

# Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



*Where a little means a lot*

**No 3 - 2023**

# 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.

**A special thanks to those whose gifts have been made anonymously or for whom we have no addresses to send our thanks.**



To keep our profile high and introduce us to a wider audience this year we have been to the Cliff College Festival for the first time and very much enjoyed the event. The Methodist Conference (Birmingham) and Greenbelt have also happened since the last newsletter.

Thank you to all the event staff who looked after us, helped Gill set up and kept us supplied with tea, and a big thank you to all who stopped to speak, took leaflets, bought cards, and encouraged us in all that we do.

At events whenever I am explaining the Fund for Human Need to someone who has a church background (of any denomination) but who has not heard of us, and if I need to be quick - I often tell them we operate like a national benevolent fund. Our aims are the same as any other benevolence Fund: the relief of poverty and distress, but we work nationally throughout the UK helping those who have no recourse to public funds, the homeless and any in distress.

The history of this type of relief is well documented in the Methodist Church, the funds usually coming from collections at communion and other special occasions or from the general church funds. The Communion Stewards were once called 'Poor Stewards.' Later renamed the benevolence fund, payments were and are always made at the confidential discretion of the minister consulting with the stewards. Used firstly for the relief of poverty and distress in the congregation and neighborhood. Today collections are less common and when money is donated, churches may find there are few occasions when it is needed locally.

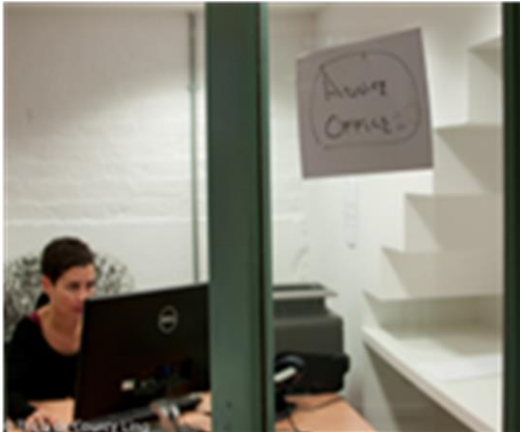
The local church's role includes the relief of poverty and distress. This is why the Church Council has the duty to maintain a local benevolence fund which, because it is collected for that specific purpose is a restricted fund, and cannot be used for other purposes.

We are encouraged to use this money as soon as possible, or within the same financial year and when not used locally to transfer it to other funds whose purpose is the relief of poverty and distress. Each year the church council should decide if any money is surplus to expected needs and what shall be transferred to another appropriate fund. How much in the way of funds is sitting unused in our churches' accounts across the UK? Have you recently reviewed your funds? Could you let us distribute those funds?

## Working partners-

*The Fund for Human Need is small, we make the majority of our grants through organisations on the 'front line,' many of whose staff are volunteers. Over the next few newsletters, we will be sharing some of their stories about the people they refer to us - people whose circumstances they verify and help to access our services.*

The Manna Society was founded 40 years ago based on the simple principle of giving help to those in need – it started with providing soup and bread to men living on the streets and in local hostels just a few streets away from where we are based in London Bridge.



Since then, we have grown to become the largest day centre in our borough whose mission is to support the homeless and vulnerable across London.

That growth has meant that our services now include basic subsistence services such as food, showers clothing and charging client's mobile phones plus primary care nurses, a chiropodist, mental health support team, access to computers in our IT suite and an Advice & Welfare team.

In the Advice and Welfare team, our work is very wide ranging and many of our clients are at the margins of society covering issues around benefits, housing, debt, and sustaining tenancies amongst others.

But an increasing part of our work particularly in the current climate is dedicated to seeking and securing financial support for our clients in a crisis. If we are unable to assist them from our own financial resources, this is when we may call upon the **Methodist Fund for Human Need**. An application to the fund can make the difference between our "No Recourse to public Funds" clients being able to feed themselves, being able to obtain an identity document so clients are able to work, help in providing appropriate seasonal clothing particularly for the winter months for our most hard-pressed clients.



One of our long-term clients – let's call her Lucy who currently has no recourse to public funds has a very unwell husband suffering from cancer. As part of his "treatment", his diet requires him to steer away from processed food, which is not always possible for him given their financial circumstances. He receives a small amount of funds from the local authority but his wife, Lucy receives no such support. They are frequently over-stretched financially and we have assisted them regularly while their Home Office application is considered. Recently the fund provided a grant to allow Lucy to supplement her husband's diet with a variety of fresh food for a period of time.

Again, a recent case involved another long-term client - someone we will call Tesfay. They had lost the one photographic identity document they possessed - a biometric residence permit. The permit had additional importance for him as it was proof of their right to remain in the UK legally. Tesfay was in considerable distress. The cost of a replacement required attending an interview providing documentation and be fingerprinted and provide a new facial photograph. In total the cost was nearly £200. The client receives benefits but going through his budget, it was clear there was very little wriggle room. By really cutting his expenditure to the bone, Tesfay had been able to scrimp together just over half the cost but could not sustain further cuts in his budget and was up against deadlines for the application to be processed. Being able to apply to the **Methodist Fund for Human Need** and receive a contribution towards the cost came as a tremendous relief to Tesfay – needless to say, he was both relieved and immensely grateful.

**Receiving a grant is extremely meaningful to our clients because it can make a massive difference to someone's life. We and our clients are so appreciative.**

*Margaret, Advice & Welfare, The Manna Society*



Pictures from Manna Society: copyright Tricia de Courcy Ling

## How You helped:

Application in July 23 from Together with Migrant Children. The Yadav\* family, parents and 2 children were evacuated from their accommodation, when a serious fire in the flat below made it totally uninhabitable. Unfortunately, despite trying to recover some things once it was made safe the smoke and some water damage meant that they lost everything, all clothing, possessions, and the children's few toys. After a week in an emergency hotel, they are being moved by social services to an empty property but are having to start again. The most immediate need is to replace clothing including school uniforms and bedding. Their current income, an allowance from social services at £152 per week. This is mostly spent on food for 4, travel to school and household basics. Award £120

Thank you. Received with our gratitude. Director. Together with Migrant Children

\*Name changed to protect identity

## Can you help us – 2023 Appeal to all UK Methodist Churches.

**Our small awards are classified under charity rules as 'grants' this makes it very difficult for us to access any funding as many of the major trusts and funds are restricted by their deeds and rules from supporting grant giving bodies, so we rely on the individuals and churches that support us.**

As we work across the whole of the UK there are approximately 4000 Methodist Churches in the areas we cover. We are supported by some circuits, churches and individuals and are very grateful for their commitment. Of the Methodist churches in the UK, we receive regular or occasional donations from about 200. Hoping to increase this proportion we have now written to the stewards / Leadership team at every church.



The individually addressed letters, including some new leaflets have gone out to districts to be forwarded through the synods and on via the circuits to the Churches.

We are asking that each local church to consider making a donation each year or sending the proceeds from a one-off special collection or event. We appreciate that many churches, as well as their members, are facing the effects of the ongoing cost of living crisis, but we are asking, nevertheless, if you can to enable us extend help to those in the greatest need, we would be very grateful.

**Your Part: As supporters of Fund for Human Need and what we do can you please look out for the leaflets and letter arriving at your church, ask your church council to consider the request. We are the only part of the Methodist Church doing this type of work in the UK.**



This appeal has been a large undertaking, and Gill (Admin) would especially like to thank the volunteers that have put in many hours of work helping get these letters folded, addressed, and packaged for their onward journey.



## How You helped:

Michael\* was already a carer for his elderly mum and struggling to make ends meet when the relationship with his partner exploded into violence. He and his small son were forced to flee with little more than what they stood up in. Temporarily housed by the council as there was no other shelter for them, they were quite quickly offered a property – but it was empty, no white goods, no beds and nothing to sit on.

Still caring for his mum on a daily basis, he faced setting up a new home, his now ex-partner refusing to return / forward any belongings. He also needed clothing and other basic necessities. His income was still limited pending the transfer of child benefit and the child element of universal credit. He was trying to make all this work, including paying bills on his single person's universal credit and carers allowance totalling just £600 per month. The utilities for the new house alone were £250 per month.

The Vine Centre based in Leeds helped him make a personal application to us. Award £100 (June 23)

\*name changed to protect identity

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## How You helped:

Afia\* is a single mother with a young son who has recently received a grant of residence, this means all the asylum support she received has now ceased. She is awaiting outcome of universal credit claim, (this will be 6 weeks minimum) and working on getting her own bank account. Fortunately, they have a friend to stay with but they need food and basic support. Award £130 (May 23)

**Good morning**

**This is to acknowledge receipt of the award.**

**This will surely go a long way. Thanks a lot, and God bless you and the organisation. Amen**

**Have a blessed day.**

**Kind Regards**

\*name changed to protect identity

## How You helped:

July 2023 application from: Norfolk money advice service.

Olivia\* contracted covid during the pandemic and was hospitalised fortunately only for a short time, however she now has long covid.

She has been unable to return to her previous employment due to the debilitating effects and exhaustion. Although she has managed while she had sick pay to cover most of her bills, that has now ceased and she is looking for other work. As this is unlikely to be full time or pay as well she is currently trying to sell her property as the mortgage arrears are accumulating (on her current benefits – or Universal credit there is no allowance for these costs). Her current income of Job seekers allowance is £323 per month and she needs to meet outgoings of: Utilities £133, water £33, Transport £50, phone etc £46. Her food Shopping is whatever is left. Olivia\* has applied for Personal Independence Payments (PiP) due to her medical condition – but this will take some time to be processed. Award £90

**Good morning,**

**Thank you for your email. I can confirm that the £90 has been received into my account, thank you. At this moment in time, any help is welcome, and I am grateful for this to be given to me.**

**Kind regards**

\*Name changed to protect identity

**Keeping in touch** – The newsletter is sent three times a year, by post or email, to all supporters and interested parties. We get in touch to find out your mailing preferences, if at any time these change, please let us know. This and any other correspondence to:  
Mrs Gill Mason (Admin): [fundhumanneed@gmail.com](mailto:fundhumanneed@gmail.com)  
**Ph: 01325 244992. Post: 6 Newlands Road, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 9JL**

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

[http://fundforhumanneed.org.uk/?page\\_id=111](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](mailto:fundhumanneed@gmail.com) Ph: 07561717230

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?

**Standing Order** – Regular giving is so valuable and if you can Gift Aid, it adds 25p to every £ donated. Details on the website or from Gill M.

**Cheque** - if you prefer to donate by cheque, these should be made out to 'Fund for Human Need' and directed to Gill Mason (Admin) at the address below.

**Other ways you can help - Other news outlets-** Is there a local news outlet that you could pass our information to? Church or Circuit notices or magazines?

**Electronic giving-** We are on 'Just giving'. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundforhumanneed>



Try our QR code to go to the Just Giving site. (just point the camera of a smart phone at it.)

**Home shopping-** we are on **Give as you live**, if you nominate us, a percentage comes to us with no cost to you.

**Synods** - Do you go to Synod? Could you take some leaflets, staff a marketplace table? Maybe you could speak for us? All materials and assistance provided.

**Greetings and Christmas Cards-** could you send for and sell on some of our cards? Its more cost effective to send a big pack to one person. Phone Gill to discuss.

**Wills and codicils-** we are linked with Freewills an online service

<https://freewills.co.uk/charity/fundhumanneed> they can also make a will over the phone on 0333 188 5688.

If you already have a will made and would be happy to add a bequest to Fund for Human Need a simple codicil form is available on the Website (or from our Admin).

**Friends in Districts-** we still have need of people in many of the districts to advertise us at district events and synods, giving out leaflets and putting up posters, getting information into publications etc. (all supplied and supported). Can you help.