



After

Following the devastating loss of his son, Joe, abstract landscape photographer and innovator Chris Friel headed to the isle of Lewis, a cherished place from Joe's happier childhood days. There, Chris found that photography offered some solace



After a long struggle with mental illness,
we lost our son Joe
on 10 December 2016, aged 16,
when he took his own life.

These photographs are from the Outer Hebrides,
in memory of the happy times he spent there.
They were taken over a single day shortly after he died,
while thinking of him and weeping in the rain.



Three weeks after we lost our son, we went to stay with
some friends who have a small house in a remote corner
of Lewis. The house has no electricity or phone signal
and is only accessible by boat.

With hindsight it was a ridiculous plan, but seemed
to make sense at the time. After two plane journeys
and a long drive, we set off in their boat on a rough
sea at night. When we finally arrived we, and all our
belongings, were soaked and frozen.

We stayed there a few days, in an isolated bubble of
friendship and love. Just walking, talking, eating,
drinking and reminiscing.



Being early January, the weather was foul,
and it rained almost constantly.

On one day the weather cleared a little, and
I set off on my own for a day's hike. I met no one.
These photos were taken during that day, while thinking
of him and the happy times he had spent in the area.



At the time I had no idea where I was headed
or why I was even taking photographs.

Looking back, I suppose it was just a clumsy
attempt to capture my utter grief on film.

Chris has set up a JustGiving page to
raise funds for the Young Minds Trust,
the UK's leading charity committed to
improving the mental health of children.
He has already raised over £40,000
for the charity. You can contribute to
the fundraising campaign by going to
[justgiving.com/joepickhaver](https://www.justgiving.com/joepickhaver).

A beautiful, limited edition book of Chris'
photographs from his *After* series,
featuring more of the landscape images
taken in the Outer Hebrides, has been
designed and published by Joseph Wright.
You can find out more about *After* and
secure one of only 100 copies being
produced by going to [jweditions.co.uk](https://www.jweditions.co.uk).