



As we look ahead to Christmas, our theme is 'The gift of joy', recalling the angel's words heralding the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, and the great joy brought to all by his birth. Action for Children

Poem

Joy is surprise, an angel in the night when you are scared.

Joy is gift, wrapped with care under the tree from a stranger who knows you to be good.

Joy is what happens when you find you're not alone on the dark hillside of your questions.

Joy is the allelulia of a moonlit sky revealing the unexpected baby to be the most important one on earth and heaven too.

Joy is the star to follow in the company of love

Joy is gold found cradled in a stable like a king.

Poem by the Revd Barbara Glasson, former President of the Methodist Conference.



Action for Children

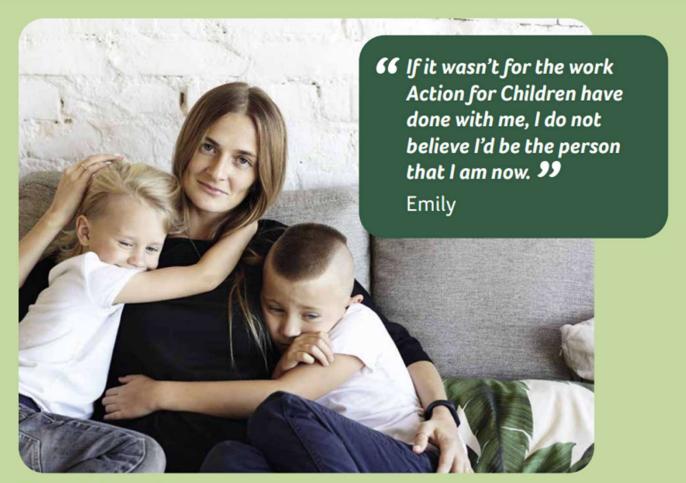
For vulnerable children across the UK, Christmas is anything but magical.

We're there when families can't afford the basics. We top up the gas meter when the house feels cold. Put food on the table so no one in the house goes hungry. Buy a Christmas present when a parent can't.

We're a vital lifeline for desperate families with nowhere to turn.



Action for Children



*This story has been made anonymous.



Prayer

God of love, We pray for all who feel afraid today Who struggle to find joy in the midst of uncertainty about what the future holds We pray for families who are struggling this Christmas For young people who do not know which way to turn Loving God, bring your peace, and your joy

God of peace We pray for all who feel exhausted today Who are finding the pressures of family life overwhelming For carers and foster parents who long for respite For all who work tirelessly for Action for Children, particularly those on the frontline, Peaceful God, bring your rest and your calm

God of justice

We pray for all who feel trapped by systems which prevent flourishing For young people trapped in criminal exploitation For all who have power to change policy for good, that they may use that power well. Justice seeking God, bring transformation

God of all

We pray for all children and young people In our community, in our church For those known to us Show us ways to work safely and well with others To offer spaces for joy in this challenging world **Amen.**

A prayer by Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, 2023-2024







Deck your halls

Come together as a family, school or congregation this Christmas, and decorate your own Action for Children bauble. By sharing our vision, you could help more vulnerable children feel the magic of Christmas.

Action for Children

