

HOW

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

IS WORKING WITH

The Methodist Church



Synod Report

Spring 2019



East Anglia

Introduction

I am pleased to share good news from Action for Children with the Synod. We are fast approaching our 150th birthday and the excitement of our Methodist supporters is not surprising in any way. You have been our 'journey friends' from the very beginning and we feel blessed that we remain dear to you. Your generosity in so many ways has been a great encouragement and inspiration. Most importantly, your generosity has given hope to thousands of children, young people and families. Thank you!

Shortly, we will share details of how we intend to celebrate our anniversary. Two dates to mark in your calendar right away are 2 July when we celebrate at the Methodist Conference and 14 July for a special Action for Children Sunday celebration.

I wish you an enjoyable Synod.

Blessings,
Karis Kolawole
Head of Faith Partnerships
karis.kolawole@actionforchildren.org.uk

By demonstrating the difference

Welcoming our new trustee chair



We welcomed a new Board of Trustees chair, Sarika Patel and said goodbye to outgoing chair, John O'Brien.

Since becoming chair in 2012, John has provided strong leadership and unstinting support for Action for Children, and will surely be missed. He said that it had been a real privilege and that he genuinely believed that the charity is in a better position.

Sarika, a partner for Zeus Caps, brings a wealth of experience as a business director and advisor, and a strong understanding of the charity sector. We are

confident that her impressive track record of service improvement, innovation and leadership will help move Action for Children from strength to strength.

Royal Patron visits Sure Start centre in Ballymena

We were delighted to receive The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge when they visited one of our Sure Start centres in Ballymena, Northern Ireland.

While there, they met mums and dads who have taken part in an intensive parenting programme, which supports families facing challenges like parental isolation or mental health issues or who may have limited support networks.

The Duchess, who is our Patron, also joined a 'Stay and Play' session meeting some of the two and three-year-olds who attend the centre every week, while the Duke joined the Father's Reading Every Day (FRED) group, which is designed to encourage dads to read with their children.



Stephenson's Awards

Two amazing Methodists, Sheila Forth and George King, jointly won the Outstanding Supporter Award at our Stephenson's Awards celebrating our amazing volunteers, staff, young people, partners, supporters and foster carers.

Sheila of the East Anglia District, who has been raising funds for Action for Children for a truly astounding 72 years, said, "It's a great charity that does great work, and to be part of that is a blessing".

Domestic Abuse Consultation and draft Bill

Through our work, we see first-hand the impact of domestic abuse on families. We know that existing legislation does not adequately protect children. In March 2018, the UK Government launched a public consultation on its plans to transform the

response to domestic abuse. Action for Children, as part of a cross-sector group of organisations, submitted a response, calling on the Government to ensure that the upcoming Domestic Abuse Bill addresses the needs of children who have experienced domestic abuse. We also met with Ministers and officials from Government departments, and made important recommendations for the bill.

The draft Domestic Abuse Bill has now been published and we were encouraged to see that our work had influenced the Government's overall approach. For example, the proposed Domestic Abuse Commissioner will now be expressly required to consider its impact on children.

BUMP boxes for pregnant mums launched



In January, we launched Bump boxes, an innovative subscription product for pregnant and new mums. We did some research which showed us an opportunity to provide much needed support to expectant and new mums, while raising funds to support other good causes.

Bump boxes combine practical guides and mindfulness activities with a range of specially selected products to help women care for their minds and bodies throughout pregnancy. All the proceeds will go towards our work to improve the lives of children and families through our 552 UK services. Visit www.bumpbox.org for information.

By updating you on local news and events

Thank you to everyone that took part in the Cambridge Half Marathon in March in aid of Action for Children. Runners have raised over £1,250 so far.

If you would like a speaker to attend your local Action for Children Sunday service in July, please get in touch with your local fundraiser Holly to arrange a talk. Thank you to everyone who has already been in touch.

This year we have six runners from East Anglia taking part in the London Marathon in April. So far, they have raised an impressive £6,000 between them.

We would like to thank the East Anglia district for raising an impressive £8,400 at Christmas and those who took part in our Secret Santa campaign. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity.

Count Your Blessings

We would like to thank everyone who has taken part in Count Your Blessings during Lent. If you ordered your posters or sheets from us, details of how to pay in your money are on them. We would appreciate it if you could send in any money you have collected as

soon as possible, so that we can credit it to your church this financial year. Thank you!

Giant Wiggle is 50!

You will be pleased to know that Giant Wiggle - a fun way for children to get active and learn about healthy eating, is back from 1 May to 30 June. This year marks the 50th anniversary of this much loved children's story, The Very Hungry Caterpillar.



The first 50 fundraisers to raise over £200 will win a very special gold copy of a very special caterpillar. Let's get wiggling!

Other fundraising events

- The Prudential RideLondon – Surrey 100 on 4 August actionforchildren/RideLondon
- Step out for Children walks – various locations actionforchildren.org.uk/step-out
- Make room for more by having a Spring clear-out. Speak to your community fundraiser about turning clothes and bric-a-brac into cash for charity through our Swap'n'Shop or Clothesaid initiatives.
actionforchildren.org.uk/myswapnshop
clothesaid.co.uk/partner-charities/action-for-children

Our online fundraising guide also has so many other clever ideas to help you organise your own exciting fundraising activity. You can get a copy from: actionforchildren.org.uk/media/10654/your-fundraising-guide.pdf

Anyone who would like to continue to receive information from Action for Children should let us know how they want us to keep in touch. If you opt out of all forms of contact, then that would include not hearing from your local Fundraiser.

Contact Details

Your local fundraiser is: **Holly Canham**
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