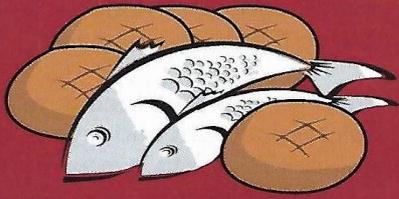


Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



Where a little means a lot

October 2020

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.

FHN 60th Birthday

Most of you as our supporters will have heard something of our birthday. We planned to make a direct appeal to all of the Methodist churches in the country but like many things this year it has not gone to plan.

Our birthday cards addressed to every church containing posters and leaflets were sent out to most of the districts in time for the spring Synods. These, of course, were cancelled - so, too, the distribution of our mailing.

The appeal is asking for each church to consider sending us £1 per member as a 'Birthday present' either collected or donated. **We are still**

running, and will keep running the appeal until we have reached all churches. As well as the original cards all of the districts have now been sent electronic versions of the package to send out with the September synod papers and these will now hopefully make their way to churches. Copies are included with this newsletter. If your church has not yet received the details can you please send or give your card pack to your stewards / leadership team for consideration.

Do you know anyone who is also 60 this year?

Would they like to join our celebration, share a gift?

Like most charities we have had a serious drop in 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 us to help the most desperate?



Then and Now:

In 1960 when Revd Donald McNeill founded the Fund for Human Need things were different - or were they?

In 1965 Abel-Smith & Townsend published *The Poor and the Poorest*, the central finding of the book was that the welfare state had not eliminated poverty. The authors found a re-emergence of poverty over the late 1950s. Their key estimates were that the proportion of households below the poverty level was **17.9% in 1960**, an increase in the number of people in poverty to 7.5 million. These results were widely accepted. At this time poverty was disproportionately concentrated in one-person households (particularly the retired) and also in large households with more than six persons. This led them to emphasise their estimate of **2.25 million children** in households below the poverty line in 1960. (<http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/61501/1/WPS-93-2016.pdf>)

More recently overall relative poverty (now measured using income after housing costs) was **22% in 2018-19**, changing little since the early 2000s. Relative poverty among working-age adults without children has fallen since 2011-12, while child poverty has increased by 3 % – the most sustained rise in child poverty since the early 1990s.

(<https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/14901>) There were **4.2 million children** living in poverty in the UK in 2018-19. That's 30 per cent of children, or nine in a classroom of 30. 44 % of children living in lone-parent families are in poverty. Work does not provide a guaranteed route out of poverty in the UK. 72 % of children growing up in poverty live in a household where at least one person works. (<https://cpag.org.uk/child-poverty/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>)

It would appear that the old adage about the poor always being with us is true, and for some the situation gets worse. **In 2019/20 FHN had 970 applications for food and basic necessities and 571 children were involved in those applications.**

Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866

Well done the Walkers!

In our July news sheet, we mentioned how some of our volunteers and supporters were walking 60 miles each as a sponsored walk.



This was all done locally and individually during lockdown. They have between them raised **£6508** a fantastic amount which really helped during the lock down times. Many of the donations through Just Giving were anonymous so to all of you we couldn't thank personally, **Thank You!** You have been an amazing help to lots of the UK's most desperate people. Plans are brewing for what may become an annual challenge.

Could you raise some funds for us? can you think of anything you can do? Remember 'a little means a lot.'

The Need: From a clinical psychologist at a young people's mental health service, South east England. We have been supporting Andrew* for a number of weeks. He was made homeless in December 2019 when his supported living accommodation closed. Since then Andrew has been sleeping rough, staying in friends' cars and sheds. Andrew has significant learning difficulties, mental health issues and previous experiences of trauma. He tried his local council for accommodation who refused his application on the basis of no local connection. They told him to go elsewhere but did not refer him, he was highly confused as to where to go. We have supported him to reapply and they have accepted his application but have not found him any temporary housing. Andrew's universal credit is sanctioned, as due to literacy difficulties he struggles to use the online journal. We have made a request for this to be overturned, but for one month he received no benefits at all. Currently it is extremely difficult for Andrew to be rehoused. We are seriously concerned about Andrew's wellbeing given the coronavirus outbreak as he does not have access to shelter or regular income. He also has health issues and is at increased risk from the virus. This request is for funding to support Andrew to access temporary accommodation in a hostel.

Award £80 May 2020, for hostel service charges and basics. * name changed

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.

The Need: From an organisation helping those in the asylum system in the North East. Reason for Applying – DH* is an asylum seeker and homeless. His case has been refused so his section 95 support has been stopped, and he has been evicted from the accommodation. He suffers from diabetes and Asthma. He is sofa surfing at a friend's house (who is also in difficulties and cannot support him) and used to spend his day at different charities. Unfortunately, this is not the case anymore, since most charities are closed due to Covid-19 risks and for safety measures. DH is struggling emotionally and financially as he has no money to buy food. DH still needs to attend his hospital appointments for diabetes reviews and has no money for travelling. He would really appreciate some help towards the cost of food and travelling. Amount of Income - Client is not receiving any financial support and not allowed to work. **Award £80, for food and travel. April 2020.** (* name changed)

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

Other ways to help - 60th Birthday card appeal Electronic version sent and others 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? Just ask Gill for some.

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?