

A CELEBRATORY SERVICE

to mark

60 YEARS

of

SEND A CHILD TO HUCKLOW



The trustees of the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund are providing material here for a Celebratory Service for you to hold in your church/chapel/meeting house/fellowship sometime in 2022 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the first holiday in 1962.

Send a Child to Hucklow Fund

**Providing and arranging holidays at the
Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, for
disadvantaged children, having no regard to
religious, political, racial or other connections**

AN INVITATION

The trustees of the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund would be very grateful if you will accept this invitation to hold a Special Service to mark and celebrate 60 years of providing holidays for disadvantaged children at the Nightingale Centre in Great Hucklow, Derbyshire.

Service suggestions

The following passages provide suggestions including an Order of Service and a variety of worship material for you to choose from. Please feel free to make changes, additions and deletions and to search out and add your own material. An Address/Sermon is included as well as sources of information if you wish to prepare your own Address.

The service can be led by one person, minister or lay, with whatever musical accompaniment you have. However, if you are able to involve more than one person then so much the better, especially if this includes the active involvement of children to read some sections or to sing or play instruments. Suggestions for music are included in the following pages. John Allerton wrote a special hymn for our 50th Anniversary Service and it is a pleasure to enclose this again for you to copy. Other hymns suggested are from *Hymns for Living*, *Hymns of Faith and Freedom* and *Sing Your Faith*. Other hymn books are in use so please make your own choice. We are especially grateful to the Rev. Cliff Reed for his *Celebration and Thanksgiving* Meditation which was specially written for this service and for permission to use extracts from his book *Beyond Darkness* (Lindsey Press 2021) for the Prayer/Meditation *We are here to love*.

Fundraising

We aim to raise £60,000 in this year - 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022. We hope that you and your congregation will organise some fundraising on our behalf. Over the years there have been many imaginative ways of raising money. Sponsored events such as walks, runs and cycle rides have done well, as well as the popular events such as coffee mornings, sales, auctions, Jars of Grace. Special envelopes for handing in at the Special Service are a good idea.

Money should be sent by cheque to our Donations Treasurer Mrs. Ruth Taylor, 1 Beech Close, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, SY5 8RA. Gifts may also be made via such means as PayPal, JustGiving, and Give as you Live. Also, Amazon Smile and easyfundraising both allow the Fund to receive a small donation when people shop online at no extra cost to the shopper – look for ‘Hucklow’.

Publicity

Holding the Celebratory Service will give you a good opportunity to publicise your church or chapel as well as the work of Send a Child to Hucklow for disadvantaged children. With this in mind we have produced a **leaflet** and **poster** to help us to mark and celebrate our sixty years. Please display these and perhaps incorporate them in your **Newsletter** or **Magazine**. Don't forget to use your local newspaper and radio.

Do please join with us in celebrating an amazing sixty years. Please contact any of the trustees if you wish for help in any way. Whatever you decide to do – enjoy it and have fun!

Possible special days

Please make your own choice as to when you use this service but it may help to know of the following national and international days:

15 May 2022	National Children's Day UK
1 June	Children's Day (varies from country to country; see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children%27sDay#GlobalAdoption)
20 November	Universal/World Children's Day (commemorates the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1959)

Possible Order of Service with suggestions

Words of Welcome

Lighting of Chalice Candle

HYMN

Prayer/Meditation - We are here to love (Cliff Reed)

Reading or Story - 'What the Teachers say'

HYMN

Reading - 'What the Children say'

Music

Prayer/Meditation - In Celebration and Thanksgiving (Cliff Reed)

HYMN

Address - sample based on an Address by Tom Grimshaw

Offertory and Notices

HYMN

Closing words

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Possible hymns

(a) Hymns for Living:

9 A little sun a little rain; 14 For the beauty of the earth; 235 God speaks to us in bird and song;
184 I learned it in the meadow path; 117 Joyful, joyful; 249 Life is the greatest gift;
191 Now let us sing; 237 Seek not afar for beauty; 187 We believe in human kindness;
192 We would be one; 183 When your heart; 42 We rest awhile; 79 For all the saints.

(b) Hymns of Faith and Freedom:

257 Lord of all hopefulness; 338 Make me a channel of your peace;
319 When I needed a neighbour.

(c) Sing your Faith:

36 For everyone born; 60 Here I am, all alone.

Words of Welcome

Welcome! Welcome to this special service of celebration. Unitarians have a fine record of care for children in need. John Pounds of Portsmouth ran a school for ragged children in his cobbler's workshop. Mary Carpenter of Bristol championed the rights of children. Mill owners in Belper, Styal and Mansfield, for example, opened schools for the children of their workers. Margaret Barr ran schools and teacher training for the children of the Khasi Hills in Northern India. Now we have gathered to celebrate another story. The story of the work over the past sixty years of the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund charity. The story of holidays for many hundreds of children who would not otherwise have had them and what the holidays have meant for those children.

Candle Lighting

We will gather a store of love for our children,
and marry love to wisdom,
that the needs and thoughts of the child
may be known to us.

What more have we to give to one another
than love and understanding.

HYMN

Prayer/Meditation

We are here to love -
to love each other,
to love our frail wounded selves,
To love our broken world, and to love its suffering people.
Let us worship so that love will flow.

Give thanks for love.
Love is caring that reaches out
to someone who needs it,
welcoming, enfolding, healing,
protecting, and defending them;

love is laying down your life for them,
if that's what it comes to,
and it sometimes does.

Give thanks for the love that costs,
as well as the love that delights,
because that is what love really is.

Spirit of love,
make us messengers
of hope and compassion,
may our words bring comfort to the sorrowful,
challenge to the complacent,
light to the benighted,
and a liberating smile
to the hard of face and heart.

Spirit of adventure,
be with us on the journey.
Make us true companions
to those who share the road;
true guides when it is given us
to know the Way.

Clifford M Reed

Readings What the Leaders say

- (a) I am a teacher at Park Primary who had the privilege of leading the last group that attended Hucklow prior to the beginning of the pandemic nearly two years ago now. If my memory serves me well, we got back to school on the Friday, late afternoon, and come Monday the whole country had locked down.

Our school had been very fortunate to attend the Hucklow experiences for a few years prior to my visit, and sadly I hadn't been involved until that particular year - I'm a relatively new practitioner in my sixth year of teaching so I had other priorities, like mastering my practice! Anyway, I had heard great things about the Hucklow experience from a colleague who had led one or two of the previous excursions, and as such I was eager to put my name forward to lead the experience.

Each year, we choose only our Pupil Premium (most deprived) children from Years 4 & 5 to go. What amazed me most during the visit was how appreciative and well behaved our children were all week in your complex. Our school is in a deprived area and generally children's behaviours in school can be challenging to say the least; however, this simply wasn't an issue on this trip. Evidently, the children were so grateful and considered themselves very lucky indeed to stay in such a lovely and remote location, surrounded by countryside. Yes, they were excited, and maybe even a little silly, but what children aren't?

I know breakfast featured amongst other things as a highlight for the children, but having a cooked breakfast every morning is something they know nothing about - so it stands to reason why they were/are greedy little monkeys and gorge during the first sitting of the day.

For me, the opportunity to get children out walking for miles on end in the countryside is an experience they won't forget. Yes, there may be lots of moaning and groaning, but it's a good life-experience to walk through fields of cows and sheep, alongside flowing rivers, smelling, touching, seeing nature at its best. And guess what, they sleep well that night and don't have you up early the next morning.

Finally, this experience always seems to come up in End of Year 6 Leavers' Assemblies as a main highlight of their school time at Park Primary.

For all the reasons listed above I applaud the people who fund this facility and make such wonderful holidays available for those who, under normal circumstances, would never likely gain such a memorable young-life experience.

- (b) I am a head teacher at a Primary School in Liverpool. Through the kindness of your Send a Child to Hucklow Charitywe choose twenty children from the ages of 7 to 11 to go to Derbyshire each year. All the children we take are vulnerable in some way and the majority of them have not had any real holidays. Through the kindness of the Trust, this is one week in the year when the children, or the adults accompanying them, do not have curricular targets, lesson objectives, school improvement targets or national testing to worry about.

What it does mean is that we can plan carefully for the real needs, strengths and concerns of all the children, and aim to build confidence and team-building, sharing and helping. At the excellent meal times at the Nightingale Centre each member of staff sits on a table with four or five children, and we talk about the things we are going to do that day or about the things we have done. The children are given responsibilities with serving the meals and clearing up afterwards. We ask the children to change their table every meal. This means they make new friends and learn to share stories, and to listen and take turns when speaking.

Thanks to the excellent facilities at the centre the children play out a lot, but the difference is they are playing out in a landscape with a horizon that stretches as far as the eye can see. The children are always amazed at the size of the countryside around them.....the children can just run and run.

We encourage the children to recognise their own worth and to feel valued in the group. This is a very valuable and powerful element to the whole week, and over the years we have seen some of our quietest and most vulnerable children blossom in Derbyshire. A skill that the children learn is being able to listen to and accept the praise of their peers, a skill which is much easier said than done.

I can confidently say that in the years I have been privileged to be part of the 'Derbyshire Holiday' it has helped many children feel happier and more comfortable in school. It has helped them in some small way to appreciate more their own worth, made them more confident, and helped their achievement and attainment in school. And it always helps to remind a group of four or five lucky, if tired, adults why they went into teaching in the first place.

HYMN

What the Children say

'What did you most like about your week at Hucklow?'

The bed got me stuck in a cloud and the food took me to heaven.

I enjoyed the delicious breakfast and the chef was very polite and he made a delicious dinner too.

The adventures were the most magnificent thing ever. When I look at the views I was speechless.

We walked up a very high mountain and I am scared of heights. But the view was great and I am not scared any more.

This wonderful experience will change my life. It made me develop in lots of ways.

This stay will affect me being scared to leave home and anxious to try new food. So thanks from the bottom of my heart. I appreciate EVERYTHING.

I liked just waking up and having breakfast.

Chatsworth House – gardens, maze, farm. My favourite part was feeding the goats.

I enjoyed the caves, the gliders and I most certainly enjoyed the food. Especially the desserts.

Friendly staff and comfy beds.

'If you could change one thing what would it be?'

To stay one more night.

To make it two weeks.

The freezing weather and snow, but I did have fun in the snow.

Shorter walks.

Getting the coach to Eyam instead of walking.

Stay longer! I would like to stay for a year.

Nothing. I loved it.

In Celebration and Thanksgiving

Cliff Reed says: “The meditation is meant for three voices: one to read the Biblical verses, one to read the words of thanksgiving and reflection, and one to read the diary quotations. The quotations are extracts from my diary entries as a SACH-week volunteer.”

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ He called a child, set him in front of them, and said, ‘Truly I tell you: unless you turn round and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven. Whoever humbles himself and becomes like this child will be the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven, and whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.’ (Matthew 18: 1-5)

We give thanks for the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund, for the holidays it has given to so many children who would otherwise not have had one.

‘The kids arrive. We get them some tea then take them round the Big Triangle. Give them supper and a shower then get them to bed. Some kids are still rebelling!’

We give thanks for their wonder at things they have never seen, for good experiences and wholesome feelings.

‘Walk to Peter’s Rock, Ravensdale and Monsal Dale; there the kids (and leaders) paddle about or swim.’

We give thanks for their questions and the opening of their hearts and minds to new and enriching things.

‘Hide and seek in the woods on the Tor – a lad called Ronald attaches himself to me, expressing an interest in foxes.’

We give thanks for the cheeky smiles, for the laughter and the joy, for the words of thanks that touch the heart.

‘Birthday boy Brian, who is eight today, gets a cake, presents and cards.’

We recognise the mischief that sometimes amuses and sometimes disturbs, testing the grown-ups and keeping them on their toes.

‘Walk into Tideswell with the kids, have trouble part of the way with cat’s eye thieves amongst our ranks.’

We give thanks for the fun the children have, for activities they enjoy – often for the first time – which send them to bed tired, content and looking forward to tomorrow.

‘We have sports and a very successful pillow fight competition. Andrew couldn’t pillow fight for laughing.’

We give thanks for Great Hucklow’s welcome to youthful, boisterous exuberance and we give thanks for the Peak District’s healing beauty, its things for children to do and its places for them to go.

‘We take our kids to a skating rink in Sheffield, where they have a great time and don’t want to leave.’

And we acknowledge that there are sometimes tears and tantrums, rebellions and discontent, requiring patience and understanding of those whose responsibility it is to care, no matter what.

‘Proceed to Riber Castle to see the zoo and have a picnic, which is something of a disaster. A few of the kids manage to crash the model railway.’

We give thanks for the vision of the Fund’s founders, for the generosity of its donors and for the commitment and dedication – for the love – of all who have given their time to work as staff, leaders, volunteers and helpers down the years to the present day.

‘We leaders put on a panto – Cinderella – with Eric and I as the Ugly Sisters and Rosie as Cinders – which goes down very well. Give the kids chips in bed.’

And we give thanks for all those children who have brought their ebullience, their questions, their curiosity, their irrepressibility, their challenges and their fundamental innocence to Hucklow, and made it all worthwhile.

‘We pack up, board the coach and take the kids back after a fine week blessed with perfect weather, nice kids and a good team of helpers.’

They brought children to him to lay his hands on them with prayer. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me; do not try to stop them; for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.’ (Matthew 19: 13-14)

May every child’s time at Great Hucklow be and have been an opening to the kingdom that is theirs by right. So be it.

HYMN

Sample Address - based on one by Tom Grimshaw

THE GOOD WE DO

I have to begin by sharing a shocking confession, and I hope you will not judge me too harshly but the truth is that

‘Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woollen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings.’

are actually not even a few of my favourite things.

If anybody were ever to ask me then none of them would end up on my desert island, but in the spirit of reason and tolerance I would completely understand if they were to be on your list. In that same spirit I would ask you to bear with me as I share details of some of the places which prove to me the truth of Wordsworth’s lines “for oft when on my couch I lie, in vacant or in pensive mood, they flash upon my inward eye which is the bliss of solitude, and then my heart with pleasure fills.”

You know my heart always fills when we are on the A6 approaching the bridge just outside Buxton and I spy Bill’s chip shop. This is not because of Bill’s undoubted contributions to high cholesterol but rather because it brings back the Friday night feeling of a forthcoming summer weekend in the Peak District when the clock had stopped and the weekday frets and worries simply faded away. I think back to a night at the barn in Flagg when in pitch blackness we looked up at a sky blazing with stars and we were filled with awe and deep wonder.

I could go on describing the gusts of wind at Whitby or the Great Orme in the rain, but I realise that even as I speak, your mind is travelling to your very own special spots. Such times could be deemed as holy days. Eric Glasgow in *The Inquirer* argued that we are often overwhelmed by the oppressive continuity of it all: day after day passing in seeming unending sameness and monotony.

We need interludes of something special. Shakespeare, obsessed with rural Warwickshire, recalled in *As You Like It* the delights of being in a ‘holiday humour.’ A necessary escape from habit back into the land of impulse.

At such times we should endeavour to recover some of the carelessness, the innocence, and the inquisitiveness which is endemic to childhood so we may return to weekday life renewed and invigorated in mind, in body and in spirit.

Perhaps thankfulness is an appropriate term, not just for warmth and shelter and food but also for this spiritual enrichment which can lift us up above the littleness of the everyday.

Yet if my theme were to end there, would it not simply be an exercise in sheer self-indulgence? Our own fulfilment and satisfaction alone, on closer examination, would ring very hollow. Most major religions advise us that a good life is not about celebrating our own good fortune. The Prophet Mohammed reminds us ‘Our true wealth is the good that we do in this world. None of us has faith unless we desire for our neighbours what we desire for ourselves.’

It is at this point that I want to talk a little about the work of the Send a Child to Hucklow charity. I do realise that I may be talking to the converted here and would hasten to gratefully acknowledge any help you may have been able to give in the past in whatever form, but I do feel that it is

sometimes useful to revisit the familiar and to take a fresh look at what we might think we know so well.

The word ‘Hucklow’ itself conjures up many, many happy memories of sunlit days in the quiet of the Derbyshire countryside and perhaps of good friends remembered and fine experiences, but I would contend that one of its special delights is that in the last full year before Covid it was used by fourteen groups of children who otherwise would have had no opportunity at all of time away from difficult circumstances. Hucklow is not simply a *pied à terre* of the denomination or a country retreat but above all ***a place where good is done.***

This 60th celebratory service of the charity narrates that in 1961 the Rev Peter Godfrey, supported by the Rev Glyn Pruce, wrote a letter to *The Inquirer* appealing for donations to pay for a group of disadvantaged children to have a holiday at the Nightingale Centre. The appeal to readers raised £61 so that sixty years ago, in 1962, a party of children from Manchester had a holiday at Hucklow. Since then groups have come from as far away as London, Glasgow, the Isle of Wight, Northern Ireland, metropolitan areas in the North and Midlands and many more.

Over the past sixty years thousands of children have benefited greatly from the holidays. Some have found their asthma eased, some have made new friends, some have shown improvements in manners and behaviour, some have enjoyed a break from responsibilities at home. All have been introduced to a new lifestyle which will, hopefully, influence their lives for ever. The feedback in the children’s own words lifts up our hearts year after year. One seventeen year old girl returning to visit her old primary school said, “That week at Hucklow was the best week of my life.”

The trustees are particularly delighted that in this year, 2022, a group of young carers accepted the offer of a holiday – though, sadly, Covid concerns in vulnerable families have now put that on hold until next year.

It is the ministers and people in our congregations, and their friends, who have made all this possible by raising the hundreds of thousands of pounds to keep these holidays going. This year the Fund will send a record number of sixteen groups to Hucklow – over three hundred children.

Over the years money has been raised in many and widely various ways. There have been raffles, carol singing, concerts, harvest auctions, coffee mornings, preaching fees, bequests, gifts in memory of loved ones and friends, donations in lieu of flowers or gifts on people’s special occasions, grants from charitable organisations, sponsored walks, runs and cycle rides.....all of them imaginative and heartfelt efforts. All of them deeply appreciated.

I hope it is not complacent to take pride in the substantial funds raised by such a small denomination, which lacks the multimillion-pound infrastructure of the mainstream churches. It is a charity with minimal administration costs as it depends on willing volunteers.

In celebrating the work of this admirable charity, which relies on your continuing generosity, I would repeat the sentiments of a familiar traditional hymn which goes:

*Scorn not the slightest word or deed
Nor deem it void of power
There’s fruit in each wind-wafted seed
That waits its natal hour.*

*No act falls fruitless, none can tell
How vast its power may be*

*Nor what results infolded dwell
Within it silently.*

As Sydney Smith said: “It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. ***Do what you can.***” An interesting thought.

Let us all look forward to more holy days in the summer and wish the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund even more success.

AMEN

HYMN

Benedictions

- (a) May the deeds we do with our hands, and the words we speak with our lips, and the thoughts we think in our minds, and the things we feel in our hearts, be at all times worthy of the Divine Spirit within us. Amen
- (b) May the Spirit who flows through all creation, who speaks through the prophets and poets of the human race, and who acts through those who care, awaken us to the unconquerable power of life. Amen

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The Beginnings of Send a Child – background information that may be helpful.

‘Nightingale’, the Unitarian Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow in Derbyshire, had its origins in the closing years of the 19th century. For a good fifty years it served its purpose well – that of providing simple inexpensive holidays in the countryside for thousands of children. Most of these came from our Sunday Schools in the northern industrial towns and cities. However, by the closing years of the 1950s it was obvious from the decline in bookings that our Sunday Schools were in decline, and that there was no longer the same need in our churches for such holidays.

In addition to the children’s accommodation a much more substantial building had been erected in memory of those who had died during the First World War. For many years it was a convalescent centre but it gradually became a general holiday centre. This building, too, was suffering a decline in bookings and the future of the Centre was in doubt. In 1961 the Rev. Peter Godfrey wondered about the possibility of reviving the original idea of providing disadvantaged children with a simple countryside holiday based at Great Hucklow. Supported by fellow minister the Rev. Glyn Pruce he wrote the following letter to *The Inquirer*. It appeared on the 9th December 1961:

At this time of year members of churches, chapels, Sunday Schools, choir parties and so forth will be asking themselves what they are going to do with their special Christmas collections. With this in mind we would ask your readers to give their financial support to a scheme we are arranging to send twenty children to Great Hucklow for a few days next April. One of the great things done by our Homes at Great Hucklow was to acquaint children who rarely, if ever, left cities like Manchester and Sheffield, with the beauties of the countryside. There are still children like this. The Family Service Units work amongst them and know them well. The Manchester Unit will be glad to suggest children who will benefit from such a holiday. All that is needed is the money to send them.

Sixty years later - ‘There are still children like this’...

Music

Nowadays there is a vast array of music that could be used during the service. This has been shown by the use of such music in Zoomed services. There will be someone in your congregation who can help. For example, there is a short 'Medley of Children's Folk Choruses' on the Send a Child to Hucklow website.

The Anniversary Celebration Hymn

(Suitable with long metre tunes such as Rimington and Angel's Song)

Would that all children could be free
To be their children's selves: to play
To have good food and cosy beds
And live contentedly each day.

Alas we know this is not so
For many children. Thus we hear
Of deprivation and abuse
Of young lives raised with needs and fear.

We can't do much! But we at least
Can take a few such souls and try
To set them free to run and laugh
Upon green grass, beneath blue sky.

In Hucklow's green and pleasant land,
Just for a few days they can find
That there is care, and warmth, and smiles,
And there are grown-ups who are kind.

A candle lit is better far
Than darkness cursed. The smiling face
Of one small child will wonders work
And bring to earth all heaven's grace.

John Allerton



The Send a Child to Hucklow Fund is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, number 1189260.

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Secretary: Ms Christine Hayhurst
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www.sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

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