pains. Granddad Whybray went with Daddy and Grandma Whybray (that's my mum) stayed with me.

It seemed hours until Enid, a midwife who is wonderful, came and said she'd taken my milk up to you and that she'd seen you and that you're still a poorly little boy but stabilised. Another sigh of relief and Daddy, when he came back, was pleased. We didn't come up to say goodnight, Mummy and Daddy were both shattered. I sent Daddy home with Auntie Ruth (his sister) and told him to get a good night's sleep. Mummy managed to express 10ml of milk for you at 4am.

Tuesday 25th April

It's 8.30am now and Mummy is just having a cup of tea then I'm expressing some more milk for you. Then when I'm washed and freshened up I'm coming to see you. Mummy eventually got up to see you at about 10.30am, Mummy's blood pressure needed to be checked and some blood taken; we are a pair ain't we? But we're very relaxed and Mummy sat and stroked you and told you no more shocks for Mummy and Daddy, you moved your

arm and legs in response. You're still a poorly little boy, but the midwives have changed your antibiotics and now it's also up to you to fight and Mummy knows her little boy is a fighter. Mummy went back to the ward about 11am for a rest with her walkman and Charlotte Church you remember you loved listening to her, when you're bigger we'll put it on for you. Daddy arrived at 1.45pm and went up to see you Mummy was still tired after your antics yesterday. Daddy brought me my big cuddly snowman from home which I cuddle until the time comes when I can hold you. Daddy was pleased with how you were doing even though you're still poorly, you moved your little arms and legs which pleased Daddy. Mummy and Daddy came up later with Mr Ogley; he's the rector of the church Mummy and Daddy got married in and where you enjoyed the organ playing when you were inside Mummy. Mr Ogley prayed for you and we told you to behave for Kath the midwife who was looking after you. You were active which was wonderful for Mummy and Daddy to see. We left you to rest and came down to see Grandma and Granddad Whybray. Mummy and Daddy came up to do your nappy and care at about 5.30pm. You were a very active little boy and Daddy and I were pleased to see that you were on the big TV monitor. That means your skin is a lot stronger and tougher to be able to take the little pads. Mummy didn't change you, she watched while Kath did it. Daddy and I came up to say goodnight you must do a wee, little fellow, otherwise that little stomach of yours is going to hurt. You were asleep, but you moved around in response to Mummy and Daddy's touch and I can sleep soundly tonight.

Wednesday 26th April

This morning Mummy came up to do your care, she didn't get up there until 10.30ish, but you flicked one of your eyes and Mummy saw some blue colour. Daddy arrived while Mummy was finishing your care, the consultant said you had a rough night but that you were stable and that you were better than yesterday. Mummy and Daddy came back down for a rest because Mummy felt dizzy. We came to see you again at 1.30pm and while Daddy was talking to the consultant you flickered your eyes, Mummy

became really excited but you did the same for Daddy when he stroked your forehead and that pleased him. You did a wee twice while we were up there. Good for you. We only stayed 15 minutes then Mummy came down for a rest.

Kieron's Song

When at night I go to sleep
Fourteen angels watch do keep
To my head a guiding
To my feet a guiding

This is a verse of a song Mummy always plays after she's seen you. Your Grandma Norton came to see you this afternoon and thought you were wonderful, Daddy was let straight in which pleased him and you flickered your little eyes at him again. I'm pleased to hear that you've done a wee in Daddy's presence; well done just keep it up. Just fight this infection little fellow and then you can have my milk which is the best thing for you, because it's piling up in NICU's (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) freezer. Well done little fellow; when Mummy came up to do your care you had done a wee and you did a wee while Mummy was waiting to do your care. You were very well behaved when Mummy changed your nappy and your lips were moist and you didn't need any Vaseline on which was good. Sharon the midwife turned you and commented on how good your back looked, she even took a photo a close up and one full picture. Keep it up your blood pressure is good so keep it up buddy; mummy knows what a fighter you are. Mummy had to come down for some dinner, but Daddy, Mummy and Grandma Norton will be up to say goodnight to you later. Mummy, Daddy and Grandma Norton came to say goodnight to you about 8ish. You're still doing your wee, keep it up little fellow you were asleep when we came up, but just as Daddy and I were about to leave you flickered your eyes at Daddy so that he saw some of your blue colour. Stay safe and be a good boy for Sharon the midwife and sleep well and no shocks for Daddy when he rings tomorrow. We all love you and know that you can fight this infection, because your

Mummy and Daddy's little fighter. Mummy got a more up to date photo of you and you look fantastic. Keep it up Buddy Boy! Whoops! I forgot well done for doing a poo that's excellent news. Sleep tight darling and Mummy will see you in the morning.

Thursday 27th April

Today you are a week old. The consultants have found the source of the infection and you're now on the right antibiotics. You're also pooing and going for a wee as you did for Mummy when she changed you. I'm pleased to see that your nappy can be done up and that your stomach is not so swollen. I told you, you were Mummy's little fighter, you wait until your Daddy sees you. Kieron darling don't be scared to open those eyes will you, it's not that bad. I stopped with you for an hour or more just stroking you and humming to you. I've left you now to sleep, because Mummy needs her rest too. Daddy will be up later to see you, Mummy might see how she feels. Keep going darling your doing great!"Thank you Lord, that you're healing hand has been on Kieron. I pray that you will continue to do so and God, you know how much Andrew and I love Kieron, so I pray that your cherubs will stay with him and guard him from any other infections and that he will grow big and strong and be able to have my milk."Kieron darling as you get stronger everyday it encourages Mummy, so keep it up Buddy Boy!Daddy and I came to see you at 2.45pm. A doctor had come to see Mummy about dinner time which panicked me a little but you've got high calcium and phosphorus in your blood and the doctor just wants blood from me to check that it may just be family related. So Mummy breathed a sigh of relief because she thought there was something wrong with you. You opened one of your little eyes today wider than Mummy and Daddy have ever seen before. Daddy took some photos of you; he was pleased that your nappy was on. The consultant seem to be pleased with your progress, well done little fellow. Daddy is coming to do your care today. You've been registered now so you've got a birth certificate. Anyway you sleep tight and we'll see you later. Daddy and I came up about 5.30 pm and they were doing your care and

changing your pipes, sucking your stomach and cleaning your mouth. Daddy felt in the way and didn't like it. Mummy just stood and looked at you. Then to make matters worse Daddy started to do your care and your monitor beeped and Kath the midwife asked us to leave while she looked at your chest, this sent Daddy into a bit of a panic but Mummy remained calm and collective. When we came back in Kath the midwife told us that your oxygen to your lungs had puffed them up to much, this was sorted and you looked a lot more comfortable. Daddy said he wasn't going to finish your care, but Kath and I talked him into it and Kath complimented him on how well he'd done which made him feel better. We then left you little fellow to sleep and came down because Grandma and Granddad Whybray and Auntie Naomi had come to see you. Auntie Naomi was sorry that she missed visiting you, but she's going to come on Saturday. Grandma and Granddad came to see you and thought you looked wonderful and a lot more like a baby. I think you were trying to sleep because you weren't going to open your eyes. Daddy and I came later on about 8.45pm and said goodnight you were asleep and peaceful so we left you to sleep. Sleep well little fellow and keep up the fighting remember we all love you especially Mummy and Daddy.

See you in the morning darling.

Love

Mummy and Daddy.