

Falcons

Update

Winter-Spring 2020



**Blessing young people facing disadvantage with
life-changing holidays full of fun, friendship and faith**



Fun activities

Team games and outings.



New friends

Building relationships.



Meeting Jesus

Knowing God's love.



Creative crafts

New gifts and skills.



Growing together

Gaining confidence.



Joy and hope

To last a lifetime.

**Please contact us for extra copies of
Falcons Update (or to unsubscribe
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Church Pastoral Aid Society

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Registered office at address above.

**If you are tired from carrying
heavy burdens, come to me and I
will give you rest.**

Matthew 11:28, CEV

Some children arrive on a Falcon holiday with a real sense of excitement, unsure what to expect but knowing they will have the time of their lives. Others come anxious about the change of scene, or about leaving a vulnerable parent behind. Some simply haven't experienced much beyond the boundaries of their estate and others have incredibly complex challenges or deep sadness.

As you'll read in these pages, on Falcon holidays children experience a wonderful contrast to daily life. They meet leaders who love them regardless of how they present themselves and participate in activities that take them to new places, either physically or in their imaginations. They engage with a teaching programme that opens up why life can be different with the God who carries their burdens.

It often takes several days for children to 'lighten-up' and rediscover how to play, create and explore. And we experience a mixture of emotions when some cry about leaving the holiday. Our hope and prayer is that we will see them back the following year but, more importantly, that they have met Jesus and handed him their anxieties.

We pray that, as they leave, they discover a growing sense of excitement, unsure what to expect but knowing something of the life that is possible with him: rest, 'light living' and adventure.

Tim Friend

Ventures and Falcons Principal



Children's names have been changed to protect their identities

Discover more at falcons.org.uk or call 0300 123 0780

GOD AT WORK

This year, we've been privileged to see God at work in the lives of hundreds of children and young people on Falcon holidays.



'We all have worth no matter what we do or look like.'

Riley, 11



'I saw God at work during dorm times, seeing the young people growing in confidence and realising that they are valued.'

Anon, leader

'If you love angry people, they become happy.'

Emma, 11



'When we were walking together as a group on our way back from a wonderful swimming session, one of the children looked up from the walk and said "oh this is what a family is".'

Carol, leader

'It was amazing to see God working in the children and the excitement they had for what Jesus has done for them. It was a fun-filled week with life-changing messages about Jesus.'

Jonny, leader

'God doesn't make junk ♥'

Alissa, 13



'God brought peace and clarity to conflict, he gave the children a great understanding of who he is and he brought pure joy, laughter and enjoyment to every activity.'

Rachel, leader



OUT OF THIS WORLD

The 8-11s at Carrotty Wood 1 embarked on an exciting adventure through space and time to meet Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, the woman at the well and the disciples to find out more about Jesus and how he changes lives.



A DAY AT CARROTY WOOD 1

- 7.15am** Leaders' meeting
- 7.45am** Children wake up
- 8.30am** Breakfast
- 9am** Tidy dorms
- 9.30am** **Buddy groups**
Quieter time getting to know new friends in smaller groups.
- 10.15am** **Workshops**
Building rockets, tie-dye t-shirts, playing ukulele, and making friendship bracelets.
- 11am** Tuck shop and drinks
- 11.30am** Swimming
- 1pm** Lunch
- 2pm** **Papier-mâché planets**
Balloons, newspaper and PVA glue.
- 2.30pm** **Team games**
Team Mars versus Galaxy versus Milky Way!
- 3.15pm** Biscuit decorating
- 4pm** Treasure hunt
- 5pm** Free time
- 6pm** Dinner
- 7pm** Space bingo
- 7.30pm** **Mission Control**
Evening meeting with songs and the leaders' drama aboard the Starship Victory.
- 8.30pm** **Campfire, chocolate and chat**
...and looking through the telescope on a clear night.
- 9pm** Bedtime



'Thank you so much for your prayers and support. As one of the children wrote in a thank you note – we had a blast! The youngsters really enjoyed Mission Control, our evening meeting, singing the “Out of this World” theme song with great gusto and rolling around with laughter at the leaders' drama each night. We also had a great time putting on a concert which included singing, acrobatics and joke-telling.

'Please pray that the children will remember all they learnt on the holiday and that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in their hearts. We had some really heart-wrenching conversations with some of the youngsters about situations they are facing. We are continuing to pray for them back at home as they share all the new experiences and good memories with their friends and family.'

Sue Shrubbs, Overall Leader



Many children who come on Falcons face dysfunctional relationships or challenging behavioural issues. Martin Kavanagh (CPAS Key Relationships Manager and enthusiastic Falcon leader) tells us more about the difference positive relationships on a Falcon holiday can make.



THE POWER OF

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Modelling and sharing love

'Seeing the anticipation and excitement on the children's faces as they arrived at Dallam Falcon was my first highlight! The volunteer leaders modelled and shared love and support, giving their time and talents to help the children become all God wants them to be.

'We were also pleased to have some junior leaders (aged 16+) who were brilliant with the kids, welcoming back those who had been before and showing special concern for those attending for the first time.

'Our overall leaders commanded the respect and admiration of everyone, and this really rubbed off on the children as they in turn showed respect and support for one another.

'Falcons are not a soft touch – there is a clear framework of expectations and high standards, and I saw each child benefit from the boundaries set and the standards required of them. This encouraged good character, personal discipline, self-esteem

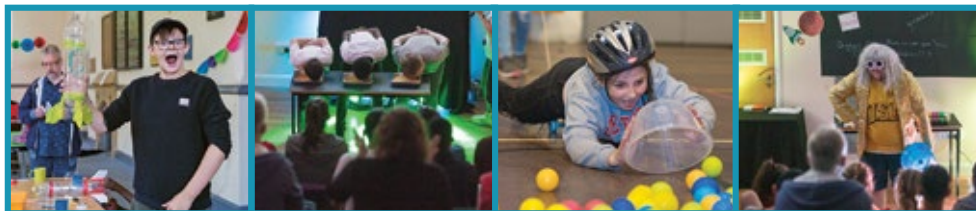
and a greater awareness of others' needs. 'I found myself feeling inspired by the children's kindness, tenacity and personal strength as the week progressed.

Genuine transformation

'I saw a genuine transformation in the children by the end of the week. Those reluctant to join in with worship at the start were wholeheartedly engaged, and I could see barriers coming down in their minds, as the treasure of the Christian faith began to dawn on them.

'Many went home completely changed by the experience and I couldn't believe how much impact and progress had been made in such a short space of time.

'In my wider work fundraising for Falcons I get to interact with many former leaders, going as far back as the 1950s! It's inspiring to hear of the Falcons experience bringing out the best in young people and creating true overcomers in life over so many decades.'





DOVEDALE DIARY

DAY 1

A GREAT FIRST DAY. THE GIRLS WON THE TUG OF WAR, WE'VE HAD CHICKEN BURGERS AND CHIPS FOR TEA AND WE'RE JUST SETTLING IN WITH A MOVIE AND POPCORN. THANKFUL FOR THE LOVELY WEATHER.



DAY 4

ANOTHER FANTASTIC DAY... AT ALTON TOWERS! OUR THRILL-SEEKERS HAD AN AMAZING TIME AND THEN ENJOYED PIZZA, A CAMPFIRE AND GLOW STICKS TO FINISH THE DAY... AWESOME.



DAY 2

A FABULOUS TIME WITH RAFT DESIGNS, THEN WE RACED DOWN THE RIVER DOVE BEFORE CLIMBING A HILL. THEN PADDLING, STEPPING STONES AND ICE CREAMS FOLLOWED BY SPAG BOL FOR TEA.



DAY 5

WHAT A HOLIDAY. LOTS OF MEMORIES AND GOODBYES. HOME SWEET HOME, WASHING AND SLEEP. THANK YOU GOD, THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND DOVEDALE STAFF, THANK YOU SUPPORTERS.



DAY 3

WE CREATED AN ARTISTIC MASTERPIECE USING ONLY NATURAL MATERIALS AND THEN HEADED OFF TO ILAM PARK. TREE CLIMBING, NATIONAL TRUST ACTIVITIES AND THEN BACK TO DOVEDALE FOR AN EVENING ON THE THEME OF 'BEING A GOOD FRIEND'.



DOVEDALE FALCON TOOK PLACE IN AUGUST FOR 9-12 YEAR OLDS, LED BY THE REVS DARREN MCINDOE AND DAVE STREET AND THEIR TEAM OF VOLUNTEER LEADERS.



THE GIFT OF A HOLIDAY

If you already support Falcons, or give the wonderful gift of your time through serving as a leader, **THANK YOU.**

To give a gift to Falcons:

Please visit cpas.org.uk/falcons
or contact us using the details below.



Each year, around 20 Falcon holidays take place at venues across the UK. With the support of churches and individuals who share our vision, we are able to offer affordable, exciting, transformational holidays to hundreds of young people facing disadvantage.

‘On the Falcon holiday I learnt that everyone is different and everyone is special, and God will always be with me.’

Alexander, 10

Falcon holidays are part of the ministry of CPAS

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