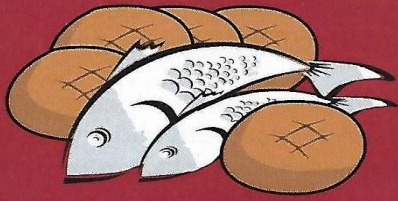


Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



Where a little means a lot

July 2020

Busier than ever!

When we went into this strangest of times, here at FHN we knew it was going to be busy. After a small 'breathing space' in March when many of the support agencies closed their doors because of the lockdown the impact of the Covid-19 really started to show in April as payment applications steadily rose. They reached record levels in May / June, and at one point we received 100 application emails in 24 hours! There was also a dramatic reversal in the ratio between organisation and personal applications, as those organisations struggled to stay in touch with clients and adjusted to less face to face working.

The flood of applications and the restarting of organisations have meant we are now only taking applications through organisations many of whom have contacted us for the first time. The number of applications from NHS trusts and local council support agencies has also risen.

Things are unlikely to change for us in the near future as we hear about the pressure on the economy and the benefits system. Unfortunately, there are going to be many families and individuals who are going to be considerably worse off even when we do get back to the 'new' normal.

Like most Charities we have had a serious drop in our income. As churches try to adapt, with worship and meetings in different forms, we know many are wondering about their own financial future but can you help?

THANK YOU We are very grateful to all who are supporting us in what is for everyone a very difficult time. Regular donations are especially helpful as we seek to meet a demand for help that is likely to be greater than ever in the coming months.



Walking on & on & on..

Meet John Hindson. Those of you who follow our Facebook Page or watch Notts TV (<https://nottstv.com/programme/eye-up-notts-friday-19th-june/>)

may have already heard that John is walking through the lockdown to help charities. John has dedicated the last 218 miles of his current challenge to FHN. He is virtually covering the distance of Lands' End to John O Groats. On the 19th of June he was 'at' Invergordon. To support / sponsor John's efforts and see how he's doing please use Just Giving (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/john-hindson2>) or send any donations to our Admin.

Our thanks to John for his amazing efforts!

Inspired by John, two of our trustees Karen and Roger, and Admin Gill will be starting their own walking challenge in July for our 60th birthday. Walking **60 miles in 12 days!** Karen and Roger are already on Just Giving, (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/karendrayton> <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/roger-cresswell1>) other details will follow on Facebook and the website on how you can support them, or contact Gill. Thanks

DONATE

If you can help us in supporting individuals who have no access to the major relief funds or benefits, please see our website at:

http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page_id=111

There you will find all the information you need on making a donation or regular gift.

Or you can contact us at:

fundhumanneed@gmail.com

The Need: From an organisation helping those in the asylum system. Jasmine is fleeing forced marriage in her home country and has a protection order to protect her. Her asylum case was refused before the protection order was issued at the High Court in London; her solicitor was in the process of preparing a new application when the Lockdown was announced. As a result, the solicitors office closed and this caused a delay in the submission of her fresh asylum application and consequently she couldn't apply for support. Jasmine was staying with her friend, even before the lock down started, but her friend also has very limited means. Jasmine requested help towards the cost of food, phone credit and traveling to essential appointments and to get shopping. Jasmine has health issues so her food options are limited and cannot always be met through the food bank.

Award £70. (name changed)

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BENEVOLENCE FUNDS

The **Fund for Human Need** is a Methodist Charity whose aims are the same as the local church benevolence Fund: the relief of poverty and distress, except we work to offer help to those throughout the UK who have no recourse to public funds, the homeless and any in distress.

Those who have long service in the Methodist Church may recall collections taken at Holy Communion services for the Poor Fund, in fact Communion Stewards were called 'Poor Stewards'. This money was kept by the local church and given to those in need, at the discretion of the local minister. Later this fund was renamed the benevolence fund.

Today benevolence fund collections are less common and, even when money is donated, churches may find there are few occasions when it is needed locally. The standing orders of the Methodist church provide for any such unused money to be allocated to other funds whose purpose is the relief of poverty and distress.

Restricted funds: It is a requirement of charity law that when funds are given or raised for a particular purpose, they must be used for that purpose, a restricted fund. A benevolence fund is money collected for the specific purpose of relieving poverty and distress. Every effort should be made to remit these monies to the intended beneficiaries as soon as possible, or within the same financial year. It is not possible to transfer monies out of a restricted fund for general purposes.

The purposes of the Local Church include the relief of poverty and distress to that end the Church Council shall maintain a local benevolence fund, (as set out in Methodist Standing Orders, 651). The sources of the fund are the separate or additional collections made at the Lord's Supper, love-feasts and allocations made from the general church fund. The fund shall be applied first for the relief of poverty and distress in the congregation and neighbourhood. Distributions and payments are made at the confidential discretion of the minister in consultation with the communion stewards or church stewards.

At its first meeting in each year the council shall decide if any moneys are surplus to expected needs and, if so, what allocations shall be made out of the fund to any other fund for the relief of poverty and distress. (Rev. R Fletcher. Trustee)

How is your church using its benevolence fund? Can we help you use it?

The Need: A personal application. I recently started a new employment but the business closed due to Covid. I thought that I would be eligible for the 80% salary payment from the government but I started 2 days after the cut-off date. I have claimed Universal Credit but if allowed will not get anything for 6 weeks.

My partner has just had a premature baby, the baby is definitely a blessing in this time despite the severe hardship, but they are both currently in hospital as my partner is unwell following complications of the birth.

I cannot be with them as I have a father who is very elderly and vulnerable, and I have to isolate with my father to keep him safe in lockdown and care for him.

Because of the baby's early arrival, we only managed to get a Moses basket ready and we need other baby things so that they can come home, please can I ask that you consider me for a grant for me at this time of severe crisis.

Urgent award made £100.

Other ways to help - 60th Birthday card / appeal – Coming soon! Ready to be distributed as soon as synods meet again.

Resources - Our film, copies of this news sheet and other resources are available on the website – www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk

New Leaflet- When we can meet again is there a space where you can display our information?

Electronic giving- We are on 'Just giving' search for us or use the button on the website.

Home shopping- we are on [Smile Amazon](#) and [Give as you live](#), if you nominate us a percentage comes to us with no cost to you.

Standing Order – Regular giving is so valuable and for tax payers gift aiding donations enables us to add 25p to every £ donated. Details on the website.

The backbone of any charity is its fantastic committed supporters who, whatever the amount they can donate, give regularly. Is this something you can consider?

Thanks to our funding from Methodist Church (MAPJ)

100% of your donations go to those in the most need. 60 years of loving our neighbours.

Keeping in touch – we send a newsletter regularly, by post or email, to all supporters and interested parties. We will get in touch to find out your mailing preferences. If at any time these change please let the administrator know. Mrs Gill Mason: fundhumanneed@gmail.com Ph: 01325 244992 Post: 6 Newlands Road, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 9JL.