

## Lighthouse Hazlemere 2023 Chairperson's Report

Having been a trustee of Lighthouse Hazlemere on and off for a number of years, 2023 was my first year as Chair.

When Lighthouse Hazlemere began in 2000 it served a wide area stretching from Hazlemere to Penn, and across High Wycombe, with a large number of churches to resource it. In recent years Lighthouse has planted many new sites locally, and with each new site, Lighthouse Hazlemere has served a smaller catchment of children and been resourced by a smaller number of churches.

In 2023 it seemed appropriate to review the provision offered by Lighthouse Hazlemere, reflecting on the current ability of local churches to effectively resource and run a week long Summer holiday club for children in our community. In early 2023 a small group of LHH trustees, the then associate vicar for Hazlemere Parish Church, and interested individuals met to this end. It was decided that we would run a pilot year which would incorporate a new timetable and a new site, with three core values:

***Gospel centered:*** Christian leaders to present the gospel message through word and action; children to have the opportunity to learn about and encounter God through worship, teaching, and prayer, as well as through interaction with their leaders

***Fun:*** There should be variety, creativity and choice for the children. Volunteers shouldn't be overburdened and will want to help next time around

***Safe for all:*** To adhere to Lighthouse adult to child ratios; Lighthouse Keepers to be 18 years plus, and the age at which young people can volunteer to be raised to 14 years. To reduce the number of children attending, and move to a smaller, more manageable, and safer site.

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to steer the vision and plan for Lighthouse Hazlemere 2023. And to all those who worked so hard during Lighthouse week, with particular thanks to the trustees, management team and workshop leaders.

Lighthouse could not run without volunteers, and in 2023, 139 people were part of our volunteer team. This enabled us to accept 180 children from 320 applications. The average daily attendance was 152 children. There were 10 children with places who did not attend at all.

The LHH trustees believe the changes piloted in 2023 have provided us with a framework which can be refined and developed to enable Lighthouse Hazlemere to continue to bring the gospel message to children in our community, build relationally with local families, and disciple children who have already committed to journeying in faith, for many years to come.

Alison Tuddenham

