

The Candlelighter

Supporting the families of children with cancer

Issue: 80

AUTUMN
WINTER
2022

#TeamCandlelighters    



Candlelighters

Supporting the families of children with

Up for the

CHALLENGE!

To support us or find out more, visit: www.candlelighters.org.uk

 CandlelightersTrust

 @CandlelightersT

 candlelightersyorkshire

 Candlelighters Trust

 Candlelighters Leeds

Take on a challenge for Candlelighters!

A huge THANK YOU to all of our amazing supporters who have taken on a challenge to raise funds for Candlelighters already in 2022! This is a vital source of income for us - together, we can make such a difference to children and families facing childhood cancer in Yorkshire.



Could you take on a challenge for Candlelighters? Take a look at the places we have available for events including the Yorkshire Marathon and the Rob Burrows Leeds Marathon! Visit www.candlelighters.org.uk/products/events or scan this QR code

You can also register your interest for other challenge events not yet listed on our website for next year, from walks, 10ks, half marathons and marathons, to warrior challenges! Just email us at info@candlelighters.org.uk



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, KEITH

I can hardly believe how quickly we're motoring through this year and, as I reflect on all the things we've done at Candlelighters so far in 2022, I am awed by how much has been achieved. As a charity, we have never stood still and we never will - we will always push ourselves to give families facing childhood cancer the best possible support, and the best possible future. I was incredibly proud that we took the decision to commit £1 million to a five-year piece of research in supportive care. Cancer is a truly horrible disease for children. The treatment alone can make them feel very, very poorly and many children suffer long-term impacts throughout their lives. We feel it is vital to start finding kinder treatments for children, and ways to reduce the long-term effects. Despite having a difficult couple of years during the pandemic, we feel it is the right time and the right decision to invest in research that will make a tangible difference to children and their families in the future. Funding research is a long process, so there's not a lot more to say yet - but we'll have many more updates on this particular research next year. In the meantime, keep an eye on our social channels for updates on the other research we support.

This newsletter is jam-packed with lots of the other things we've been doing this year, so I won't spoil the surprises here. In particular, though, I want to extend a thank you from myself and all the trustees at Candlelighters to the many people, businesses and community groups that have fundraised and donated to us already this year. Every penny you raise, and every good word you spread about Candlelighters, helps to improve lives for families affected by childhood cancer. Thank you.



WELCOME FROM OUR CEO, EMILY

Well, I hope you have a tea and biscuit ready so you can sit back and enjoy reading all the things we've been up to! As Keith has said, this is all possible because of the wonderful support from you or your family and friends, work colleagues, local schools, shops and businesses - you are all amazing! Our coffee machine at The Square has been busier than ever in the last few months, as so many more families and supporters have been able to come to see us - so much so that it broke!! Don't worry, we have a super-duper new machine, and don't worry if you don't like coffee - it makes tea and delicious hot chocolates too (with marshmallows and sprinkles of course!!). We'd love you to come and visit us. Whether you're a family who hasn't been for a while, or hasn't been at all because of the pandemic, or you're a supporter and you want to meet us in person or find out more about the difference you're making, we extend you a very warm welcome. And now I'll leave you with your tea and biscuit to catch up on all things Candlelighters. Enjoy the read!



The Candlelighters Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 28th September 2022 from 6.00pm - 6.30pm

You are very welcome to attend. We are hoping that this will be a face-to-face meeting, but we will confirm this for definite around a week beforehand. Attendance is strictly RSVP. Please email lucy.fletcher@candlelighters.org.uk by 15th September 2022 or call 0113 887 8333. Copies of the charity's accounts can be sent out before the meeting on request.

Update from the hospital

It's been a busy time on the hospital wards, as our Family Support Workers have been there for our patients and their families with a huge range of support services and, of course, lots of fun!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO ON THE WARDS



We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee! Sophie, one of the patients we support at the hospital, even wrote a very special Jubilee-themed quiz especially for the occasion!

We marked National Toast Day in style when our fabulous Candlelighters dinner lady, Elaine, made fun toast shapes for children staying on the ward!



"The assistance and support given from everyone while in hospital has helped more than we could ever tell. Even just for a quick chat, every little thing made a big difference to us."

Ste, dad to Aspen

GAMES ON THE WARD



We've made sure there was lots of fun and laughter on the wards, with games and activities.

In 2021, we funded **9,945** NHS staff hours – from play leaders and speech therapists, to our wonderful dinner lady and more, to ensure children receive the best possible care during their treatment for cancer.

There were **1,435** admissions to the children's oncology department in 2021, each one receiving support from our team on the wards.

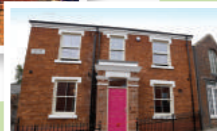
Eckersley House funding

We have awarded £10,000 this year to The Sick Children's Trust for essential running costs of Eckersley House – a home-from-home accommodation opposite the Clarendon Wing at the hospital.

When our own home-from-home accommodation for families, The Cottage, is full, Eckersley House ensures that accommodation is always available for the many families that need to travel some distance to the hospital to receive treatment.



Eckersley House



The Cottage

Candlelighters Pavilion

We are delighted that the Candlelighters Pavilion is back open for families on the ward, after it had to be closed during the pandemic to control the spread of infection.

Sited next to Ward 31 at the hospital, The Pavilion was opened in 2013 as a space for children and families to go to escape the wards and recharge. With a completely different feel from the hospital environment, the Pavilion provides a much-needed breath of fresh air and a place to play and relax.

Over the years, the Pavilion has hosted countless tea parties, birthday celebrations, hairdressing, wellbeing sessions and more for the children and families being treated on the oncology wards. Since The Pavilion reopened in June, the Candlelighters team have already hosted activities for our 2022 Pink It Up Week and a Wimbledon event there, and there's much more to come...

Watch this space!



The Pavilion

The Playrooms

We are over the moon that the playrooms have now reopened on the wards! These rooms provide a vital space for children to get away from their bay/bed to play with toys, socialise, play games, and spend time with other children.

The playrooms are so valuable to our Family Support Workers and the Hospital Play Team (three of whose roles are funded by Candlelighters), so it's so wonderful to see them open again!



The Playroom

For any of our families needing support at any time, please remember we're always available for you. Email thesquare@candlelighters.org.uk or call us for a chat on 0113 887 8333.



September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM). At Candlelighters, along with many other children's cancer charities, we mark CCAM each year to help increase the awareness of childhood cancers, as well as the work we do and the support we offer to families across Yorkshire.

Did you know?

- ★ Around 1,800 children are diagnosed with cancer every year in the UK.
- ★ There are 76 types of children's cancer.
- ★ The most common types of childhood cancers include: leukaemias, brain cancers, lymphomas, and solid tumours, such as neuroblastoma and Wilms tumours.

There has been a huge improvement in childhood cancer survival rates over the last few decades. When Candlelighters was formed in the 1970s, sadly very few children in Yorkshire survived – just 10 per cent. But today, things are different. Research and medicine have advanced so much over the years that now, more than 80 per cent of children survive for five years or more.

Candlelighters' vision is to bring light and hope to every family affected by childhood cancer across Yorkshire. We bring hope to families by funding quality research programmes to improve the care of children with cancer in Yorkshire and beyond. We have funded research dedicated to childhood cancers for the last 40 years and will continue to do so. We want to make sure that every child has the best possible chance of survival, the best possible support throughout, and the best possible quality of life during and after cancer.

How you can get involved

WEAR A GOLD RIBBON

This Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, you can show support for children and their families affected by childhood cancer by wearing a Gold Ribbon Pin Badge – £2 from our online shop. Get yours from www.candlelighters.org.uk/products/merchandise or scan the QR code.



Give a Regular Gift

By giving a regular donation to Candlelighters each month, you will be helping to make a real difference to the lives of children and their families when faced with a cancer diagnosis. No matter what the amount, regular gifts help us to plan for the future and ensure that money is available where and when it is most needed, ensuring the best level of support for children and families, now and long into the future.

OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR...

- £2 PER MONTH** could fund a day trip for a patient or their sibling, ensuring they have some much-needed time to enjoy being children and have fun
- £10 PER MONTH** could pay for a Christmas grant for a family facing childhood cancer, helping make Christmas as special and magical as possible
- £25 PER MONTH** could fund a compassionate grant for a family who sadly lose a child, easing the burden of expenses such as funeral costs



To find out more, visit www.candlelighters.org.uk/givearegulargift or zap this QR code.



Support Candlelighters at your workplace!

We are so lucky at Candlelighters to have incredible support from businesses around Yorkshire, who go above and beyond to raise funds and awareness for children with cancer and their families. We don't receive government funding so this income is absolutely vital to our charity, and it just wouldn't exist without people like you getting their workplace involved!

How could your workplace get involved?

Do a team challenge event!

Why not get together a team at work to take part in a challenge event for Candlelighters? Check out our challenge events calendar and get stuck in! Visit www.candlelighters.org.uk/products/events or scan this QR code.



Colleagues from Mowgli taking on the Total Warrior challenge for Candlelighters!

Join Team 500

Team 500 is a collection of brilliant businesses who have all chosen to donate or fundraise £500 or more over one calendar year for Candlelighters. Whether donated, or fundraising by colleagues (or both!), the donations we receive from our Team 500 members make the most amazing difference in helping us support children with cancer.



Our Partnerships Executive, Iain, with Venatu Recruitment Group – one of our fabulous Team 500 members!

Hold a fundraising event

Do you work with lots of keen bakers? Do your colleagues love a good quiz? Whatever's popular at your workplace, the perfect fundraising event will be out there for you! From bake sales and team quizzes, to charity balls and golf days, why not get everyone together and have some fun while making a difference for families facing childhood cancer?



Colleagues at Intuitive Business Intelligence in Leeds held a pink-themed bake sale to raise money for Candlelighters... Yum!

The next Candlelighters Business Collaboration Event will be held on 2nd November 2022 in Leeds. These inspiring events are an opportunity to learn more about how your business could make a difference by supporting Candlelighters, to share fundraising ideas, and network with other businesses who support us. Register your interest by emailing iain.BH@candlelighters.org.uk

A very special thank you to FluidIT

We're absolutely delighted to be working with the fabulous FluidIT in Leeds on our charity digital transformation! The amazing FluidIT team have brought their expert knowledge of digital technology to help us review our processes and procedures, and ensure we're looking towards a digital future. We're so excited to see what's to come as we continue to become more digital!



Our Corporate Fundraising Pack

is jam-packed with ideas, inspiration and guidance for how your workplace can get started with supporting Candlelighters, and really get the most out of fundraising! Take a look by visiting www.candlelighters.org.uk/at-your-workplace or scanning this QR code.



If you want to find out more about how you could get your workplace involved with Candlelighters, we're here to help! Email corporate@candlelighters.org.uk or call us for a chat on 0113 322 9283.

DONATIONS IN MEMORY

Donations in memory are very precious to us. Whoever your donation remembers, we thank you for your very special way of showing your support
DONATIONS FROM 1ST JANUARY 2022 - 30TH JUNE 2022.

A - G

Abbass £30.00, Adam James Marshall £62.50, Agnes Mossop £20.00, Alex Marsh £31.25, Alistair Hathway £20.00, Allan Dent £625.00, Andrew Froggatt £62.50, Angela Milnes £100.00, Angela Robinson £995.00, Annie Eleanor Pritchard £500.00, Arabella Tilbrook £150.00, Archie Vaughan £1,017.18, Arlo Brown £7,388.10, Aubrey Ward £751.25, Austin Armstrong £50.00, Barbara Booker £962.92, Barbara McAllister £400.76, Belle & Neve Boitelle £312.50, Billy Pilotille £66.41, Blake Holdsworth £353.75, Brett Scott £31.25, Brian Boothroyd £130.00, Brian Carruthers £62.50, Calvin Marshall-Patel £176.25, Carole Stephenson £25.00, Chloe Messenger £304.70, Chris & Chloe Smith £880.50, Chris Chapman £285.53, Chris Loftus & Kevin Speight £223.75, Christine Smith £1,250.00, Conner Firstman £50.00, Daniel Bayes £75.00, Daniel Jackson £147.50, Daniel Lewis Oliver £20.00, Daniel Rigley £955.96, Daniel Stamp £100.00, David Inchbold £327.00, David Wightman Gilpin £758.00, Dennis Bradbrook £200.00, Eirik Kjellstad £18.75, Elliot Firth £12.50, Elliot Robinson £750.00, Ellis Price £30.00, Elsa McGee £1,599.05, Father of Fiona Blezzard £118.75, Finlay Thomas Nuttall £125.00, Finley Bailey £150.00, Freya Grace Lewis £584.00, George Bye £332.50, George Harker £31.25, George Wilson £281.25, Grace Louise Wheeldon £183.75, Graham Hodgkinson £74.10, Guy Metcalfe £395.02.

H - K

Hannah Collins £50.00, Hannah Gibson £62.50, Hannah Zoe Collins £250.00, Harrison Torr £759.18, Harry Buckley £371.25, Harry Platt £453.07, Harry Taylor-Robinson £1,883.75, Harvey Kendrew £50.00, Harvey Lancaster £418.50, Hayley Rachael Blogg £68.75, Henry Balen £62.50, Henry Hamer £75.00, Henry James Pollard £62.50, Hope Rooms £136.25, In memory of everyone who has been impacted by cancer £200.00, Isabelle Ellis £30.00, Jack Gales £150.00, Jaiden Worrall £30.00, James Brook £181.25, Jamie Haigh £12.50, Jane Eyre £390.75, Jane Gilbert £6,256.25, Jane Whittle £150.00, Jean Grant £200.00, Jean Higson £50.00, Jeffrey Fox £125.00, Jessica Weaver £32.23, Joan Badrick £30.00, John Heseltine £327.50, John Starkey £207.64, Joseph Mayman £150.00, Joshua Kinnear £115.00, Joyce Scholes £368.18, Kathleen & Robert Hartley £125.00, Kathleen Adcock £150.00, Kathryn Murphy £150.00, Kathryn Thompson £31.25, Kenneth Chapman £62.50, Kieran Duffy £170.00.

L - Q

Laura Hart £4,800.12, Laura Loftus £15.00, Lauren Young £270.00, Lesley Fisher £526.25, Lewis Lightowler £1,344.00, Liam Griffin £990.00, Louise Mellor £125.00, Lucy Moore £87.50, Lyndsey Wilkinson £187.50, Maci Craddock £5,775.00, Malcolm Clark £12.50, Margery Lynda Stead £200.00, Margery Milnes £40.00, Marine Ross Robinson £494.84, Mark Butterfield £890.54, Matthew Adcock £25.00, Matthew Hodgson £62.50, Maureen Bradbury £318.75, Megan Bell-Walker £187.50, Megan Pratt £310.00, Melanie Laffey £2,849.92, Michael Andrew Norfolk £375.00, Michael Ford £289.00, Millie Wright £4,339.35, Muriel Joyce Coulam £415.00, Nevaeh £125.00, Nick (Nicholas) Gill £106.25, Oliver Field £31.25, Oliver Hurd £900.00, Pat Jennings £172.00, Peter £6.25, Peter Cross £15.00, Peter Harman £50.00, Peter Woodmansey £1,951.25, Phoebe Rose Gibson Wiggles £120.00.

R - Z

Rachel Bennett £12.50, Rebecca Jayne Varney £15.60, Rob Brown £65.31, Robert Beaumont £20.00, Robert Blundell £500.00, Robert Brian Hall £545.00, Rory James Welsh £67.50, Ryan Cottingham £1,154.74, Samantha Tracey £12.50, Sarah Bainbridge £187.50, Sean Ruston £1,783.83, Sebastian Pope £312.50, Sebastian Smith £3,619.83, Shaun Markey £28.80, Sheila Spencer £50.50, Sienna Shield £1,966.25, Skye Sutcliffe £492.83, Stanley Barber £130.00, Stephen Smith £25.00, Stuart Atkinson £25.00, Stuart D Chappell £375.00, Summer Rose Thompson £31.25, Taylor Sheldrake £180.00, Thomas Cammack £31.25, Thomas Hudson £162.50, Tim Kent £1,000.00, Tim Slater £187.50, Toby Nye £250.00, Tom and Emily Smith £10.00, Tony Burton £98.25, Tony Simpson £1,250.00, Trevor Woodhead £150.00, Wayne Middleton £1,171.15, Zack Barrett £234.00, Zoe Taylor £280.00.

day of memories

On Sunday 13th November, Candlelighters will be hosting 'Day of Memories' at Oulton Hall in Rothwell, Leeds. This special day offers families a chance to remember and reflect, and to celebrate the children who have sadly lost their lives to cancer. The day involves a variety of readings, songs and activities. We'll also be serving an afternoon tea. If you would like to attend this special day, or suggest a poem or song to be performed, please email memory@candlelighters.org.uk or call Lucy on 07442 930579.

Candlelighters Family Holidays

When a child is diagnosed with cancer, a holiday can seem like the least of a family's worries. As well as the stress and pressures of looking after a very poorly child, many parents will be forced to give up work, meaning finances can also become strained. Every year, we send around 125 families on a fully-funded holiday. These respite holidays provide some much-needed time together for families, and time away to make precious memories.

We spoke to some families who've recently had a funded holiday

Oliver's Family

"We travelled as a family of four – mum, dad, Oliver (diagnosed with neuroblastoma aged four, but now aged six) and little brother Alfie, aged five, in May 2022. We actually travelled on Alfie's fifth birthday and tied it into a birthday celebration weekend which was a lovely treat. We took the boys' bikes and they enjoyed getting more confident at riding around in the safety of Center Parcs rather than on the roads at home. We also enjoyed swimming, crossbows and building a nature house. The weather was lovely, and we spent all of our time outdoors having fun.

The holiday gave us an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as a family and how strong and healthy Oliver is now. To see him enjoying the activities was a real reminder of just how lucky we are to have him so fit and healthy after going through such cruel treatments in 2020 and 2021. During Oliver's treatment, I had to leave my job to take care of Oliver so money is tight and a trip away to Center Parcs would have been impossible without the help of Candlelighters."

Oliver's mum, Laura



Aspen's Family

"Myself (Ste), Aspen's Mum (Kira), Aspen, and his little brother Zanthi went on holiday during the first week of May 2022, and we stayed at Sherwood Forest. Aspen and I did some Archery, we all hired an electric boat (very much a request of Aspen) and spent some time on the lake. We went swimming every day and spent a lot of time in and around the splash pad areas inside. We also spent some time at the beach and played a rather chaotic round of mini golf! One highlight was being greeted every morning by a gaggle of baby geese. This was on top of one of the adult geese trying to pinch our food from the barbecue!

Overall, we try to spend as much time together as we can as a family – however, the last two years especially have been very difficult. Because Aspen was diagnosed right at the height of the first wave of COVID, it's been a surreal experience, and this was the first real opportunity to be a part of something Candlelighters can offer families like us, and we couldn't be more grateful. The boys still talk about the holiday now and ask when we are going back!"

Aspen's dad, Ste



Mia's Family

"Myself (mum), Jacob (dad), Mia, Ewan (grampy) went on a Candlelighters holiday to Center Parcs over the first May bank holiday weekend in 2022. We ensured that the activities that we did were led by Mia, so she got to ride a horse called Mickey which she absolutely loved – she's also a Disney fan so his name being "Mickey" was the icing on the cake! She also got to drive a green Landrover with Daddy; he was so proud of her and how well she did with the driving. We played mini golf and went bowling, with Mia winning at mini golf!

The accommodation and proximity were fantastic, and the facilities were fantastic. Mummy and Grampy found having a Starbucks on-site was very handy. Mia loved seeing the ducks and geese coming up to the patio windows in the accommodation and absolutely loved the parks and slides, as well as having pancakes for breakfast at the pancake house!

As a family, we had been through so much even prior to Mia's diagnosis. (My mum, Mia's nanna, passed away in January 2020.) For us to be able to come to Center Parcs where we had never been before was such a privilege. It allowed us to escape reality, and be in the moment and feel normal again. The fact we were in the forest felt really healing. Seeing Mia so happy and being able to be worry free and be a child again meant the world to us. We cannot thank Candlelighters enough for this."

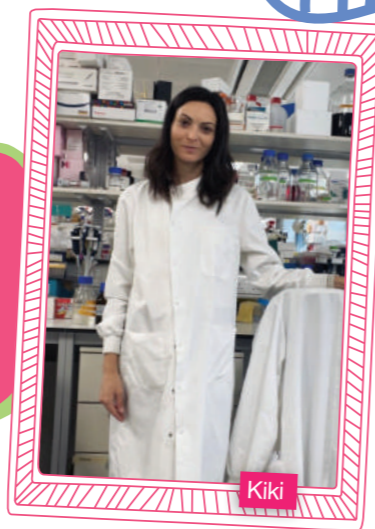
Mia's mum, Naomi



Holidays for families are possible because of donations from people like you. If you'd like to make a donation, you can head to www.candlelighters.org.uk and hit donate at the top right, or call us on 0113 322 9283.



UNDERSTANDING NEUROBLASTOMA



Kiki Karapiperi is in the second year of her PhD, receiving funding from Candlelighters as part of our Fellowship programme. The programme is training a new generation of doctors with specialist expertise in childhood cancers, to bring about advances in scientific research and improve care for children and young people in Yorkshire and beyond. Kiki tells us about her work.

What's the research project you're working on?

I am working on neuroblastoma, a type of cancer that is almost only found in children and develops from the cells left behind from a baby's development in the womb. Neuroblastoma is the commonest tumour found in children outside of the brain. It can be a localised tumour, but often cells can spread from a primary tumour to other parts of the body including lymph nodes, bones and bone marrow.

This capacity for tumour cells to spread from the primary tumour is one of the main obstacles to some children being cured of neuroblastoma as they cause subsequent disease progression and relapse.

What are your aims for the research?

Our research aims to gain a better understanding of the characteristics and behavior of neuroblastoma cells that can spread (metastasise) from the primary tumour to other areas of the body. This understanding may enable the future development of new treatments that can take advantage of particular features of metastasised cells. We will be examining the proteins and genetic features of neuroblastoma cells isolated from the bone marrow and any cells or components of neuroblastoma cells circulating in the bloodstream.

The long-term aims of the study are to provide tools that will help doctors to monitor and select children for more personalised treatment, and develop therapies to eliminate neuroblastoma cells in the bone marrow that are responsible for relapse, with the goal of curing children with bone marrow disease.

Why is this research important?

Bone marrow is the most common site of metastasis in children, both at the time of diagnosis and relapse, and approximately half of children diagnosed will have advanced stage disease, which is associated with poor outcomes.

Despite significant improvements in treatment and outcomes over recent decades there are still a number of children with neuroblastoma who are not cured. Still very little is known about the cells responsible for metastasis and how to eradicate them. In this study we aim to isolate and characterise neuroblastoma cells from the bone marrow to investigate their evolution and their characteristics that might make them resistant to treatment.

How are you undertaking the research?

I am based at St James's Hospital translational lab and working within the Children's Cancer Research Group (CCRG) with Professor Sue Burchill. To be able to perform this research, we use samples from patients with neuroblastoma. I isolate the cancer cells and grow them in the lab, and then use them to study their properties and identify potential new drug targets.

Have you made any findings yet?

Yes. We have found that there are two different types of cancer cells in children with neuroblastoma. These types of cells appear to have very different characteristics. At the moment, I am investigating their role in disease progression and relapse.

What were you doing before your Candlelighters fellowship?

I was a paediatric registrar at Sheffield Children's Hospital. Prior to that I completed an MSc in Molecular Medicine at the University of Sheffield, working on paediatric cancers.

What are your long-term career hopes?

In the long run, I envision myself as a clinical academic, spending time in clinic as well as doing research. I would like to lead my own research group and be involved in early-phase clinical trials, aiming to translate scientific knowledge into clinical practice.



Neuroblastoma affects around 100 children each year in the UK



Neuroblastoma has one of the lowest survival rates of all childhood cancers

Donations from people like you enable vital research such as Kiki's. To support continued research to improve outcomes for children diagnosed with cancer, you can donate online at www.candlelighters.org.uk or by calling 0113 322 9283.



Help to support future generations with a gift in your will.

Did you know that one way in which many of our supporters give to our charity is by leaving us a gift in their will?

Every year, 150 new families in Yorkshire will be told that their child has cancer. For over 45 years, Candlelighters has been there for these families – bringing light and hope at an incredibly difficult time through emotional, practical and financial support. This support is possible because of incredibly kind donations from people like you.

Gifts in wills are essential to our charity's income.

Whatever the amount, by leaving a donation to Candlelighters in your will, you are leaving a lasting legacy. You'll be helping to invest in life-changing cancer research, and supporting future generations of children and families facing childhood cancer.



OUR FREE WILLS SERVICE

Whether you have an existing will or haven't ever made one, there are straightforward ways to leave a gift in your will to Candlelighters – including using our free will service. This is available to you through our fully-accredited partner Bequeathed, and enables you to make a will quickly and easily online, with expert telephone support from accredited legal firms, for free.

bequeathed
make your Will For Good

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

To learn more about how you can support future generations of children in this special way, or for any help relating to leaving a gift in your will to Candlelighters, just get in touch with us by emailing info@candlelighters.org.uk or calling us for a chat on 0113 322 9283.

www.candlelighters.org.uk/donate/legacies



Candlelighters In Your Community



This year, our Community team have loved getting out and about across Yorkshire, bringing Candlelighters to all members of the family in their local areas.

In the first half of this year, we held...

7 local community support groups 4 family fun days
1 support groups 1 sibling residential

Our groups and events were attended by over 190 children, mums, dads and grandparents.

If you're a family member receiving support from Candlelighters now, or have in the past, remember you can come along to any of our support groups or events. Follow our Facebook page for families **Candlelighters at The Square**, or get in touch to find out what we've got coming up – call 0113 887 8333, or email thesquare@candlelighters.org.uk



"Thank you for a lovely time today, Thank you very much Candlelighters."

Grandparent



"The meet-up was great thank you, Ryan was brilliant."

Bereaved dad



Check out the back of this newsletter for this year's family Christmas party!



"When Candlelighters started the Bereaved Mums Group, at first I was a bit unsure if I wanted to attend, but thought, 'what harm can it do?'. Going to this group was the best decision I made. Not only did it put me in touch with other Mums in my situation, I have made some lifelong friends. The group helps me so much, I can just be me; they 'get it'. They understand me, and until you have been through what we have, no one else knows. When I am there, I am no longer the lady whose child died, I am me - this is a feeling I don't get anywhere else."

Bereaved mum



As with all of our services, Candlelighters groups and events are free to families and are an absolutely vital source of support for them. This support will cost £42,000 this year. If you'd like to make a donation to enable children and families to access support such as this, you can make a donation online at www.candlelighters.org.uk or by calling 0113 322 9283.



Community Fundraising Update

We are always completely in awe of our amazing supporters. You go above and beyond to raise money for Candlelighters in so many ways, and it truly means the world to us! This absolutely essential income means that, together, we're able to make such a difference to families across Yorkshire facing childhood cancer. **THANK YOU!**

We're incredibly grateful to Susan Mountain, who has raised an incredible amount for Candlelighters in memory of her daughter, Maci Craddock, who lost her life to an incurable brain tumour (a DIPG) in October 2017, aged 13.

Along with family and friends, Susan has held a number of amazing fundraising events in Maci's memory, including a fabulous Red Carpet Night in March, which featured a raffle, live music and an auction! An amazing £5,760 was raised for Candlelighters at the event – incredible! Thank you so much Team Maci.



Andy Shield and Andy Brentley took on an incredible challenge for Candlelighters in April 2022 when they cycled approximately 450 miles in Thailand in memory of Andy Shield's daughter, Sienna, who sadly lost her life to cancer in 2018 when she was four years old.

Sienna and her family received support from Candlelighters during her treatment, and it means the world to us that Andy chose to support us in this way.

Andy and Andy raised an absolutely amazing £6,002.06 on their adventure, and Sienna's dad, Andy, was even interviewed about the challenge on Look North!



The fabulous Team Bramhope was formed when Tariq Qadeer, owner of the Village Newsagents in Bramhope, West Yorkshire, encouraged his customers and friends in the village to come together for charity.

They have now supported Candlelighters for over ten years, organising different local challenge events to bring people together and raise money for our charity. In April, Team Bramhope organised the Bramhope 10 Mile Run, raising £3,593.75 – taking their overall fundraising total to an incredible £54,000!

And with the Yorkshire Three Peaks on the horizon as their next challenge, Team Bramhope certainly aren't standing still! Amazing work!



One of our charity trustees, Greg, and his wonderful team of six other 'bald buddies' recently raised an amazing £8,112 for Candlelighters when they shaved their heads in support of Greg's daughter, Sophia.

In late 2021, six-year-old Sophia sadly relapsed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, coming as a total shock to the family. As a result, Sophia needed to undergo intense chemotherapy for a second time – meaning she lost her hair again.

"I am sure I speak for most parents in this horrible situation when I say that I wish it was me going through this and not Sophia. But, unfortunately, I can't take it off her, however much I want to. Something I could do to support Sophia was shave my head and go through the hair loss with her. Whilst Sophia had no hair, I vowed not to have any either – we were bald buddies together!"

Greg



AN INCREDIBLE LEGACY

We have received an absolutely incredible gift of £900,000 in total from the late Bradford philanthropist Joyce Mary Mountain.

Mrs Mountain passed away 16 years ago, and has left an amazing legacy of kindness and generosity by leaving gifts to charities close to her heart.



"The whole Candlelighters family is extremely grateful for the incredibly generous gift from the late Joyce Mary Mountain. This wonderful donation provided a huge boost to Candlelighters during challenging times following the pandemic. It has helped enable Candlelighters to expand and improve our services, ensuring we continue to meet the needs of the children and families we support. The impact of Joyce Mary Mountain's gift will leave a lasting legacy for children and families affected by childhood cancer long into the future."

Tom Robertshaw, Head of Fundraising at Candlelighters

Could you volunteer for Candlelighters?

We simply couldn't do what we do without the kind support of our volunteers.

In the first half of 2022, **84 volunteers** carried out an incredible total of **1,336 hours** of volunteering for Candlelighters. Amazing!

From cheering or marshalling at challenge events, to donating your skills (such as photography or gardening), there are so many ways you can volunteer for us and help us make a difference to children living with cancer.

If you're interested in volunteering for us, we'd absolutely love to hear from you! Get in touch by emailing volunteering@candlelighters.org.uk Find out more about volunteering for Candlelighters by scanning this QR code!



CANDLELIGHTERS FUNDRAISING GROUPS

Ilkley Candlelighters

The Ilkley Candlelighters committee formed over 35 years ago to help fund Candlelighters research, and in that time have raised over £1 million! This fantastic amount has been achieved through their famous ball at Ridding Park, alongside many other wonderful fundraising activities across Ilkley. Ilkley Candlelighters are looking to recruit new committee members. If you're interested in joining, please email info@ilkleycandlelighters.org.uk



Harrogate Candlelighters

Harrogate Candlelighters invite you to experience their 'Narnia' Ball on Saturday 26th November 2022. The Pavilions of Harrogate will be transformed into a beautiful winter scene, where you will enjoy delicious food, great company and enjoyable entertainment – all whilst raising vital funds for Candlelighters. Tickets are £85 per head. Please email rebecca.donnelly@hatmill.co.uk



Candlelighters would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing Fundraising Groups for their continued support of children and families affected by childhood cancer across Yorkshire.

Feeling inspired? Download our Fundraising Pack now to start planning your own fundraising activities!



Outreach Play Specialists

Candlelighters have funded Outreach Play Specialist Tracy since 2016. Following the success of her role, we funded a second play specialist, Rachel, from 2022. Read on to find out about these incredibly important roles.

For children at hospital, the in-hospital Play Specialists are there to provide vital support to the child and their whole family. They use therapeutic play as a specialist tool at the hospital to help children with so many aspects of their diagnosis and treatment – including coping with anxiety, understanding their diagnosis and preparing for procedures.

We know how important it is that families can access support wherever they need it, whether at the hospital or at home.

Our Outreach Play Specialists take this vital therapeutic play support beyond the hospital environment, by working with families who need additional help, in their own homes. They provide a valuable link between home and the hospital, working closely with the Hospital Play Team to ensure that no family misses out on this incredibly important support.

Many of the children our Outreach Play Specialists work with are on-treatment patients who are struggling with some aspect of their treatment. These children need extra support away from the hospital within their own home, where they often feel safe, in control and less anxious.

Tracy and Rachel support these families with whatever they need help with at that particular time in their journey. They might do fun activities to help work through anxieties, or provide a much-needed opportunity for all members of the family to talk about anything else they are finding difficult.

"Working with children, young people and their families at what is often a difficult time for them is a real privilege. It's an honour to be invited into their homes and play a part in their journey and is something that I will never take for granted. I love being able to put a smile on someone's face and like the fact that every day in this role is different."



Rachel Robinson, Oncology Outreach Play Specialist

Our Outreach Play Specialists also work with palliative children and their families. When a child is sadly receiving palliative care, they often don't need to return to the hospital, so Tracy and Rachel ensure that the family don't miss out on vital play support by delivering this at home.

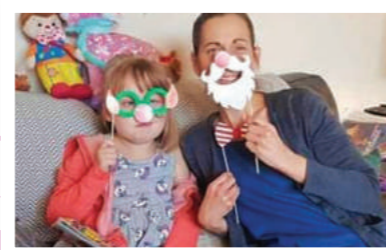


Tracy

If a child sadly loses their life to cancer, Tracy and Rachel are there for the whole family, helping them through this incredibly difficult journey. Supporting the families with special memory-making keepsakes is an important part of their role, and they work closely with the Candlelighters Community Support Workers to ensure families get the best possible support at this very difficult time.

They help support bereaved siblings, providing emotional support and a chance to talk, and they bring this support to our Community Events for bereaved siblings, parents and grandparents.

They can also offer support to the family's community by visiting the child's school and class friends to help them understand what has happened and give them a chance to explore their feelings. Support can be provided to the school staff, too.



"We consider ourselves extremely privileged and honoured to work within this role, with so many beautiful children and families. I couldn't imagine wanting to do anything else. Yes, it is difficult and extremely sad at times, but we hold on to the fact that we're able to make a positive difference to families at the most unimaginably difficult time – if not now, in the future. It's thanks to the funding from Candlelighters that we can offer this service to our families."

Tracy West, Oncology Outreach Play Specialist

"Having Tracy support my children really means the world to us. She has been there for us as a family since my daughter's diagnosis right up to where we are now – trying to find our feet after losing our daughter and their sister. She brings joy and fun and is an amazing source of support to listen to my children if they want to discuss anything about their sister and her illness. She brings positivity with every visit, after going through the worst possible loss, which we will always be grateful for."

Bereaved Mum

To support the incredible work that our Outreach Play Specialists do, head to <https://candlelighters.enthusie.com/donate> or zap the QR code to give a donation now.



Creating special memories for a family, which will be treasured for years to come, is a very special part of our Outreach Play Specialists' roles – giving families precious time together with their child and their siblings.

Tracy and Rachel recently worked closely with our Community Support Workers to create a very special memory for a family as part of our exciting 'I Shine' project, which gives some patients we support the opportunity to do something extraordinary. This could be anything at all – the choice is completely theirs, and we will do our absolute best to facilitate whatever they want to do!



When asked by our Outreach Play Specialists what she would like to do, Isla chose to learn African drumming. Isla's school music teacher, Helen, taught African drumming at Isla's school, so Tracy and Rachel arranged for Helen to run some sessions where Isla could develop her skills and learn a new routine.



After six one-hour sessions after school at our Family Support Centre, The Square, they had one final practice on a Saturday before Isla's final performance!

The 'Isla's Got Talent' final performance took place in May at The Square – which was filled with decorations especially for the occasion, including a beautiful balloon arch! Isla invited her friends and family along to watch, and she and Helen played lots of different percussion instruments in a fantastic routine, which included lots of audience participation!

The entire experience was recorded as a beautiful keepsake for Isla's family.



"It was amazing to see Isla perform in front of all our family and friends, it was such a special evening. We felt so proud seeing Isla at the front, and seeing the beaming smile on her face."

We would like to say a huge thank you to Candlelighters for making the evening possible, and Tracy and Rachel from the Outreach Play Team, Dr Picton and Nurse Rachel from Clinic for attending! Mrs Attack for the lessons and support with Isla, and for making her feel so comfortable."

Love Isla's mum Rachel, dad Matthew and brother Max xxx

We're so excited about bringing other children's dreams to life through this wonderful project.



Candlelighters Development Board

"I love being a member of the Candlelighters Development Board, and for so many reasons. Number one has got to be that whatever contribution I can bring, means there is help going to a family and their child at a difficult time."

I feel so lucky in my life that it's a no-brainer to give something back, in any way I can."

Suzanne Clarke – Executive Recruiter & Coach



NEWLAY
READYMIX LIMITED



We currently have four Club Candlelighters members. In May this year, Newlay Readymix, who joined originally as a Guardian, have upgraded their membership to a Rocket, doubling their commitment to now give or raise £10,000 each year. We want to say a huge thank you to Newlay Readymix and the rest of the Club Candlelighters members – your long-term commitment gives us the confidence and ability to make significant improvements for families now and in the future.

"I am really pleased that we have been able to change from a Guardian to a Rocket supporter. The work Candlelighters dedicate themselves to and the support they give to families that need it the most is amazing. I'm excited to see what the future has in store for this amazing charity."

Claire Beaumont, Director – Newlay Readymix



If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about Club Candlelighters, the Development Board, or other ways you can give your time or expertise to support Candlelighters, please email us at info@candlelighters.org.uk or call us on 0113 322 9283.

**All our cards
come in packs
of 10 for
£4.50**

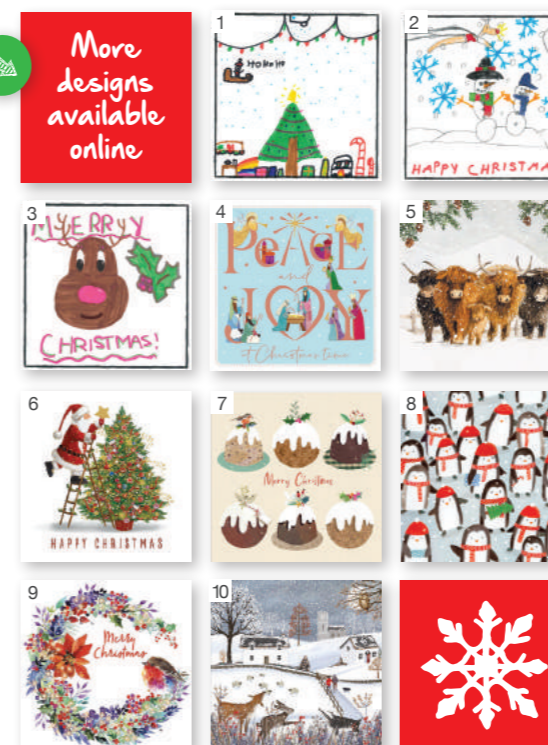
Which cards will you pick?

No	Description	Qty	Price	Total
1	Neave's Tree		£4.50	
2	Lacey's Snowmen		£4.50	
3	Mia's Reindeer		£4.50	
4	Peace and Joy		£4.50	
5	Highland Cow Herd		£4.50	
6	Santa Dressing the Tree		£4.50	
7	Christmas Puds		£4.50	
8	Penguin Party		£4.50	
9	Robin and Wreath		£4.50	
10	Winter Scene		£4.50	
Sub-total				
Postage				
Optional Donation				
TOTAL				

Candlelighters
8 Woodhouse Square, Leeds, LS3 1AD

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More designs available online



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I am a tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

☐ Please debit my total order sum from my debit/credit card

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro

Card Number



Maestro

Card Number

[illegible]

Expiry Date

Security code

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www.candlelighters.org.uk/shop



Join us at the...

CANDLELIGHTERS CHRISTMAS PARTY!

We're so excited to announce that our 2022 Christmas Party will take place on Sunday 4th December at Cedar Court in Bradford.



We'd love to see you for some fabulously festive fun! If you'd like to join us, please RSVP by 4th November 2022 by returning the form below to us at The Square, or by post. You can also email your RSVP to community@candlelighters.org.uk

Our Candlelighters Christmas Party is for all families affected by childhood cancer – whether they are currently on treatment, post treatment, or sadly bereaved.

PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS FOR PATIENTS, SIBLINGS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY. PLACES ARE LIMITED DUE TO CAPACITY AT THE VENUE.



Register your interest here!

Patient's name	Date of birth	Child's favourite character
Sibling name	Date of birth	Child's favourite character
Sibling name	Date of birth	Child's favourite character
Sibling name	Date of birth	Child's favourite character
Sibling name	Date of birth	Child's favourite character
Sibling name	Date of birth	Child's favourite character
Adult's name		
Adult's name		
Email		
Telephone No.		



Please return to Candlelighters, 8 Woodhouse Square, Leeds, LS3 1AD