IT’S ABOUT TIME!
WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY 2015
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Action for Children Sunday is designated by the Methodist Church as one of its Special Sundays

A time to reflect on and celebrate the work of its Children’s Charity. It is usually celebrated on the second Sunday in July as this is closest to the anniversary of our founding on 9th July 1869, but Action for Children Sunday may be celebrated at another convenient time according to local precedent.

This year we invite you to use this worship resource which contains bible readings, suggested prayers and hymns, together with some stories illustrating Action for Children’s work bringing hope to children and young people. Special thanks go to Rev Sue Pegg who has been a tremendous support in putting together this years resources.

We welcome invitations for one of our staff or volunteers to speak briefly about our work during worship at your church. We would be pleased to arrange this through your local fundraiser or you can contact our Supporter Care Team (Tel. 0300 123 2112 – open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday). To give us time to meet your requests please contact us by the beginning of June.

Please remember when inviting a speaker that they are not trained as worship leaders and will only expect to speak briefly about Action for Children leaving the conduct of worship to the appointed leader.

Thank you for your continuing support in prayer and action.

Rev John Howard
Action for Children Trustee & Chair of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District
Children grow up happy and strong spending precious hours with the adults in their life – to play, to talk, to learn, to grow – to be the very best they can be.

We want you to be among the first to know that National Children’s Hour will be happening again in 2015.

Action for Children will be encouraging the nation to use the extra hour we get when the clocks go back in October. One extra hour to celebrate childhood – to have fun doing what children want to do. One hour to spare a thought for the thousands of children growing up in the UK without someone to love and care about their future.

We’ll be bringing you more news about National Children’s Hour later in the year, but in the meantime you can still make use of the exciting activities on or around Action for Children Sunday.

For more information and to see the activities please go to actionforchildren.org.uk/nch
NATIONAL CHILDREN’S HOUR
WHEN THE BIG HAND REACHES FOR THE LITTLE HAND
WWW.ACTIONFORCHILDREN.ORG.UK
It’s about time...

Welcome

First Hymn
Lord for the Years (Singing the Faith 470, MP Complete 428 and S/F 892)

Opening Prayer and Lords Prayer

Bible Reading
1 Samuel 3 v 1-10 (Samuel takes time to listen)

Second Hymn
Father God I wonder how I managed (Singing the Faith 72, M/P complete 128 S/F 92)

Bible Reading
Mark 10 v 13-16 (Jesus takes time to bless the children)

Third Hymn
I the Lord of Sea and Sky (Singing the Faith 663, M/P Complete 857 and S/F 830)

Talk about the work of Action for Children
(Faith in action)

A suggestion for a talk.
A time to listen a time to act – getting the timing right.

Complete the proverbs:

A stitch…the present
in time
More haste…before you leap
less speed
No time like…first
the present
Look…never comest
before you leap
First things…in a day
first
Tomorrow…in a day
never comes
Rome wasn’t built…
in a day
We must learn to walk…before we can run

Ask what the Proverbs all have in common.

Answer: They are all about Time. They tell us that sometimes we need to act cautiously. Other times the need is acting straight from the heart – impulsively.
In our Old Testament Bible Reading, the boy Samuel heard God’s voice and was prepared to take time to listen, in order to discover what it was God wanted him to do.

In our New Testament reading, Jesus, at the end of a long tiring day was still happy to take time to do what his Heavenly Father was asking of him. He blessed the children and took the opportunity to explain to onlookers how the children had the attitude which God required of those entering the Heavenly Kingdom.

Getting the timing right is important and we all need God’s wisdom to do it. Keeping in touch with God through listening to him, speaking with him and then acting on His word is the Christian way and its what the work of Action for Children is all about.

Explain that in a few minutes time we are to hear more about their work (if a representative from Action for Children is present) but first of all here is a Reflection about Time a gift which is God given to us all.

Reflection

It’s about time…
I’d like to, but I don’t have time
My days are busy, packed to the brim
Of work to be done, places to go,
Of calls to make.
It all has to be done
So there just isn’t time…
To stop… and hear the crying,
The pain behind the face that smiles
And says, “Yes, I’m fine”
Lord help me to take time to listen,
and to make the time
To encourage, to support, to make a difference

To see that to lead a generous life isn’t a waste of time.
Because time is your gift
Time for silence, time to love, time
for peace and time for action.
Lord, here I am.
Help me to do the best I can
To serve you wherever I am,
Whilst there is still time.
Amen

Fourth Hymn
Longing for Light (Singing the Faith 706)
or Jesus friend of little children (H/P146)
Offering

An Offering Prayer

Let us pray,
O God, in Jesus you taught the way of
giving generously and receiving gladly.
As we present these gifts of money
enable us to live with open minds and
hearts that we may give generously from
the bounty of all we have received.

Enable Action for Children to use these
gifts to bring practical care, compassion
and support to vulnerable and
marginalised children, young people and
families in Britain and grant that by our
partnership together we may bring hope,
support and comfort in time of need.

Amen.

A Prayer for Action for
Children Sunday
(also printed on the prayer card)

Generous and compassionate God, we
thank you for the work and ministry of
all involved with Action for Children. We
thank you for all who have worked and
are working today with your precious
children and their families, throughout
this organisation.

We pray for those who set aside time to
listen, to play and to care for the needs
of little ones, putting your love into action
in so many different ways. We also pray
for those who set aside precious time
to campaign for change in legislation
which will enhance the lives of Children
and families.

For the work of Action for Children
Lord we give thanks and pray that you
continue to inspire their work as they
share your love in the world.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.
Prayers of Intercession

God of Creation, God of eternity, we pray for your hurting world. Especially in this children’s hour we take time to hold those who are hurting, knowing you as a God who not only hears our prayers but answers them too.

(Silence)

Through our lives and by our prayers Your kingdom come

We pray for children who are innocently caught up in war situations, some even being encouraged to fight. We pray for children orphaned or separated from their families who find themselves alone in the world. Lord, protect them with your love and in the midst of turmoil, may they know your peace.

(Silence)

Through our lives and by our prayers Your kingdom come

We hold children in our own country who are separated from their families. We pray too for all children who care for their parents, often forfeiting the joy of their own childhood. In their confusion and pain, we lift them into your supportive and healing love.

(Silence)

Through our lives and by our prayers Your kingdom come

We pray for social workers, foster families and adoptive families, and all who try to break the cycle of pain in children’s lives, asking for your wisdom in the difficult decisions they make. Today we especially pray for the work of Action for Children. Continue to inspire them in all the important work they do.

(Silence)

Through our lives and by our prayers Your kingdom come

And finally for ourselves, we pray that we support Action for Children with a generous spirit. Speak into our hearts Lord and may we respond to their needs.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

Final Hymn
Give me Joy in my Heart (Singing the Faith 76, H/P 492, M/P Complete 167 S/F 728)

Blessing
In February 2014, Michelle had major surgery lasting for nine hours. Four hours after surgery, Michelle died for four minutes. She was rushed for open heart surgery and was fitted with a defibrillator. She was subsequently diagnosed with Brugada Syndrome, a rare hereditary heart condition, meaning she could have a heart attack at any time.

Michelle was left bed-ridden for five months after the nine-hour operation, which is why she contacted Action for Children. Michelle had been struggling to gain access to basic medical care and assistance such as home visits from district nurses and even access to a wheelchair. When she called her case worker, her case worker made the necessary phone calls and within hours had arranged nurse visits and the wheelchair.

Action for Children helped Michelle’s children and her mother with emotional support – working with their thoughts and feelings. In particular, they worked with her four-year-old son, including practical skills such as teaching him to call 999 should he be the only person present if Michelle had a heart attack. Michelle’s 13-year-old daughter, Chloe, is her main carer and also attends Action for Children’s Young Carers group, where she can share and talk about life as a young carer with other young people, who will understand exactly what she is going through. Michelle says that being a young carer has made her daughter “a more wonderful child”.

Michelle is determined not to let her condition get her down. In fact, she feels that her condition has brought many “positives” to her and her family.

She said: “We treasure each other more. And every day is a blessing and another day to be treasured. I now know life is for living and loving.”

Michelle recently met the Duchess of Cambridge when she visited our Cape Hill Children’s Centre, which was an amazing and very memorable day for everyone involved.

Michelle says that her case worker is “a family saviour” and “Action for Children has made all the difference to her, her mum and her children”.

Michelle Griffiths
Help us keep children safe.

One man’s legacy has been keeping children safe for over 145 years. Yours can do the same.

Will you help?

When Thomas Bowman Stephenson arrived in London in 1869, he couldn’t believe how many homeless children there were. One boy said “Do what you can for us, Sir”. He listened and set up the National Children’s Home to reach out and support children across the UK. Today we are Action for Children and sadly our help is needed just as much as it was 145 years ago.

Across the country, there are families struggling to cope. There are children who aren’t getting the care or opportunities they desperately need.

In the UK, one child in every ten is neglected – not fed, not washed, not clothed properly, not schooled, not loved. One child dies every week at the hands of an adult they should trust to care.

This is not acceptable. We have to help.

And we do thanks to the generous support of thousands of amazing people just like you who leave a gift to Action for Children in their will.

Let’s all take more action to keep children safe.

actionforchildren.org.uk/legacies
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