

# With thanks

Action for  
Children

## Dear friends,

We'd like to say a massive thank you from all of us at Action for Children and the children and families we support.

You have been incredible throughout the year, using so many creative ways to raise funds – including quizzes, cake sales, table-top sales, 'Step out for Children' walks and worship services. You and your churches had raised over £68,000 as of 31 August, and on page 2 we celebrate just a few of our star church fundraisers.

It's Christmas soon, so with this newsletter we've sent an all-age worship booklet with ideas for holding a special church service. It also includes inspiration for supporting us at this magical time of year.

Reflecting back on the last few months, we have a lot to be thankful for. A highlight for our staff was attending special Action for Children Sunday services throughout the year. We were delighted to meet some of the passionate supporters behind the church fundraising activities that raise so much every year. We'd like to thank churches for their warm welcome and generous donations.

As the year draws to a close, we'd like to express our appreciation to all of you who have supported us through fundraising, campaigning, donations to our services, and volunteering. We're touched by how you take action for children – organising a variety of events that makes sure you can include as many people as possible. You really are making such a difference, helping us to continue our work for vulnerable children and families.

We wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and wonderful new year.

Blessings,



**Katie Cartwright**  
Head of Relationship Fundraising



**Karis Kolawole**  
Faith Partnerships Lead



## Our Methodist stars

★ **Jennifer Izzett** has helped to raise a fantastic £31,000 through a variety of events over 40 years, including a coffee morning at **Cambridge Wesley Methodist Church**.

★ In June, 19 walkers from **Huddersfield Methodist Circuit** did a Step Out for Children walk, raising over £1,000.



★ **Gail Johnson** organised a British wildlife quiz at **Hathersage Methodist Church** and a tabletop sale, raising a total of £545!

★ **St Thomas Methodist Church Exeter** raised over £2,000 from several events including 'Footsteps for Change', where members (including toddlers) walked, jogged and ran the equivalent of 178-miles to Action for Children's Watford office.

**Thank you all for making a difference to the lives of children, young people and families.**

# Celebrating Ken

64 years of taking action



**Ken Dunkerly, Stephenson's Award winner**

The Stephenson Awards, named after Action for Children's founder, Rev Thomas Bowman Stephenson, take place every year. They recognise our incredible staff, volunteers, foster carers and supporters who are there for children, young people and families. Ken was the joint winner of the 2025 Supporter Achievement award.

“*I nominated Ken for a Stephenson Award because he demonstrates such passion, collaboration and inclusiveness. Over the period he has been a supporter of Action for Children he has helped to raise an amazing £45,681!*”

**Nikki Booth, Regional Support Officer**

Ken has been a Home Collection Box Secretary for 64 years, having supported Action for Children since 1961. During that time he has organised many collections, and he was the Oldham and Saddleworth Methodist Church Circuit Action for Children Coordinator for 31 years.

Since his retirement in 2002, Ken has enjoyed doing quizzes and puzzles, and creates a quiz for his community twice a year – a total of 47 quizzes so far! Not only do they raise a lot of money, but they also help people to learn about both Action for Children and the Methodist Church.

Ken is now 82 and shows no signs of retiring from his fundraising work for Action for Children. What an excellent example of dedication and commitment – thank you, Ken!

A day in the life of...

# our **Independent Visitors service**

**Roger is a Senior Volunteer Coordinator for Action for Children's Independent Visitors Service. He tells us about a typical day in the life of his important role.**



### **Tell us what Independent Visitors do.**

An Independent Visitor (IV) is an adult who volunteers to regularly spend free time with a young person in care. They are independent from social services and other professionals who are involved in the child's life. And they offer a fun visit or activity every month. These activities could be a new experience for the child or young person, or just something they enjoy – ranging from a catch-up over lunch to indoor diving! The service creates an opportunity for children and young people to be themselves. They are safe to express themselves, especially their wishes and feelings, to their IV.

### **What does an average day look like for you?**

There are no two days that look the same! I could be visiting a young person or a prospective IV. The next day could be shortlisting prospective IVs and inviting them to our upcoming information session. Another day could be training prospective or existing IVs or local authorities. Alongside all this, I also provide ongoing support for matches.

### **What difference is this service making?**

Trust is built between the young person and their IV while they have fun. The young person is involved in the selection process of their IV, and they learn how to plan their activities and manage the budget for their time together.

The IV service is a small but growing team of Senior Volunteer Coordinators, who are diverse in background and skills. They use their unique skills, knowledge and backgrounds to ensure a fun experience for the children and young people.



**Could you become an Independent Visitor? Find out more by visiting [actionforchildren.uk/IVChristmas\\_newsletter](https://actionforchildren.uk/IVChristmas_newsletter)**



## **Send an e-card this Christmas**

Did you know you we have a brand-new set of e-cards for Christmas and plenty more occasions? It's the perfect way to wish loved ones well while helping to create more safe and happy childhoods. View the collection at: [actionforchildren.org.uk/charity-ecards/Christmas-ecard/](https://actionforchildren.org.uk/charity-ecards/Christmas-ecard/)



# Be a **Secret Santa** for a vulnerable child



**The magic of Christmas begins in childhood. Hanging stockings. Sharing festive food. Presents under the tree. It's a time for children to feel loved and make memories that last a lifetime.**

But for too many children across the UK, Christmas is anything but magical. No stockings. No presents. No festive food - often no food at all. Imagine your first memories of Christmas being going to bed hungry, being too cold to sleep and hiding your disappointment when Santa doesn't come.

4.5 million UK children now live in poverty. **That's 31% of all children.**

It's affecting children in your community. For them, Christmas looks like empty cupboards, putting on an extra jumper to keep warm, and wondering why Santa remembered their friends and not them.

Last year, incredible people like you were driven by love to take action for children. Because of your amazing generosity, families were given hope and support so children didn't miss out on a safe and happy childhood. You helped us to be there for 551,400 UK children, young people and families, through 342 services.

**Donate today and you could give the essentials of warm clothes, a hot meal, or a Christmas present to a child who wouldn't otherwise get one. Thanks to you, they could wake up knowing Santa has remembered them after all. They just won't know that Santa is you.**



**Children across the UK need a Secret Santa like you. Your gift could help a vulnerable child feel the magic of Christmas.**

**[iamsanta.org.uk/methodist](https://iamsanta.org.uk/methodist)**



## Staying in touch

As a valued supporter, we would love to send you regular updates about our work – including heartfelt stories, exciting events, and information about how you can continue to support vulnerable children and young people in the UK.

You can change your preferences at any time by calling **0300 123 2112** or emailing **[ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:ask.us@actionforchildren.org.uk)**. For more information on how we keep your data safe please read our Privacy Policy at **[actionforchildren.org.uk/privacy](https://actionforchildren.org.uk/privacy)**