

20<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Beckminster Methodist Church  
Birches Barn Road  
Wolverhampton WV3 7BQ

**Annual Children's Holiday to Bideford, North Devon**

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registered charity no 1134902

As many of you know the holiday was started in 1964 and has continued until 2018. There was one year, 2009, when we were not able to hold the holiday because Edgehill College & Grenville College amalgamated into Kingsley School and the school could not accommodate any lettings because of alterations taking place. This ongoing project has been a tremendous success over the years and I feel proud and blessed to have been involved with the venture. The holiday has 'evolved' over the years and many changes have taken place and many leaders have volunteered to be part of the holiday. It's not easy organising the holiday, recruiting skilled leaders, raising funds etc for the week and each year it seems to get harder. The actual week is 'risk assessed' thoroughly but ongoing assessment takes place each day as the holiday activities are enjoyed. Everyone involved works extremely hard to ensure the children have a great week of fun and memories.

There have been a few concerns about the future of the holiday, the risk of taking children we don't know away for a week, the risk of taking too many inexperienced leaders, the risk of managing 'challenging' behaviours and safeguarding issues. The District Policy Committee discussed the holiday in October and gave the recommendation of having a year off to make some decisions concerning the future of the District Holiday. At our AGM in November several of the team have decided not to continue volunteering on the holiday for many different reasons so the team is a little depleted and some of the organising roles need filling so a year off to re-group seems like a good idea.

The Revd. Trevor Pratt has been asked by the District to convene a group of present leaders and anyone else who has an interest in the holiday or who would like to become involved so that views and discussion can take place concerning 2019 and the future.

The holiday fund has about £9,000 left, which would go a long way towards the £13,000 cost of another holiday, as was our aim to ensure we were financially secure, and this money will stay in our holiday fund until any decisions are made. Thanks to all the groups and Churches who have supported the holiday through donations; it has enabled many, many children to enjoy a week at the seaside within a safe and caring environment.

The next meeting to talk about the holiday and its future will be on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2019, time & venue to be decided. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the holiday's future please contact Trevor to express your interest and to find out the details of the next meeting.  
Revd. Trevor Pratt: [trevorbccircuit@btinternet.com](mailto:trevorbccircuit@btinternet.com) 0121 520 3017

Thank you to everyone in the District who has supported the holiday over the years.

Tricia Prescott

