

EXCLUSIVE BY LUCY LAING.

THIS is the unbelievably heartbreaking photograph that captures one mother's emotional battle to motherhood.

The black and white grainy images show the lives of seven tiny babies in various stages of development in the womb from conception.

But only two of those seven babies survived - to become Elizabeth Hutton's two children Emily and Joshua. The other five lives were wiped out in the agony of miscarriage - that so many women suffer in silence from. Mrs Hutton has just released the photograph on Instagram - to show that behind every mother there could be that unseen heartbreak of losing one or more children along the way.

Mrs Hutton, 39, who works for the stillbirth charity Kicks Count, said: 'If my journey to motherhood has taught me anything is that life is a miracle that shouldn't be taken for granted.

'I took this picture of all my scans together to show that motherhood is rarely a straightforward path.

'This photograph is my story and I consider every baby to be a vital part of it.

'Miscarriage is often suffered silently by women and I want to show that it doesn't have to be like that. It's important that it's talked about. I always say that I have two children and I've lost five.'

Mrs Hutton, whose husband Matthew, 42, is a car salesman, had always wanted three children. They started trying for a family after they got married in August 2006, and a month later she discovered she was pregnant.

Mrs Hutton, who lives in Ripley, Surrey, said: 'I was ecstatic to be pregnant, but just three weeks later I started getting stomach cramps.

'The GP referred me for a scan at the hospital which revealed that I was having twins. It would have been amazing, except for the devastating news that there wasn't a single heartbeat. Both of the twins had passed away at eight weeks.

'I just couldn't stop crying for the lives I'd lost. All my life I'd been told how easy it was to fall pregnant, but now this had happened, I felt my world had been turned upside down.

'Whilst most people were supportive, others were less sympathetic about my miscarriage and just told me to try again.'

Two further miscarriages followed before Mrs Hutton finally fell pregnant again for the fourth time.

This time the pregnancy was successful and daughter Emily, now ten, arrived safely in June 2008, weighing a healthy 8lb7.

Mrs Hutton said: 'It wasn't an easy birth. There was a problem with her shoulders getting stuck and I had to have an emergency caesarian. But eventually she did arrive safely, which was such a relief.'

In January 2010 Mrs Hutton fell pregnant again, and initially the pregnancy went smoothly. But tragically half way through the pregnancy she lost the baby, named Toby.

She said: 'In desperation I went online to find support groups where I met other mothers who had lost babies. I was shocked to discover how many of us there were.

'It's rarely discussed but every day nine babies are stillborn in the UK. It made me want to help so I contacted the founder of the stillbirth charity Kicks Count, whose daughter had died three days before her due date.'

From July 2010 Mrs Hutton has volunteered for the charity, sending out the wristbands the charity makes so that mothers can keep count of their baby's kicks.

In July 2010 she discovered she was pregnant for a sixth time, and in April 2011 she gave birth to son Joshua, weighing 6lb9.

Just two years later she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a double mastectomy and six rounds of chemotherapy in a bid to survive. She also had her ovaries removed, ending her dream of a three child family.

She said: 'I couldn't have any more children but I didn't mind. My journey to motherhood has taught me to appreciate that life is a miracle.

'And that's why I posted the photo of all my scans. I had such a lot of response from other women on it to say they had been through similar experiences. It's quite shocking when you see all the scan photos together - and see the lives that have been lost, how they had started off. It shows how much loss there is.

'I feel very lucky now to me a mother of two lovely children. I just wanted to do it to raise more awareness of baby loss and to remember those lives lost.'

For more information visit www.kickscount.org.uk