

The Candlelighter

Supporting the families of children with cancer

50
YEARS
Candlelighters

Autumn/Winter 2026



50 years of support, light and hope

Celebrating the families, supporters and friends
that have been part of our journey.

Issue 88

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. **Inside the Candlelighters Supportive Care Research Centre.** Big Give Christmas Challenge is back bigger and better for 2026!

Candlelighters

Supporting the families of children with cancer

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The Big Give: Double your donation this Christmas!

We're excited to share that the Big Give Christmas Challenge is back, and once again you'll be able to double your donations for children with cancer.

Last year, you raised an incredible £80,000, helping us to deliver vital support to children and families in hospital.

This year, **we're once again calling on your brilliant support** to help raise £100,000 and help fund emotional, practical and financial support for children, young people, and their families all year round.

The campaign runs for just seven days, between **1st and 8th December**. So, save the date and follow us closely for updates on how you can take part and help reach our target!



Candlelighters AGM

The Candlelighters Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th October 2026, from 6pm at The Square. You are welcome to join us either in person or online via Microsoft Teams.

Attendance is RSVP only.

Please email lucy.fletcher@candlelighters.org.uk or call 0113 887 8333 by 21st September.

Hello

Welcome to our Autumn/Winter 2026 Newsletter

The past few months have been filled with memorable moments as we continue to celebrate Candlelighters' 50th anniversary. It's been a wonderful opportunity to reflect on this milestone and to recognise the incredible people who have helped shape the charity.

While we celebrate our past, we're also looking ahead, and I'm delighted to share the start of an exciting renovation of The Square, our family support centre. Since opening in 2015, The Square has been a safe, welcoming space where families can access support, take a breather, and spend time with people who understand.

The renovation will ensure The Square continues to meet families' needs, with dedicated workspaces and rooms for talking therapy, to gaming areas for children and young people, and plenty of places to grab a drink and chat.

The biggest of thanks must go to the Kentown Wizard Foundation and HSBC for funding the project, and also to Decoright, who are generously carrying out the building work free of charge. We can't wait to share updates with you as work progresses!

In this edition, you'll see how we've been celebrating our 50th year and hear inspiring stories from some of the people who have supported Candlelighters over the years, including fundraisers taking on a 50-themed challenge as part of our **Challenge 50 campaign**.

We'll also hear from Rohan's family as they share their story for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and bring you an update from the world-leading Candlelighters Supportive Care Research Centre.

Thank you for being part of our Candlelighters community; we're incredibly proud to be celebrating 50 years with you. Enjoy the read, and we hope you'll join us for the next chapter too.

With heartfelt thanks,

Emily

Candlelighters
CEO



Thanks to you

Your generous support enables our team to be there to make the everyday of living with cancer a little more bearable. Here's an update from our Family Support Team with how you've helped us do that recently...

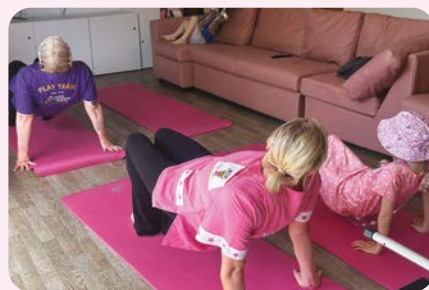
Sibling Residential Fun

Our super sibs headed off on our annual residential to York in June and had so much fun! From t-shirt decorating to archery (and of course the return of the Candlelighters talent show) the weekend was filled with lots of smiles and laughter. If you'd like to sign up for updates and invites for future family events, from sibling residential to parent groups, [click here](#) to find out more.



Keeping moving on the ward

Our Family Support Team have been encouraging gentle movement for children and families navigating a cancer diagnoses and long hospital stays with weekly yoga sessions in the Pavilion. Parents staying on the wards can also access a gym pass, just a 5-minute walk away from the hospital, allowing them the opportunity to exercise and care for their wellbeing.



Supporting our young people

Our Youth Support Worker, Chelsey, has been working with another charity, Teens Unite, who bring teenage and young adult patients together through peer support groups. Chelsey supported a patient to attend the group and build confidence to share their journey with other young people who can relate to their experiences.



Hospital décor refresh

We're delighted to celebrate the new décor across Leeds Children's Hospital. With the generous support of trusts and foundations we've refreshed areas in Radiotherapy, Ward 31, Ward 32 and the Day Unit to create a warmer and more welcoming environment for children and families receiving treatment.



Talking therapy services

Rowen, our trainee therapist, has joined the team alongside our Family Wellbeing Practitioner, Ryan and is now offering talking therapy appointments for ages 16+. This service creates more supportive and safe spaces for families to navigate their childhood cancer journey.



Champ's Pantry and The Albie Sugden Foundation

Champ's Pantry has become a huge source of support for families since it began in 2024. During long hospital stays with children, getting healthy food can become expensive, time-consuming and one more thing parents shouldn't have to worry about.

Through Champ's Pantry, we're able to provide families with free, tasty and nutritious meals, now delivered directly to the hospital from The Square, so parents can stay by their child's side. From the 9th September 2025 to 31st December 2025, Champ's Pantry provided

638 meals to over 105 family members, a snapshot of its huge impact in just over three months.

This vital service is generously supported by The Albie Sugden Foundation, founded in loving memory of Albie, who was diagnosed with a rare, aggressive brain tumour at just 22 months old. Albie's parents, Jane and Luke, established the Foundation to continue Albie's legacy and support children living with cancer, and their support is helping us to continue to provide this vital service to families.



Celebrating 50 years



Throughout this year, we've been celebrating the huge milestone of **50 years of support** for children and families affected by childhood cancer. From little moments each day to big celebrations, it's been incredibly special to share this anniversary with all of you. Here's what we've been up to...



Trustee tea party

In May, we were delighted to welcome Trustees, past and present, to The Square for a 50th birthday tea party!

It was a special afternoon spent reconnecting, sharing stories, and reflecting on the progress they have helped to shape here at Candlelighters, as well as the lasting difference they have made to so many families.

Over the last five decades, our Trustees have passionately led the charity and overseen incredible

developments to improve the experiences of children and families, giving their time to help make a difference.

Across our Board, each Trustee brings a different perspective and experience to help guide the charity, whether through lived experience, medical knowledge or professional expertise.

To have so many people together who have helped shape Candlelighters over the years and continue to do so today was a truly

special day and a reminder of the community Candlelighters has built.

We're incredibly grateful to all of our Trustees, past and present, and to everyone who's played a role in shaping our story. Their ongoing commitment continues to help us provide the best possible care and support to families, today and into the future.



Do you know where it all began?

Our new 50th anniversary webpage takes you on a journey through Candlelighters' history, from our beginning in 1976 through to where we are today.

Discover how we've grown over the past 50 years and how, thanks to your incredible support, we've been able to develop our support services for children with cancer and their families.

To explore our history in more detail, visit our 50th anniversary webpage [here](#).



Diggerland celebrations!

In June, we invited families to join us for a very special day of celebrations at Diggerland as part of our 50th anniversary year. It was a fantastic occasion, with **124 families** coming along to enjoy Diggerland's attractions, catch up with one another and celebrate everything Candlelighters has achieved over the last five decades.



Days like these give families the chance to make treasured memories and spend quality time together, and seeing all those smiling faces, is exactly the kind of magic and fun Candlelighters events are about.



We are incredibly proud to have been supporting children and young people with cancer and their families for the last 50 years. Families are at the heart of everything we do, so welcoming so many families we've supported over the years and sharing this celebration with everyone made it all the more special.

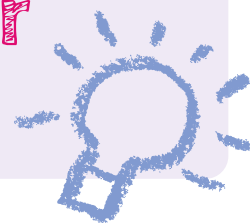
The day at Diggerland was not only a chance to look back at everything we've achieved together, but also to look ahead. Thanks to the generosity of our incredible supporters, we can create special moments like these while providing vital emotional, practical and financial support to families across Yorkshire.

**Show your support and celebrate
50 years of Candlelighters with our
50th anniversary badges!**

Every badge helps to support the future of childhood cancer care in Yorkshire and beyond. Get your special edition 50th anniversary badge [here](#).



Candlelighters Supportive Care Research Centre: Making cancer care kinder for children



While survival rates for childhood cancer have improved dramatically, treatment itself can have a devastating impact on children and families. One in three children who die with cancer die from treatment-related side effects rather than the cancer itself, while many survivors live with long-term physical and emotional consequences.

Launched in 2023, the Candlelighters Supportive Care Research Centre (CSCRC) is the world's first research centre dedicated to improving supportive care for children and young people with cancer. Its goal is simple but vital: to make treatment safer, care kinder, and experiences easier to live through.

In just two and a half years, the centre has already made a significant impact. Researchers have helped shape international guidelines, secured major additional funding and influenced clinical practice in the UK and beyond. Key achievements include developing new approaches to managing serious infections, helping identify children who can safely spend

less time in hospital, and contributing to the world's largest study investigating whether preventative antibiotics can reduce infections during leukaemia treatment.

The Centre also helped secure funding to expand ambulatory chemotherapy services, allowing some children to receive treatment at home rather than in hospital. Other projects are improving care for side effects such as mucositis and nausea, while new nutrition guidance is helping children enjoy a wider range of foods during treatment.

Looking ahead, the CSCRC will focus on reducing hospital stays, expanding home-based care, improving psychological support for young people and ensuring research findings are embedded into clinical practice. By prioritising quality of life alongside survival, the centre is transforming the experience of childhood cancer treatment for children and families now and in the future.

You can find out more about the work being done at the Candlelighters Supportive Care Research Centre in our new video series, 'Inside Supportive Care'.

[Visit our website](#) to watch and learn how the Centre is making a difference.



Change a child's future with your legacy

Leaving a gift in your will to Candlelighters means you can shape the future for children and young people diagnosed with cancer. It's one of the most profound and lasting ways you can make a difference.

Gifts in wills will ensure vital research such as the Candlelighters Supportive Care Research Centre continues to

improve lives for children with cancer, and that families can receive the dedicated emotional, practical and financial support they need when their child is diagnosed with cancer.

We know that your family and loved ones will always come first in your will. But if you're able to leave a gift of any size to Candlelighters, we can assure you

it will be used to support Yorkshire families in their moment of need.

It's simple to do – either make or amend an existing will including a gift to Candlelighters, or you can use our free will service.

To find out more, visit our website [here](#), or get in touch to speak to one of the team at info@candlelighters.org.uk or by calling **0113 877 8333**.

Donations in memory

From January 2026 to June 2026



Donations in memory are so precious. Whoever your donation remembers, we thank you for this very special way of showing your support.

Abbass.....	£30.00
Alfie Musgrave	£150.00
Ann Hopkin	£168.50
Anne Hobson	£215.00
Anne Wilson	£3,000.00
Archie Vaughan	£2,500.00
Belle Boitelle	£210.00
Belle Ellis.....	£595.00
Betty Priestley	£211.50
Billy Pilotille.....	£94.13
Cayde Boon.....	£223.75
Chris & Chloe Smith.....	£1,321.56
Chris Loftus & Kevin Speight.....	£712.50
Daisy Morton.....	£6,268.55
Daniel Bayes	£493.38
Daniel Davies-Riand	£131.25
Daniel Gilbertson	£100.00
Daniel Jackson.....	£75.00
Daniel Roberts	£2,246.26
David Coopland	£36,000.00
Denise Tetley	£78.50
Diane Mary Massey	£161.00
Dorothy Bradburn	£43.84
Dorothy Lancaster	£211.13
Dorothy Todd	£91.25
Eirik Kjellstad	£15.00
Ella Crann.....	£39.38
Ella Halliday	£75.00
Ella Lynch.....	£27,963.81
Ellerie Carroll.....	£963.68
Elsie Jane Walker.....	£4,598.90
Ezra Robyn Trevor.....	£52.50
Faheem Hussain	£553.49
Finley Bailey	£125.00
Fiona Harrison.....	£352.50
Freya Grace Lewis	£31.50
Gabrielle Alderson	£354.50
Gary Hancock	£818.25
George Harker	£37.50
Gladys Hastie.....	£230.00
Grace Wheeldon	£20.00
Guy Metcalfe.....	£100.17
Hannah Mary Moyser.....	£420.00
Harrison Hartley	£311.12
Harry Buckley	£240.00
Harry Flatt	£1,842.50
Harry Taylor-Robinson	£1,842.50
Harvey Kendrew	£50.00
Heather Massey	£240.00

Helen Frampton	£120.00
Holly Price.....	£100.00
Isla Greenwood	£195.00
Jack Gales	£150.00
Jack Johnson.....	£5,402.50
Jack Naylor.....	£211.25
Jack Wilson.....	£262.50
Jake Michael Peel.....	£2,957.35
James Brook.....	£37.50
Jenna Dixon	£100.00
Joan Cornell.....	£200.00
Joan Rice.....	£105.00
Joan Scott.....	£10.00
Joseph Hird.....	£44.20
Joseph Mayman	£443.62
Joseph Swales.....	£600.00
Josh Lidmila & Henry Balen.....	£65.63
Josh Rutowski	£210.00
Joshua Kinnear	£37.50
Joyce Thrush	£490.00
Karen Patterson	£77.75
Karen Wood	£16.80
Kathleen Adcock.....	£150.00
Kathryn Murphy	£25.00
Kenneth Chapman	£20.00
Kenneth Mangham	£160.41
Kim Reeve.....	£21.00
Kirsty Bracken.....	£267.75
Laura Hart	£75.00
Laura Loftus	£15.00
Laura Roebuck.....	£176.25
Lauren Kisby	£1,604.58
Lauren Young	£270.00
Laurence Robinson.....	£6,432.00
Leila Siraj	£75.00
Lewis Lightowler.....	£50.00
Lilly Holmes.....	£269.75
Lorraine Wilkinson	£321.58
Louise Surugue Mcquillan	£14.70
Lucy Moore	£185.00
Lynn Frampton.....	£120.00
Maci Craddock	£26.25
Mark Shepherd	£726.56
Martin Wilks	£112.50
Mathew Bower.....	£865.00
Maureen Fishwick.....	£65.63
Megan Bell-Walker.....	£125.00
Melanie Laffey.....	£110.00
Michael Atteridge.....	£196.50

Molly Burkitt.....	£300.00
Mrs Jean Gillett.....	£31.25
Neve Boitelle.....	£210.00
Nicola Marie Berry	£37.50
Octavia Cook	£1,617.17
Olivia Arnold.....	£500.00
Olivia Crook	£225.00
Paris Somma	£65.12
Patricia Norman	£112.85
Patricia Smith.....	£500.00
Paul Hart	£185.00
Peter Brook.....	£135.00
Phoebe Laycock	£274.06
Rebecca Varney.....	£18.78
Rhian Barber	£187.50
Richard Newhouse.....	£812.00
Rita Cuthbert.....	£40.69
Robert (Bob) Taylor	£252.50
Robert Blundell	£10.00
Robin Atkins.....	£351.91
Rory James Welsh	£1,905.75
Rosie Glew.....	£531.25
Runa Nandi	£250.00
Sandra Darnbrough	£303.00
Sarah Louise Potter	£39.38
Saxon Morrison.....	£1,000.00
Sebastian Smith.....	£21.00
Shaun David Markey.....	£853.79
Sienna Shield	£75.00
Skye Louise Sutcliffe	£228.51
Stephen Goodrum	£1,315.25
Stephen Hnatkiwskyj	£1,215.30
Stephen Wooller.....	£135.00
Steve A Curzon	£5,000.00
Summer Rose Thompson	£195.00
Susan Strain.....	£519.89
Sylvia Lund	£100.00
Tan Butters.....	£31.50
Taylor Sheldrake	£430.00
Thomas Hudson	£712.50
Timothy Lloyd Wray	£22.00
Tony Sutton.....	£16.80
Tracy Dayman	£100.00
Wayne Owens	£364.48
William Clark	£516.71
Willow Merrymoon	£31.50
Zoe Kilby.....	£420.00

Day of Memories



In Spring 2027, we'll be holding Day of Memories, a special afternoon for families to remember, reflect, and celebrate the lives of children who

have sadly died from cancer. With poems, candle lighting, and shared moments, it's a day for the whole family to honour their loved one. Keep an eye out for more details about Day of Memories in our next newsletter.





Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and an important time for many people around the world.

While we raise awareness all year round, in September, we join the international community in shining a light on the impacts of childhood cancer on families.

Did you know?

Around 1,900 children (0-14) and 2,300 young people (15-24) are diagnosed with cancer each year in the UK

Unlike cancer in adults, most childhood cancers do not have a known cause

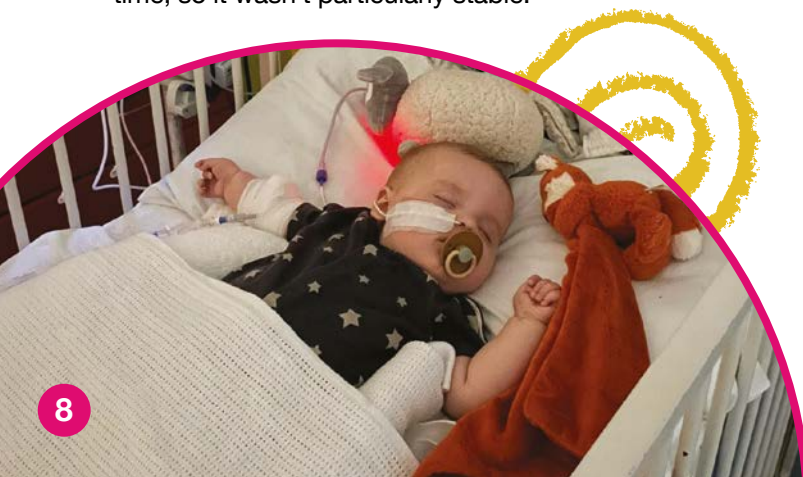
Leeds Children's Hospital is the biggest childhood cancer centre in the North East of England

Rohan's story

Three-year-old Rohan lives near Wakefield with mum Penny, dad Warren, and older brother Elliott. In 2023, aged 5 months old, Rohan was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia after Penny noticed small lumps, like insect bites, on his head. After visiting Pinderfields Hospital for a blood test, a doctor called the family in the early hours of the morning, and they were sent straight to Leeds Children's Hospital.

Life changed overnight and Rohan and Penny spent most of the next 6 months in hospital. Penny has shared what their journey has been like since that day...

"From not being poorly at all, he got very ill, very quickly. They started his chemo four days after we first went in. He had an emergency PICC line fitted (a tube inserted into a vein in the upper arm) because he wasn't able to get in for surgery for a central line. They ran his first lot of chemo through the PICC line which was difficult as well because, being a baby, he was moving his arms all the time, so it wasn't particularly stable.



Rohan was the youngest on the ward for quite a while, and then some other babies came in, so we were kept together. It made sense, but it could be carnage because they'd be sleeping and waking at different times and disturbing each other. As a parent, you're getting broken sleep on a camp bed and dealing with the exhaustion that comes along with that too. Even moving around was hard because he'd need a push chair or a sling, but he had a drip stand and all these wires, so it took a lot of figuring out. The day-to-day of living on the ward with a baby is so difficult.



I didn't work for a long time after coming home because I'm self-employed, and I didn't want to start everything up to have to stop again and let people down. That's also a really strange situation to be in, because not working felt like a loss of identity.



the journey of dealing with childhood cancer. Even the people closest to you who love you can't truly understand like other people who have been on the same journey. They're the only ones who can really know what it feels like and what you go through."

Life in hospital is exhausting. Even down to the cleaning regimes; they have to be done to keep things safe and reduce infection, but every single day, your whole life gets uplifted and moved and you have to leave that space. It doesn't matter how hard the night's been or how unpleasant the day is ahead - the uplift happens, and you have to find somewhere else to be.

After we came out of hospital, it took me a long time to settle back in at home because it was so quiet. I'm not sure whether I had post-traumatic stress disorder, but I really did struggle. It was like I was detached from normal life, while also living with the fear of going back. I heard the beeping for weeks, and I'd wake up in the night thinking I could hear it. I think I coped worse in those few months after leaving than I did the entire time we were in hospital.

It took me probably the best part of a year, with speaking to people and medication, to get back to a point where I felt on the way to being my old self. I needed to process what it was like to live now with this thing over my shoulder. Especially in the first six months, I would say it felt like living on borrowed time, which was a troubling mindset to have to live with.

If you met him now, you'd have no idea he was ever ill. I was expecting him to be physically or even emotionally behind because of everything that happened during those key developmental stages, but we haven't had that experience at all. He's physically thriving, so active and capable. He speaks with a thick Yorkshire accent, and he's been riding a bike since he was two.

There's nothing I or anybody could say that could prepare anybody for



How you can show your support during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month:

Share educational information and the signs and symptoms of childhood cancers.

Find out more [here](#).

Wear our gold ribbon badge

[Buy online now!](#)

Donate [here](#) to ensure families can get the support they need



Challenge — 50 — with Candlelighters



Half a century ago, Candlelighters began with a small group of parents and clinicians. The next chapter can only begin with you...

Since 1976, childhood cancer care has changed beyond recognition, and supporters like you have helped to bring better facilities, specialist support and ensured that children with cancer and their families are met with comfort and care - today and always.

In 2026, that support remains as vital as ever. Families face different challenges, but Candlelighters is still by their side.

Now it's your turn: join in with Challenge 50 and help be part of what comes next. Take on a 50-themed fundraising challenge, help raise vital funds for Candlelighters and together we can shape the future of childhood cancer care.

Make the challenge your own, just make it 50! If you need some inspiration to get you started, hear from some of our fantastic fundraisers about why they got involved...

Meet Andy...

Andy is a keen ultra runner and Candlelighters is a cause close to heart, after he was diagnosed with leukaemia at three and half years old. This year, he's taking on a series of 50-mile running events to mark the anniversary.

"Candlelighters was there for us when we needed it most, providing gifts, support, and even a short, funded holiday during an incredibly difficult period. Fast forward 39 years and I'm now 42, healthy and preparing to take on my third ultramarathon," Andy says.

"This charity means a huge amount to me. I know first-hand the difference they make to families facing childhood cancer, just like mine once did. That's what drives me through the toughest moments in training and racing."



Tom's story...

In the summer, Tom cycled 50km every day for 50 days, to celebrate Candlelighters 50th year. For Tom, taking on Challenge 50 is a way to support Candlelighters after his son, Finn, and family were supported by us.

Tom says: "I have been wanting to do something to help Candlelighters since they were there to help when my little boy Finn was admitted to Leeds General Infirmary in August 2024 and spent months in hospital. In that time, his mum, Dee, was with him whilst I worked. There were days when the

only non-medical adults that she would see were the Candlelighters staff.

When Finn began chemotherapy over Christmas, we were given a room in the Candlelighters Cottage. This gave Dee and I a space to sleep, shower and eat, so we were fit to focus on Finn's needs. Until I experienced it first-hand, I hadn't realised how little support there is for parents and families without the likes of Candlelighters."



Natalie's fundraiser...

Our very own Head of Family Support, Natalie, is also marking our 50th anniversary in style by taking on the 50-mile ultramarathon, 'Lakes in a Day', running to one end of the Lake District and back.

"It had to be something that was challenging, and I couldn't pass by the opportunity to fundraise and recognise Candlelighters being 50!" Natalie says. "Candlelighters means a lot to me and my family and being able to work here and seeing the impact we have on families daily, makes this fundraiser so special."

Natalie will conquer 4,000 metres of elevation and tough mountain terrain, all to celebrate the last 50 years of care and support Candlelighters has provided to families, and to ensure that we can continue to be there for years to come.

"I know that no matter what a 50-mile run brings, it doesn't compare to what our families face, and that is what will get me through."



Julie's challenge...

Our fantastic Trustee, Julie, is also taking on a 50km walking challenge this Autumn with colleagues from the NHS and Candlelighters, a challenge that means a great deal to her personally and as a Trustee.

"Our journey will begin at Seacroft Hospital, where Candlelighters was founded 50 years ago by families determined no child should face cancer alone. From there, we'll walk to places that have become part of so many families' cancer journeys, including St James' University Hospital, Leeds General Infirmary and concluding at The Square, Candlelighters' dedicated Family Support Centre," Julie says.

"Each location represents an important chapter in Candlelighters' 50-year history and reflects how

the charity has evolved alongside the development of children's cancer services in Leeds and across the UK. For half a century, Candlelighters has stood beside children with cancer and their families throughout Yorkshire, funding better care, advancing research and providing a vital network of support when it is needed most.

For 50 years, Candlelighters has been there - providing practical help, emotional support, financial assistance and a reassuring hand to hold when families need it most."



Feeling inspired? [Find out more](#) and take on your own Challenge 50 today.

From running 50km to baking 50 cakes, your challenge can be serious or silly, big or small.

Every 50 counts!



For the last five decades, children with cancer and their families have been met with comfort, hope and support because of our incredible supporters. The longstanding support of our community is what Candlelighters is built on, and we're incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped us to support families across Yorkshire over the last 50 years.



Branch fundraising

1976 - present

In the early days, following Candlelighters formation, much of the charity's fundraising success was driven by an incredible network of local Candlelighters Branches across Yorkshire. At their peak, over 30 branches helped raise vital funds to support children and families affected by childhood cancer. Among those outstanding contributions, were Ilkley Candlelighters, whose annual charity dinners raised more than **£1.5 million**, and Harrogate Candlelighters, whose events generated over **£1 million**. York and Knaresborough Candlelighters also made a huge impact through years of community fundraising and unwavering support. Every branch, volunteer and supporter helped shape Candlelighters' history which continues to benefit families across Yorkshire today.

Danny Freeman



1980s - 2000s

After retiring in 1980, Danny used his vocal talents to fundraise for charities including Candlelighters, performing in pubs, clubs and on the streets of Leeds. His fantastic fundraising helped refurbish Ward 10 at St James' Hospital, improving facilities for children, young people and their families. But he didn't stop there and raised funds to establish a Candlelighters Scholarship Fund, which supported the training of young Doctors and cancer researchers. Despite living with Parkinson's Disease, Danny proudly continued fundraising and achieved his fundraising milestone of **£250,000**.



Ken Allan

1989 - present

Ken has been part of the Candlelighters community since 1989, organising events and rallying his community at Idle Working Men's Club in Bradford, to raise **£42,000** over 15 years through all sorts of inspiring challenge events including a climb up Snowdown in fancy dress! Now 90, Ken still supports Candlelighters where he can, whether buying Christmas cards, celebrating our 50th year, or helping to raise awareness of Candlelighters and the difference the charity makes.



Roger Ingham MBE

1990s - present

Roger has been supporting Candlelighters since the 1990s with his annual 'bucket and banter' fundraising collections out in the community in Skipton. Over the years, Roger has raised over **£94,000** for children with cancer and their families. Roger is still fundraising for Candlelighters today with the support of his community and his son, Joe, who is now taking the fundraising reins.

Leeds Lord Mayor's support Candlelighters

2000 / 2017

We're delighted to recognise the support of two Lord Mayor's of Leeds whose generosity has helped shape Candlelighters journey over the years. Lord Mayor of Leeds Councillor Keith Parker, his wife Lenny, and their charity committee, supported Candlelighters as their Charity of the Year in 1999, raising over **£135,000** through a range of fundraising activities, including a charity ball, golf day and even a raffle of a Ford Ka. In 2017, we were equally honoured to be chosen by Lord Mayor of Leeds Councillor Jane Dawson, through their 'Just One Day' appeal. Her remarkable campaign raised **£266,000**, which helped to fund the creation of the Candlelighters Cottage, a vital home-from-home for families during treatment.



Tieva's partnership with Candlelighters

2014 - present



Businesses across Yorkshire have played a vital role in supporting Candlelighters since our early years. Among these long-standing partners is Tieva, who have now raised **£275,000** since 2014. Their commitment has taken many forms, from payroll giving, staff fundraising challenges to direct corporate donations and Tieva's support has funded Elaine, known affectionately on the wards as the 'Candlelighters Dinner Lady'. We are incredibly grateful to all the businesses, large and small, who have supported us over the years and continue to stand alongside us making a difference.

Candlelighters receives no Government funding and relies on the kindness and generosity of our incredible fundraisers who make everything we do possible. **In 2025, our wonderful supporters raised a total income of £2.46 million**, helping us to be right beside families from the point of diagnosis, for as long as they need us.

If you'd like to get involved with your own fundraising, [click here](#) to take a look at our fundraising resources or email info@candlelighters.org.uk for fundraising advice!

Working together: Workplace fundraising

Your business or workplace can help to make a meaningful difference to support children and families facing childhood cancer.

From challenge events to attending our Business Collaboration Events, by partnering with Candlelighters and joining our fundraising community, your support can help to bring comfort, hope and care to families at the most difficult times. Here are some ways you can get involved...

Matched giving for businesses

Double the impact of your employees' fundraising, by matching what they raise! Whether they've taken on a challenge event or hosted a fundraiser in the office, matching their total raised is a great way for businesses to show their support, double the impact and help provide even more support for children and families.

Charity of the Year

Choose Candlelighters as your Charity of the Year and bring your whole organisation together through fundraising. A Charity of the Year partnership creates opportunities to fundraise, volunteer and get involved beyond a single event.

Office fundraising

Fundraising can be as fun and simple as you like and can work around you! You can host office coffee mornings, a bake sale, a dress-down day, or a friendly office sports tournament, small ideas can make a big difference!

Team challenge events

Team challenge events are a great way to build camaraderie, support wellbeing, and create shared achievements with your colleagues. Most importantly, every step, mile, or climb helps raise vital funds for children and families facing incredibly difficult times.

Yorkshire Spa Retreat

Yorkshire Spa Retreat has been a valued supporter of Candlelighters for many years, as a local business committed to supporting families affected by childhood cancer. As Transformer members of Club Candlelighters, they pledge to donate at least £25,000 each year, making a significant and lasting impact on the lives of the children and families we support.

As well as this, their fundraising efforts have been far-ranging and truly remarkable.

From taking on epic cycling challenges across

the UK and Europe to hosting spectacular Charity Balls, Miles and the team at Yorkshire Spa Retreat have gone above and beyond to help children and families. They have also donated relaxing stays at the park for families in need of a break, organised onsite quiz and paella nights, and donated auction and raffle prizes to help raise funds.

Directors Miles Dewhurst and Fenella Ratcliffe-Hobson have been dedicated supporters of Candlelighters across multiple businesses over the years, with Yorkshire Spa Retreat alone contributing more than £113,000 to the charity.

Miles said "We are so proud to support Candlelighters, the work the team do is truly amazing and I've seen first-hand on visits to the hospital and Family Support Centre the difference they make. It's a pleasure to be involved and make a difference in as many ways as we can."

With exciting fundraising events and challenges already on the horizon, Yorkshire Spa Retreat continues to demonstrate the difference business partnerships can make and we are incredibly grateful for their ongoing support and look forward to continue building on this partnership.

Click [here](#) for more information about business partnerships and how we can work together to support children with cancer or to get in touch with a member of the fundraising team, email info@candlelighters.org.uk or call **0113 887 8333**.



Celebrating YOU



▲ **Eight-year-old George** organised a fundraiser after his sister, Daisy, and family were supported by Candlelighters. George was joined by a group of friends and ran five laps around the local park (about 2km!) to raise an amazing **£4,131!**

▼ **Fat Badger Group and Your Harrogate Radio** raised **£12,650** at their golf day in support of Candlelighters and Saint Michael's Hospice! The day saw 22 teams take to the course for a day of friendly competition and helped raise funds for two fantastic local causes.



▼ After Candlelighters supported Rocco's sister Eva, a team of 38 players, parents and coaches from Rocco's **Pannal Under 7s Sports Team** came together to conquer Junior Warrior! They got muddy, overcame obstacles, and had lots of fun, raising over **£5,400** all in support of Team Eva.



▲ **Silcoates Pre-School** took part in our annual campaign, Pink It Up week, hosting a whole variety of pink activities from a scavenger hunt to a picnic lunch, and wearing pink to school for the day. They raised a brilliant **£772!**



▲ **Shelby Group** are supporting Candlelighters as their chosen Charity of the Year. From coffee mornings to Total Warrior and joining our Business Collaboration Events, they've already raised **£3,168** and have much more planned, including a staff team walk!

▼ **Gary and Sharon** joined Club Candlelighters as Guardians, committing to raise **£5,000** a year, continuing their support and being part of our pink family.



Our incredible total warrior volunteers!

We're so grateful for all the support we receive from our incredible team of volunteers throughout the year, whose time, dedication and commitment help to make a real difference. Our **Total Warrior volunteers** recently helped the day run smoothly and cheered on all of our fantastic participants. 29 volunteers gave 400 hours of their time, from supporting with

the bag drop to marshalling on course, litter picking and welcoming our fantastic warriors! Volunteer Craig said: "Total Warrior weekend is one of my favourite weekends of the year. As part of "Team Bag Drop", it's a pleasure to welcome the athletes into the event, and we have a lot of fun with them." Thanks to their efforts, Total Warrior has donated **£2,350** to Candlelighters!

Thank you so much to each and every one of our volunteers who give their time to make a difference. Hundreds of amazing people volunteer with us every year, in a huge variety of different roles. If you'd like to get involved, click [here](#) to view our current volunteering opportunities.

Christmas cards

We're so excited to share with you our Christmas card designs for 2026! You can order your cards by completing the order form below, calling us on **0113 887 8333**, or visiting our online shop at candlelighters.org.uk/shop

All cards come in packs of 10 for £4.50
Card size 150x150mm



Order your Christmas cards here:

No.	QTY	Price (each)	Total:
1. Let Love Rain Down	_____	£4.50	_____
2. Colourful Bethlehem	_____	£4.50	_____
3. Morris Snowdrop	_____	£4.50	_____
4. Snow Angels	_____	£4.50	_____
5. Little Donkey	_____	£4.50	_____
6. Dotty Robin	_____	£4.50	_____
Subtotal:			_____
Postage:			_____
Optional donation:			_____
Final total:			_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Tel: _____
Email: _____

Payment method

- ☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to 'Candlelighters' OR
☐ Please debit my total order sum from my debit/credit card:
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Please fill out this form and return to us at
8 Woodhouse Square, Leeds, LS3 1AD.

Gift Aid

If you've chosen to give us an optional donation, thank you! Did you know you could boost this donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate?

- ☐ YES I want to GIFT AID all donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to Candlelighters until I notify otherwise.

Date: _____

- ☐ 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 Tax claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay the difference.

Postage & packaging costs:

1-2 packs – £2.30
3-10 packs – £4.25

All postage is second class. For orders more than ten packs and for any other enquiries, please call 0113 887 8333. Postage fees on our online shop may vary.

For family support please call **0113 887 8333**

To make a donation you can give online, call **0113 887 8333**, or send a cheque to the address below.

8 Woodhouse Square, Leeds, LS3 1AD

CandlelightersTrust
 candlelightersyorkshire
candlelighters.org.uk
info@candlelighters.org.uk
0113 887 8333

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