

A&E nurse Samantha McLaren is a passionate musician and blood donor. She has been giving blood since the age of 18 after being inspired to donate blood while supporting her mother through cancer treatment.

Samantha said “My mum didn’t need blood but I would sit with her during her treatment and see other patients receiving blood. I remember praying to God asking for these patients to be helped and realised I could help myself by becoming a blood donor.”

Samantha started donating blood in Wolverhampton but working shifts means she often travels to ensure she donates as often as permitted. Samantha is also an Ro blood donor. Ro is a subtype of blood that is often used for patients who need ongoing blood transfusions. Patients with conditions like Sickle Cell anaemia can frequently require closely matched blood in order to avoid complications. If a sickle cell patient has the Ro subtype, they usually need to be given blood with the Ro subtype however only 2% of blood donors have this sub type.

Working as a busy A&E nurse Samantha also sees the need for blood on a daily basis. Samantha adds “Nearly every single shift I am seeing multiple uses of blood and I tell my patients that they are about to receive ‘superfuel’. I see the difference blood donations make to patients all the time.”

Samantha is also a talented musician, playing keyboards in the band ‘Brotherhood of Sound’ Samantha enjoys singing but being a part of the B Positive choir is her first step back in to singing for several years.

Samantha says “Singing is slightly out of my normal comfort zone but I am really enjoying being in the choir. I have been friends with other members of the choir for over 20 years. They have all lived with Sickle Cell their whole lives so it is great to be able to support them raising awareness of Sickle Cell and reminding people why it is important to give blood.”

“The choir is made up of everyday down to earth people who have come together to help make a positive impact. I hope that the choir continues for many years as Sickle cell and the need for blood doesn’t stop. We have become more than a choir but a family and support unit to each other and I hope to stay involved and inspire people for a long time to come.”

