

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25 and APPEAL 2026



Holidays

“We had the most AMAZING time at Hucklow once again. Thank you so much!”

Words of appreciation from just one group leader that sum up the joy and delight that a holiday in the Derbyshire countryside can bring. And we funded 17 such holidays this year for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, who wouldn't otherwise have a holiday. Over **370** children had the opportunity to enjoy the warm welcome, hospitality and comfort of the Nightingale Centre and make the most of its extensive grounds.

Thirteen groups were from schools, with one school able to take advantage of two holiday slots, one at each end of the academic year. The remaining four groups were from two community organisations in Liverpool, one in Southend, and a group of Cubs/Scouts from Hull.



We absolutely love coming to Hucklow and every year it is one of the children's, and staff's, favourite trips. Nothing beats going out into the Peak District having the freedom to take the children to new places to experience something interesting.

They all had such an amazing time and loved every minute.

It was a pleasure to have a group from the West Midlands after a break of several years: Priory Primary School in Wednesbury attended for the first time and would love to return. Others came from Derbyshire (2), Lancashire (1), Nottinghamshire (5), Essex (1), Humberside (1), Liverpool (5) and Salford (1). A group from Cheshire had planned to attend but had to withdraw for lack of staff to accompany the children.

Being away from home and experiencing new things is a major part of the holidays for these children, who perhaps wouldn't ordinarily venture much beyond their own neighbourhoods. Visits to caves, rides on cable cars, and vast open spaces are all exciting – not to mention watching the birth of two goats at Chatsworth farm, described by one teacher as “such a special moment that was so lovely to share with the children”.



Whilst the children loved the trips, they were also happy just being together, singing on the bus and playing outside. The Nightingale Centre's grounds are always a hit with the children, with space to run around, play games and enjoy the equipment – though they wished the climbing frame had been in use.

Children's observations can be quite eye-opening. Among the things one group liked about their holiday was “seeing the teachers happy” and “seeing the teachers outside having fun [with us]”. Others mentioned the peace and quiet of Hucklow, and walks they had enjoyed around the village after dinner – but long walks remain low on the list of preferred activities!

Food at the Nightingale Centre is a perennial hit, and this year was no exception with the introduction of a new menu that provided opportunities for children to discover food they had never tried or rarely ate – particularly fresh fruit such as pineapple.

What I liked the most was going to the forest. There were lots of activities I like and it was peaceful.

The Hucklow teddies – a project of the Old Chapel (Unitarian) congregation in the village – continue to delight, with stocks helpfully replenished during the year by congregations, groups and individuals from further afield.



The congregation has now taken on another project – oral hygiene. Denise Laver, from Altrincham Unitarians, invited dentist friends in Ringway Ramblers to provide toothbrushes and toothpaste to the Nightingale Centre for children on holiday who had none, and they were exceedingly generous in their donations. The Hucklow congregation supplemented these supplies substantially by an appeal to delegates at the General Assembly's Annual Meetings, aiming to provide a toothbrush and toothpaste for every child, as well as a teddy.

I loved the free little teddies that you got in your room.

The “fabulous, very accommodating staff” – to quote one leader – handle these extras on top of their regular duties. The Trustees extend heartfelt thanks to them all for making the holidays so special in so many different ways.

The Trustees are deeply appreciative too of Andrew's Coaches of Tideswell, who continue to provide end-to-end transport for the groups, enabling them to sample the delights of the beautiful Peak District.

Our supporters

We are very grateful to our many supporters – individuals, congregations, societies and other charitable organisations – whose generosity helped cover the cost of the holidays, whether from special collections at Christmas services, harvest festival auctions, fairs, open days, sponsored events, and regular or one-off donations.

Individual Unitarians have invited contributions to the Fund in lieu of birthday gifts (over £1800 in the case of one person), or donated instead of sending Christmas cards and presents. Some service leaders have forgone preaching fees in favour of the Fund, while several families have suggested donations at funerals in memory of their loved ones.

There was a lot of excitement throughout the holiday. Many said they had never stayed in a hotel and the majority had never been to any of the places we visited. They loved all of the trips but were also happy just being together, singing on the bus and playing outside.

Residents of Great Hucklow, who see the children more than most of us, have again been supportive via their Community Spirit donations and the proceeds this year of a villager's sponsored triathlon. Further afield, a longtime supporter has continued to promote the Fund among his Freemason contacts as well as within his local and Unitarian community.

The Trustees could not do this valued work without our supporters, and we thank them all.

We are grateful too for donations in kind. Jason Godfrey's gift of time and expertise in graphic design enables us to have such an attractive Annual Report and Appeal – our main publicity tool these days – and we thank him for that.

In the words of one headteacher:

"We are, as ever, so grateful for Send a Child to Hucklow. Our children love their holiday – and so do the staff. It is a time to just enjoy the countryside, share experiences and build memories. Somewhere safe with a bed, good food etc is an oasis for many children. Thank you for the work that so many put into giving our children such an experience."

Finances

Setting aside the windfall gift of £50,000 from the sale of Bank Street Chapel, Bolton in 2023–24, our total income this year was close to last year's, at £102,229. This includes income from investments, tax reclaimed and online giving.

They enjoyed everything but loved playing outside and going for a walk around Hucklow after their evening meal.

I liked everything about Great Hucklow but the mac and cheese was my favourite.





The food, Matlock farm, Heights of Abraham, the countryside walk into Eyam, the ice cream in Eyam, the outdoor play at the centre, the ping pong table & hide & seek in the dark with torches.

Donations from individuals were considerably higher at £37,000 (compared to £25,000 last year). We are very grateful to our supporters, and also to our Donations Treasurer, Ruth Taylor, for handling most of them.

Donations from trusts, Masonic groups and other charities were down over £20,000 this year, at £25,000, which may be attributable in part to lack of a designated fundraising Trustee at present. These donations are listed separately.

The value of our investments increased by £13,000.

After covering the £130,500 cost of holidays for 17 groups of children (compared with 15 last year), we ended the year with a deficit of £32,000. This is sustainable for the foreseeable future, but not the long term.

Sadly, we lost a number of supporters during the year and received £3,183 in gifts *in memoriam*. We also received legacies from the estates of Shirley Fieldhouse and Paul Hamilton. These gifts are added to our capital account.

There were some increases in expenditure during the year. The Nightingale Centre increased the cost of accommodation per child by 4%, though Andrew's Coaches held their prices once again. Administration costs increased somewhat, mostly in respect of investment broker's charges.



A breakdown of income and expenditure for the year is to be found on page 8. Gifts in memoriam and donations from grant-making bodies and Masonic groups are listed on page 9. We are grateful to all our donors.

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

Fundraising target for 2026

As we would like to continue providing as many holidays as possible for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, for as long as the need exists, we aim to raise £82,500 in the coming year – the same target as last year. We hope others will join us in this endeavour.

We had an amazing talent show. It was the best time of my life.

Projected 2025-26 Holidays

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

Liverpool, Unity Youth Club
 Liverpool, Wavertree Primary
 Mansfield, Asquith Primary
 Mansfield, Oak Tree Primary
 Nottingham, Rosehill
 Salford, Beech Street Primary (x 2)
 Southend, Turning Tides
 Wednesbury, Priory Primary

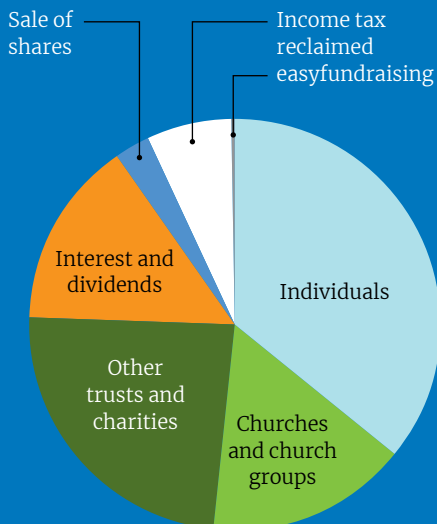
Income and expenditure for the year ended 30 September 2025

Income	£
Individuals	37,386.63
Churches and church groups	16,544.09
Other trusts and charities	24,925.47
Interest and dividends	15,317.25
Sale of shares	3,081.73
Income tax reclaimed	6,699.69
easyfundraising	274.19
Total income	104,229.05

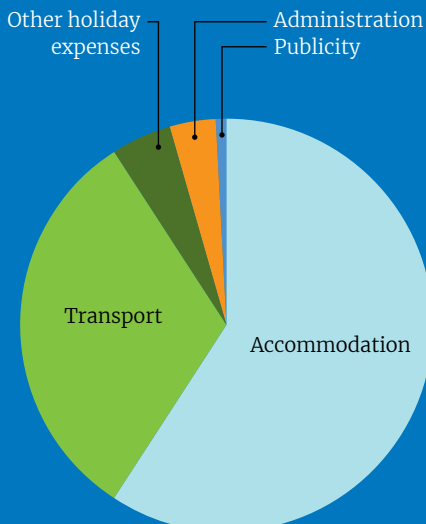
Expenditure	
Accommodation	80,703.00
Transport	43,350.00
Other holiday expenses	6,420.00
Administration	5,040.33
Publicity	763.20
Total expenditure	136,276.53

I enjoyed the activities because I got to experience and try new things that I have never done.

Income



Expenditure



In memoriam	£
Richard Boeke	25.00
Jonathan Carter	300.00
David Copley	375.00
Eleanor Dixon	25.00
Lis Dyson Jones	100.00
Janet Ford	80.00
Graham Goodeve	75.00
Marjorie Harrison	152.00
Keith Hill	175.00
Allen Kirby	50.00
Art Lester	25.00
Maureen Maguire	25.00
Mollie Ratcliffe	330.00
Betty Roe	20.00
Kath Ryder	704.00
Maureen Thompson	25.00
Colin Turnage	500.00
Esme Wall	172.00
John Wilkinson	25.00
Total	3,183.00

Legacies	
Shirley Fieldhouse	10,000.00
Paul Hamilton	4,136.00
Total	14,136.00

Trustees

Meeting only annually, the Trustees contribute to the work of the Fund in varied ways during the year: applying for grants, awareness-raising, fundraising, finding a home for our records, and securing supplies of teddies, toothbrushes and toothpaste – to mention but a few. We thank them for all that they do.

Having provided holidays for 17 groups this year, and with the same number proposed for 2025–26, the Trustees recognise only too well that this achievement brings additional work for the Secretary and Treasurer. Planning, organising, coordinating and communicating are key to this success, and the Trustees are grateful to them both for their time, energy and commitment.

Sarah Benfield

Chair of Trustees

Donations from Charitable and Masonic Groups

The Benton and Chidlaw Memorial Fund
 Brandwood Lodge no.7679
 Broxtowe Lodge Mansfield
 The Dagny Raymond Charitable Trust
 The Elizabeth Heath Charity
 St Francis of Assisi Chapter RC No.711
 Great Hucklow Community Spirit
 Joseph & Ann Slater Memorial Fund

Mansfield Building Society
 Mansfield Lodge
 Notts Masonic Golfing Association
 St Peter's Mark Lodge no. 1513
 The Provincial Grand Chapter
 The Sheffield 1000
 Unitarian Meditation Group
 Yorkshire Building Society

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. Donate online using a credit or debit card

Charities Aid Foundation

PayPal

JustGiving

Give as you Live

c. Donate by cheque using the form on page 11

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

easyfundraising

Give as you Live

e. In memoriam

Memory Giving

Much Loved

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 Sue Cooper
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;
tel: 07545 312981;
chair@sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

Secretary: Christine Hayhurst,
6 McAlmont Ridge, Godalming, GU7 2AR;
tel: 01483 419577;
secretary@sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

Treasurer: David Ogden,
29 Stanhope Road, Croydon, CR0 5NS;
tel: 07990 525652; honorary_
treasurer@sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

Donations Treasurer: Ruth Taylor,
1 Beech Close, Hanwood, Shrewsbury,
SY5 8RA; donations_treasurer@
sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

