

# Raising awareness after tragic loss

By Catherine Hancock

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A WOMAN who had to cope with the tragic news of finding out her grandson was stillborn is raising awareness of a condition that increases the risk of foetus fatality.

Mrs Kerry Holden, 66, of Southwell, lost her grandson, Oliver, when her daughter-in-law, Emily Harvey, was 37 weeks pregnant (full term is 38 to 40 weeks).

"Emily developed an excruciating and constant itch on her palms, soles of feet and legs, so she went to the doctors," Mrs Holden said.

"The doctor wasn't worried and to an extent neither was Emily, but a few days later she couldn't feel Oliver moving any more. His heart had stopped."

Doctors broke the news to Emily and her husband, Tom, a former Minster School pupil, that their baby had died.

The doctors told the couple it was due to a condition called Intrahepatic Cholestasis of Pregnancy (ICP).

ICP is a liver disorder. It affects 5,000 women in the UK each year.

It is ICP Awareness Week this week.

The main symptoms are itching of the skin, which can be mild or severe.

ICP can be diagnosed with a simple blood test.

"I can't begin to describe the heartache for my son Tom, Emily and for their family and friends," Mrs Holden said.

"The ripples of grief spread very wide for the whole family.

"I tell my friends about ICP but it is the generation below me that need to be more aware of it. If you have ICP it doesn't have to end in fatality. There is treatment for it such as medication."

Mrs Holden decided she would try to



**MRS KERRY HOLDEN** (right) who is raising awareness of a condition that affected her daughter-in-law. She is with, left to right, Mrs Emily Lewis, who is helping by selling Easter chicks at her TinyTalk classes, and her daughter, Katy Harvey-Taylor, who is holding her daughter, Rosa Harvey-Taylor (20 months-old).

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raise awareness of ICP at a TinyTalk baby signing class she takes her granddaughter, Rosa (20 months) to in Southwell.

"I take Rosa there every Wednesday and I asked Emily Lewis, who runs the classes, if she could raise awareness of the condition to the mums in the group," said Mrs Holden.

Mrs Lewis, of TinyTalk, decided to raise awareness and money for the ICP Support charity by selling hand-knitted Easter chicks.

"At TinyTalk we usually raise money for the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity but this is for a great cause," Mrs Lewis said.

"My nana, Susan Jefferies, who is 96-years-old, loves knitting and has made over 50 handmade chicks for the cause which all come with a Cadbury Crème Egg.

"I can't even begin to imagine the heartache of losing a baby at full term so raising awareness of this condition in pregnancy is so very important."

The chicks are being sold at the TinyTalk classes for £1.50.

The classes are from 10am-11am at the Catholic Church Hall, Halam Road.

For more information about the condition visit [www.icpsupport.org](http://www.icpsupport.org)