

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 and APPEAL 2024



Holidays

What an interesting year it has been for children's holidays at the Nightingale Centre!

Heavy snowstorms in early March provided fairy-tale surroundings and lots of fun for children from Liverpool as their holiday neared its end, while their teachers wondered how they would ever get out of Great Hucklow. Well prepared, with a snow plough fixed to the front of the coach, a driver from Andrew's Coaches forged a track from their Tideswell depot to the Nightingale Centre, and everyone was returned home safely only a little later than scheduled.

Not so fortunate the following week was the group from Kirkby-in-Ashfield, whose holiday had to be postponed after a mini-tornado tore through Great Hucklow in the early hours of Monday morning, leaving a trail of damage at the Centre in its wake. With the property and grounds needing to be made safe, the children had to settle for a day trip to Eyam, but with the immediate promise from the Centre staff of a short holiday in June, which they loved.

And then came the heatwave. Children were too hot in their bedrooms, too hot outside, too hot to do anything – well, almost! The outdoor swimming pool at Hathersage provided welcome distraction. Despite the heat, they had a wonderful time – and they want to go swimming on two days next year!

The children loved having the opportunity to explore, play in the enormous amounts of snow, and gain experience away from home in a comfortable house (some for the first time).



We provided holidays for just under 400 children this year, in 20 groups. They came from Blackpool, Chesterfield (2), Colne (3), Hull, Kirkby-in-Ashfield (2), Liverpool (6), Mansfield (2), Nottingham, Salford and Southend-on-Sea. Sadly, a school in Hull withdrew on account of staff shortages, to the benefit of a second cohort from Kirkby-in-Ashfield.



Whilst the Trustees' preference is for groups to spend four nights at the Nightingale Centre, to gain maximum benefit from the opportunity to be away from sometimes challenging circumstances at home or in their neighbourhood, this is not always possible, and so a handful of holidays this year were for shorter periods, mostly at the groups' requests.

Participants are selected according to differing criteria. One head teacher reports that her group of 22, from three different year groups, were all in receipt of free school meals, five of whom were open to social care, and another nine had been open to social care in the past two years. Other heads prefer to take an entire class, space permitting at the Centre, finding it impossible to leave some children behind.

A youth club leader commented on the value of such holidays to her and her colleagues in their work, enabling them to get to know their young people better and spot any issues of concern as the children "opened up" away from home. Some may be young carers, or have witnessed domestic abuse, or come from low income households where constraints keep them close to home. A holiday where they can relax, socialise and have fun provides a different perspective.

These holidays would not be the same without the unfailing dedication and support of the Centre's staff, commended in leaders' evaluations for their caring and compassion and so often praised in children's feedback too. They maintain the Centre to a high standard for all, treat everyone as an honoured guest, and feed them well.

I wouldn't change a thing about this amazing experience.

I liked going on trips to places I've never been before.



Special projects

We finally completed our wet-weather kits this year, adding wellington boots and ski socks to the Sprayway anoraks, fleeces and over-trousers that have already proved so useful. These are all kept in good order in a dedicated space, now with a boot rack, by the Centre's housekeeping team. Special thanks to them and to Trustee Judith Short, who sourced all the items, and the many who supported our 'Kit out a Kid' appeal, including Sprayway for their generous discount.

Acting on a head teacher's welcome feedback, we invited participants at the Unitarian General Assembly's annual meetings in April to contribute towards the cost of good quality board games for children to enjoy at the Nightingale Centre. We presented the first batch to a group of happy children in the summer, and the rest followed in September.

The 'Hucklow Teddies', so kindly provided by the congregation at the Unitarian Old Chapel, Great Hucklow for children to take home, continue to delight. They are spruced up, labelled and specially selected for each child by Anne, the Centre's housekeeper. One child even took theirs back to Hucklow this year!

Our supporters

We are very grateful to individuals, congregations, societies and grant-making bodies whose generosity helps to cover the cost of the holidays. Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed.

This residential really allows our children to go and explore Derbyshire; even on the coach, they see things they would never get to see at home as they are limited in what they can do.

We acknowledge especially the enormous amount of time and effort given by Trustee Sue Catts, who has worked tirelessly seeking donations from charitable trusts, and by Pauline and Derek Smith, who have continued their links with local groups of Freemasons. It was therefore a pleasure to host a small group of Mansfield Freemasons to tea at the Nightingale Centre in July, so that they could see their money in action. One later asked that our Donations Treasurer convey his group's "thanks to all your team for the important work you continue to do for disadvantaged children".

Some individuals are in positions where they are able to use their connections for the benefit of others. A newly-elected civic leader has chosen Send a Child to Hucklow as his charity for the year. Mention of this in the local newspaper inspired one reader to make a substantial donation in memory of his late wife, as he remembered how a similar initiative in the 1950s, taking children from the East End of London for a countryside holiday, had changed her life.

It has been heart-warming too, to receive donations from Great Hucklow Community Spirit. With their village enlivened by children unaccustomed to country ways, we are glad they support us in welcoming them.

And some donations are 'in kind', such as our attractive new look created last year by Jason Godfrey, of Godfrey Design. We are thrilled that he will continue to design and lay out the Annual Report and Appeal for printing as his contribution to the Fund, and we are grateful indeed.

Finally, we thank the office staff and drivers at Andrew's Coaches. The company has transported Send a Child to Hucklow groups for more than 60 years and continues to serve the Fund well.

The beds are cosy.
The rooms are lovely.
The staff were helping us for breakfast, lunch, tea/dinner.

There was not one thing the children did not enjoy.



Finances

We received a record amount in donations this year: £93,740. With such a healthy sum to set against the £123,000 cost of the holidays, we more than halved our deficit compared with last year, to £17,266 in respect of real income. Taking into account an increase of £18,972 in the value of our investments, using the Charity Commission method of accounting, we actually made a small surplus – but unrealised gains are not real gains until we spend the money.

We thank the numerous individuals, and Unitarian groups and churches, who made donations, especially those who give regularly. And we also thank Ruth Taylor, our Donations Treasurer, who continued to provide invaluable help and support in processing so many of them.

We received a number of gifts in memory of friends and supporters, including a “living legacy” of £2,000 from one person in case there is insufficient money in his estate when he dies to cover the amount.

We continued to receive online donations via JustGiving and Give As You Live. We have also received an increased number of donations by direct credit to our bank account. In addition to Memory Giving, which provides a web page for online donations in memory of a loved one, we are now registered with Much Loved, which offers a similar service.

Amazon has discontinued Amazon Smile so we no longer receive money when supporters shop with Amazon. We do, however, receive a small percentage of what people spend with other retailers if they shop online via easyfundraising or Give as You Live.

Finally, we thank Mike Georgiou, who kindly reviews our accounts each year.

I hadn't been on a holiday before this was my first time, so I was excited, but I was also a bit scared but when we were on the holiday, I had the bestest time.





Fundraising target for 2024

As we would like to continue providing as many holidays as possible, we aim to raise £75,000 in the coming year – the amount we spent on accommodation at the Nightingale Centre and spending money for children this year.

Projected 2023-24 Holidays

Chesterfield, Spire Junior
Chesterfield, Wm Rhodes Primary
Colne, Park Primary
Colne, Primet Primary
Hull, Hall Road Academy
Hull, Wellington –
St Matthew's Scouts
Liverpool, Edge Hill Youth Club
Liverpool, Lawrence Primary

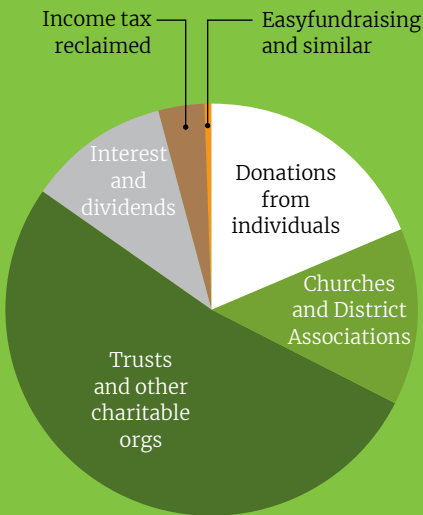
Liverpool, St Cuthbert's Primary
Liverpool, St Sebastian's Primary
Liverpool, Unity Youth Club
Mansfield, Asquith Primary
Mansfield, Oak Tree Lane Primary
Nottingham, Rosehill
Salford, Beech Street Primary
Southend Turning Tides

**Income & expenditure for the year ended
30 September 2023**

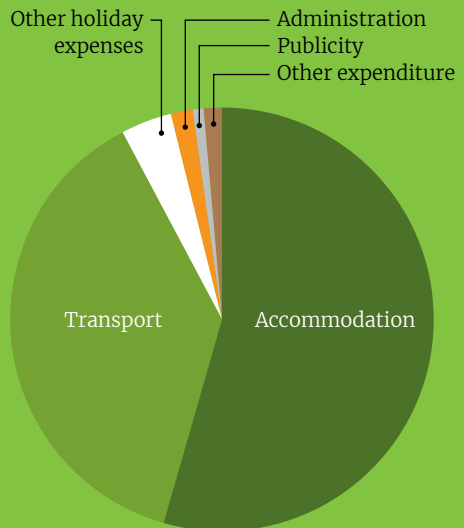
Income	£
Donations from individuals	20,801.53
Churches and District Associations	15,152.32
Trusts and other charitable orgs	57,787.13
Interest and dividends	12,538.92
Income tax reclaimed	3,891.69
Easyfundraising and similar	441.59
Total income	110,613.18
Expenditure	
Accommodation	69,657.00
Transport	48,450.00
Other expenses	4,900.00
Administration	2,369.53
Publicity	851.00
Other expenditure	1,651.64
Total expenditure	127,879.17
Deficit for the year	(17,265.99)

All of the children on this holiday, it was their only holiday. Being in the countryside, they appreciated the difference to the city landscape, the beauty and the calmness, feeding the neighbour's cows and playing in the field.

Income



Expenditure



Legacy **£**
"Living Legacy" **2,000.00**

In memoriam

Ernest Baker	2,465.00
Joyce Fletcher	1,000.00
Sheila Godfrey	100.00
Ashley Hills	20.00
Penny Johnson	50.00
Joyce	10.00
Marston Preece	250.00
Margaret Pyle	790.00
Margaret Slater	539.06
Malvern Tedds	1,195.00
Mike Tomlin	1,176.00
Stephen Wemyss	400.00

Total **7,995.06**

Trustees

We were deeply saddened by the death of the Rev Ernest Baker on 19 February 2023. He had served as Secretary of the Fund for 18 years with unstinting commitment and dedication, becoming a Trustee of the CIO on its formation in 2020.

Tom Grimshaw stepped down as a Trustee on 22 September 2023, having served for almost 10 years. He brought valuable insight and experience from his years in teaching to the work of the Trust.

We were delighted to welcome Emma France as a Trustee with effect from 22 February 2023 and we look forward to working with her.

We thank them all.

Sarah Benfield
Chair of Trustees

Donations from Charitable and Masonic Groups

Ashfield Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners
Ashfield Mark Lodge No 1148
Ashfield Royal Arch Chapter no.2412
Byron Lodge 4014
Dean & Leconby Trust
Edwinstowe Lodge
The Elizabeth Heath Charity
Elliot Lodge N. 8569
Great Hucklow Community Spirit
Joseph and Anne Slater Memorial Fund

KFC Charitable Trust
The Leonard Chamberlain Trust
Maun Chapter Rose Croix No. 470
Mansfield Building Society
Notts Masonic Golfing Association
St Peter's Mark Lodge
Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club
South Birmingham Friends
Institute Trust
Thornton Fund

Donate



Donation routes

a. Directly into our CAF bank account:

Account name: Send a Child to Hucklow Fund

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account number: 00060131

b. Online

Charities Aid Foundation

PayPal

JustGiving

Memory Giving

c. When shopping online, register with the following and search for 'Hucklow'

easyfundraising

Give as you Live

Website: www.sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

The Send a Child to Hucklow Fund

provides and arranges holidays at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow for disadvantaged children, having no regard to religious, political, racial or other connections. Registered as a charitable incorporated organisation - number 1189260

Please send this form to the Donations Treasurer:
Mrs Ruth Taylor
1 Beech Close
Hanwood
Shrewsbury, SY5 8RA
Email: donations_treasurer@sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ as a personal donation to The Send a Child to Hucklow Fund.

Please treat:

- (a) the enclosed donation
- (b) all donations which I make on or after 1 October 2020

as Gift Aid Donation(s) and reclaim the tax*

* I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

(Delete (a) and/or (b) if not applicable, if you do not pay tax or are not an individual or do not wish us to reclaim the tax.)

From

Full name (CAPITALS)
Address
Postcode
Email:
Signed
Date

If you require a receipt, please tick this box.

**A charitable incorporated organisation,
registration number 1189260**



Our purpose

The Send a Child to Hucklow Fund provides and arranges holidays at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow for disadvantaged children, having no regard to religious, political, racial or other connections.

Trustees

Mrs Sarah Benfield
Mrs Colleen Burns
Mrs Sue Catts
Ms Emma France
Rev Peter Godfrey

Ms Christine Hayhurst
Rev Peter Hewis
Mr David Ogden
Ms Jo O'Sullivan
Mr Colin Partington

Dr Judith Short
Mrs Pauline Smith
Mrs Ruth Taylor

Officers

Life President: Rev Peter Godfrey

Chair: Sarah Benfield, 9 Kilburn Close, Calcot, Reading, RG31 7DH;
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Treasurer: David Ogden,
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Secretary: Christine Hayhurst,
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