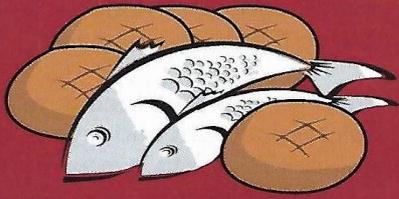


Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



Where a little means a lot

July 2019

Our Calling



Service: The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

The benefit system is complex and even the experts know it has problems; this was highlighted by a recent FHN application:

I am applying for this payment because I live with my girlfriend and our 10-week old little girl and money has become very scarce.

We are currently both on a joint Universal credit claim but we are getting underpaid every month by a large amount which is not leaving us enough to get the necessities we need for us and our baby. We have spoken to the DWP but they have said they are 'looking into' our underpayments but despite calling them frequently they claim they are still looking into it which may take some time which is leaving us very short for the time being. Amount of Income / Benefits (amount received per week) - Universal Credit-£175 this is including our money for the rent in the total.

Outgoings (amount per week) - Council Tax-£10, Baby stuff- Milk, Nappies, wipes- £25-£30 a week, Food shopping- £30, Bills-£30, Rent-£136.25.

FHN Emergency payment made £80.

Each month we receive 10-15 applications from those struggling in the benefits system due to delays and changes.

Help us to help them.

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

Remember thanks to our Grant (From MAPJ)

100% of your donations go to those of our 'neighbours' in the most need.

Updates on Fundraising

Our film and resources are available on the website – www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk

Making presentations –



We have been out and about at several spring Synods and ECG where we had some fantastic conversations. Resources were sent to all districts for refugee Sunday. Next, it's **Methodist Conference and Greenbelt Festival**, keeping the Fund in the public eye.

Local fundraising and giving, can you organise a coffee morning or other event? Can you speak to your Church council to include us in your church's giving? Advertising and other materials can be provided.

Just Giving: We are on 'Just giving' as 'Fund for Human Need' or use the button on the giving page of our website. You can make one-off gifts and include Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer. If you are a fan of electronic media why not like and share our Facebook page?

'Smile.Amazon' – if you use Amazon to shop please use the 'smile' version and nominate us. 0.5% comes back to the Fund, and we have had our first payment. It costs you nothing.

Wherever we go we are Inviting regular giving by Standing Order – and increasing this where possible by gift aiding donations this enables us to claim back the tax and add 25p to every £ donated

The backbone of any charity is its fantastic committed supporters who, whatever the amount they can donate, give regularly. If not already doing this, is this something you would consider?

Could you be a 'Friend to FHN'? – We are looking for people who can raise our profile within their communities or Churches and make people aware of the work we do. See overleaf.

Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866

Focus on - Living on Benefits.

From: The Trussell Trust.

Trussell support a nationwide network of food banks providing emergency food and support to people locked in poverty. **In the UK, more than 14 million people are living in poverty – including 4.5 million children.**

Trussell agree that a simpler and easier to navigate benefits system would help millions of people across the UK and that work should always pay for those on this new benefit.

But there is a third principle that must underpin our entire welfare state: it must provide enough money for those who need it to afford the basics – at the very least, food and shelter. As a nation, we expect no one should be left hungry or destitute but illness, disability, family breakdown or the loss of a job can happen to any of us. Figures released recently reveal that financial support from benefits is not enough for people to make ends meet. Instead of being helped back onto their feet, or being able to live a dignified life, people who need support are locked into debt, hunger and destitution.

Last year Trussell distributed a record 1.33million emergency food packages an increase of 13%. Where Universal Credit has seen full roll-out, demand for emergency food is rising even more. Data from foodbanks shows this increasing demand is from people who are not currently earning, and are meant to be supported by benefits. A survey of people in foodbanks on Universal Credit shows that only 8% found their cost of living covered. For those with a disability, that drops to just 5%. This year will see the biggest benefit cuts since 2012 with cuts to tax credits and rollout of Universal Credit which has lower entitlements for long term sick people and working families in particular.

The results of these policy decisions show in our foodbanks. 3/4 of households using foodbanks have someone with a health condition or disability. Families with children and single parents are overrepresented –the groups that are more likely to need the protection of a benefits safety net.

In the last Budget, the Chancellor announced £1.5billion was to be put back into Universal Credit to shorten waiting times and ease repayment of benefit advances. These decisions will make a difference to thousands of people who may have fallen into poverty and hunger but we must go further. **We need a benefit system that can be relied upon when we all need it and must never lose sight of that third principle – a welfare state that protects everyone from poverty and hunger.**

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/2018/04/27/yes-universal-credit-make-work-pay-welfare-state-must-protect-us-poverty-hunger/>

How would you manage?

The standard application time for benefits is now 5 weeks – if you get an emergency loan during this time it reduces your benefits when paid.

Reason for Applying to FHN - The applicant is presently awaiting receipt of Universal Credit and is appealing a PIP application and is not receiving any funds. He was receiving Employment Support Allowance which was stopped in October. The applicant has some support from a local church and a support worker who visits him twice a week. He presently lives alone and has a learning disability. The one-off payment will help towards some essentials like some new clothes as presently within budgetary constraints unable to buy. Amount of Income / Benefits (amount received per week) - Presently no income and is reliant on friends. **FHN emergency payment made - £60**
Do you have 5-6 weeks of money put by? Many of the people needing our help were already in difficulty – changes in benefits are the last straw.

We're looking for more friends:

- To ensure FHN leaflets / newsletters are topped up and visible in all places where Methodists meet.
- To ensure FHN's work is mentioned regularly in newsletters, meetings and draw attention to the website.
- To use links that you have with other relevant organisations and see if they can help?
- To recruit more Friends - and ask them to recruit more.
- To organise a local fundraising event where the film can be shown, donations made and standing orders encouraged
- To send in a report (it need only be brief) so we don't duplicate activities in an area.

All supplies and support provided, contact the administrator.

Keeping in touch – we send a newsletter regularly, by post or email, to all supporters and interested parties. For new supporters we will get in touch to find out your mailing preferences. If at any time these change please let the administrator know.

Administrator Mrs Gill Mason:
fundhumanneed@gmail.com
01325 244992 - 6 Newlands Road, Darlington,
Co Durham. DL3 9JL. If you need any help,
leaflets or gift aid envelopes please get in touch.