

Action for Children Report to Synod

Spring 2025



At Action for Children, we're driven by love to take action to change the childhoods of those who need help to thrive.

We would like to thank you for being a huge part of making this happen throughout the 2024/25 financial year. Churches and supporter groups worked really hard raising over £629,500 so far. Funds raised over Christmas are still pouring in! Your generosity – individually and collectively, gives hope and practical support to thousands of children, young people and families.

Paying the Price campaign launched

On 19 March, we launched a new campaign highlighting the urgent need for the government's child poverty strategy to meet the challenges facing families.

Children across the UK are paying the price of poverty but we are campaigning to change that. The government has promised to lift children out of poverty with a new plan that it is publishing soon. Change is possible - but it will require real investment and a commitment from the government to do what is right.

Please join our campaign. We have only got a short time to get our message to government, before it publishes its plan. By taking action today, you can help ensure more children's lives are not defined by poverty. Please sign our open letter and share it with others: <https://actionforchildren.uk/PayingThePrice-Synod>

Methodist President and Vice President visit Action for Children

We were delighted to welcome the Methodist Conference President and Vice President to our services to show them the impact of your support and express our gratitude to the church.

In January, Vice President Carolyn Godfrey took part in a Roots of Empathy session at Merrylee Primary School in Glasgow. She saw first-hand how this programme helps build caring and compassionate people by helping children learn about their emotions and behaviour supported by a baby teacher. President, The Revd Helen Cameron visited Edinburgh Disability Services in February. She talked to staff about how the service supports children with learning disabilities and their families. During a tour, she saw our facilities, such as a sensory room and gardens that support children with their development.

We are grateful for their prayers and keen interest in our work.

Action for Children Scotland celebrates Investors in Young People Platinum Award

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Action for Children Scotland has retained the prestigious Investors in Young People Platinum Award!

The Investors in Young People (IYYP) report states: “Your passion and commitment to provide young staff with an employment opportunity, especially young people who may face barriers to work, is inspiring, and sets you apart as an ambassador to develop Scotland’s young workforce... You care about your young people, and we know you’re ambitious to do even more for them.”

This proud achievement follows IYYP Gold Awards in 2015 and 2019, and Platinum in 2022.

Royal Patron visit

Our Patron, the Princess of Wales, visited our Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) at HMP Styal in February. She met staff and service users, shining a light on the important work that ensures babies get the best chance to thrive in a supportive environment. She also spent time with some mums and babies to understand the importance of the service, which is very much aligned to her emphasis on early years development.

Count Your Blessings during Lent

Thanks to everyone who got involved in '[Count Your Blessings](#)', learning about how we support children in care. If you are reading this after Lent, I urge you to still download our calendar to hear young people telling their inspiring stories in the videos and articles. I hope hearing how you make a difference encourages you.

Celebrating Action for Children Sunday, 13 July

We love hearing about church fundraising activities throughout the year, but Action for Children Sunday is extra special. It is a celebration of our strong partnership with the Methodist Church and affiliated churches. It is also a time to reflect on the issues that affect children and families, pray and take action.

This year, we invite you to explore the theme 'Driven by love, we take action for children'. Worship outlines for adult and children's services will be available to download in April from actionforchildren.uk/faithFR. If you wish to receive a worship booklet and newsletter in the post, please email me to add you to our mailing list.

Traditionally, churches have held their Action for Children Sunday service on the second Sunday in July, close to our birthday, 9 July. However, some choose another Sunday that is more convenient.

We have noticed that after the pandemic, fewer churches indicate that they are holding an Action for Children Sunday service. And we would like your feedback on how we can support your plans and ways we could improve worship resources.

Do reach out to your Relationship Fundraising Executive too for advice and support here: actionforchildren.uk/your-local-fundraiser

Honouring our Heritage

Our Honouring our Heritage campaign is coming back for its second year. This June, help us celebrate Action for Children's heritage and our incredible supporters that enable us to transform the lives of vulnerable children and families in the UK. You can read last year's

bible and prayer reflections here: actionforchildren.org.uk/heritage (scroll down the page).

Share your views on our plans for this year in this survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/0KJhShVbd2>

Christian foster carers needed

We urgently need more foster carers in the UK, particularly from faith communities. We are calling on people with an open heart and a spare room to consider fostering and help spread the word.

Children in care can struggle with their identity. So, it is important to support them to feel confident in their identity, culture, and beliefs by matching them with carers who share similar values, wherever we can.

We know that faith can provide structure, stability, and a supportive community for these vulnerable young people, many of whom have experienced trauma. Find out more:

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/fostering/why-choose-us/faith-in-fostering/>

Could you display our poster in your churches?

https://media.actionforchildren.org.uk/documents/AfC_FIF_A4Poster.pdf

Keeping you up to date

Despite having a smaller fundraising team and fewer church visits post-pandemic, we aim to keep supporters updated on how their contributions are making a difference. Here are some of the ways to stay informed:

- Sign up to our newsletter: actionforchildren.org.uk/sign-up-to-our-newsletter/
- Join Faith Space, our online forum:
- <https://forms.office.com/e/y2701CkN5e>

- Watch out for news in your District newsletter and [Methodist news](#).

Be out guest at our events at the Methodist Women in Britian Residential (April), the Methodist Conference (June) and 3Generate (October). I really enjoy meeting you hearing about the inspirational things your churches are doing. So, sign up and come to say hello.

You can also email me with your stories and photos so I can share with our wider church community.

Thank you. I wish you an enjoyable time at Synod.

Blessings,



Faith Partnerships Lead

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Contacting us

- Your local fundraiser: actionforchildren.uk/your-local-fundraiser
- Supporter care: [0300 123 2112](tel:03001232112) (open 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday) or ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk

Connect with us on social media

 [@actnforchildren](https://twitter.com/actnforchildren)  [/actionforchildren](https://facebook.com/actionforchildren)  [actionforchildrenUK](https://youtube.com/actionforchildrenUK)

Safe and happy childhood

Action for Children protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

