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### Star-Studded Line Up For Sick Children's Trust Sixth Christmas Carols Service

#### Thursday 1 December, 2016

National charity The Sick Children's Trust will host its sixth Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December in a bid to raise over £10,000 so it can support families across the UK with seriously children in hospital this Christmas.

The Sick Children's Trust, which runs free 'Home from Home' accommodation for families with sick children in hospital, will host a Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at St Marylebone Parish Church, London. Guests will enjoy readings from a star-studded line up including, national treasure Dame Barbara Windsor, British Comedy Award winning comedian Katy Brand, much loved Gavin and Stacey star Alison Steadman, Antiques Roadshow's Eric Knowles, TV Presenter Alice Beer and BAFTA nominated Anne Reid.

Guests will get into the festive spirit with favourite carols, and back by popular demand is renowned Irish Soprano Margaret Keys and the Boutcher Primary School Choir giving musical performances. The charity's Chief Executive, Jane Featherstone, will also take centre stage as she performs a solo to raise further funds for families with seriously ill children to mark her tenth year at The Sick Children's Trust. Wine and mince pies will follow the service to continue the Christmas merriment. **Special Events Manager, Hannah Ellis, says**:

"This year's Christmas Carol Service is one not to be missed with some incredible celebrity guests and performances. For many of us, Christmas is about spending time with family. Unfortunately, for the families staying in our 'Homes from Home', this Christmas will be a difficult one as they care for their seriously ill child in hospital. But The Sick Children's Trust will be there, ensuring that they can be there when it matters most. This is only made possible because of our fantastic and dedicated supporters who attend our events such as the Christmas Carol Service."

Last year, the Christmas Carol Service saw over 500 guests attend, raising a record £12,000 which went towards running the charity's ten 'Homes from Home' across the country. Although the support is provided free of charge to families in need, it costs the charity £30 to support a family with a seriously ill child for one night. The Sick Children's Trust relies entirely on voluntary donations to meet this cost.

**Hannah adds:** "This is a much-loved event and we expect this years' service will be extremely popular. Tickets are £15 and are available from the website, or please do give us a call on 0207 337 2213. We hope to see you there!"

For further information on how to get your tickets, please visit: <u>http://www.sickchildrenstrust.org/Get\_involved/Special\_Events/ChristmasCarolService2016/index.html</u>

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