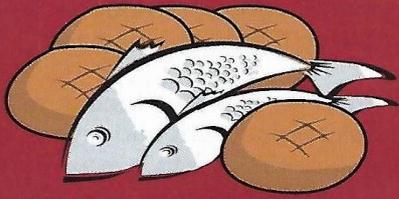


## Fund for Human Need

Registered Charity No. 208866



*Where a little means a lot*  
**September 2021**

**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.**

**Celebrating 60 years 'loving our neighbours'**

**Back to Normal?** Ever so slowly and carefully things are getting back to something like 'normal'. For us this has meant more applications from the likes of Red Cross whose destitution and day centres for the homeless are now receiving clients again as the hotel accommodation used during Covid is withdrawn. Also busier are the refugee organisations as the eviction recommences of those where an application to stay in the UK has been refused. After a refusal individuals and families who have been surviving on £39 per person per week have just 28 days to quit the housing, or file a new claim on what are often very complex cases.

On a more positive note, we are hoping that now we are able to meet in person everyone will be able to spread the word of what we do. If you go back to a church or group, can you see if there is anywhere to display our leaflet or this newsletter (or do those already there need updating?). We also have a poster that can be displayed and (to those of you with programmes to plan again) if we have a trustee nearby will send out speakers. For any help with publicity materials extra copies etc please contact Gill M.

**How we Helped: A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to the Fund for Human Need.** Project Future is a holistic mental health and well-being service supporting young people who experience significant and multiple challenges. These include homelessness, poverty, experiences of the criminal justice system and high socio-economic inequality and structural disadvantage.

"The Fund for Human Need has assisted a number of people experiencing poverty and immense hardship from our organisation with emergency grants. These include assistance for homeless parents to purchase nappies, clothes and other necessities for their children; financial support towards the cost of educational courses or course materials; and emergency funding for groceries. The speed at which the Fund for Human Need has been able to respond has been tremendously helpful.

Grants such as these are often critical in supporting people to move forward with their lives with dignity and autonomy. FHN grant recipients have been able to, for example: complete and pass education courses, obtain housing; gain full-time employment in careers and industries of their choosing; provide for and support their children's well-being through lockdown and the pandemic; and move in the direction of developing greater financial and other stability in their lives and for their families.

As well as assisting financially, FHN grants are also important in the meaning they convey. Knowing that people and communities care about us and the things we experience means a great to us all and has been invaluable during homelessness and financial crises during lockdown. Thank you all for your donations and to the Fund for Human Need for responding so quickly and sensitively to the emergencies our young people experience".

**From Project Future, a young person's mental health and wellbeing service.**

**Keeping in touch** – we send our newsletter 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. Mrs Gill Mason (Admin): fundhumaneed@gmail.com Ph: 01325 244992 Post: 6 Newlands Road, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 9JL

## Running the Fund for Human Need

In the last Newsletter, you heard from our Chair, Revd Roger Cresswell. For this issue, I have been invited to share who it is that I am as Secretary and what it is that I do.

Well, I am David Palmer and like Roger I am a Supernumerary Methodist Minister, but unlike him I became a Trustee only at the 2015 Annual General Meeting at which time I was appointed also as Secretary.

It was a job I was very willing to do and I 'joined up' without hesitation.

I may have been persuaded by an extremely difficult moment early in my ministry. I hesitate to tell you, but on balance I think I have to. The youngest daughter of our family had died and days after the funeral we were faced with an undertaker's bill which, though it was kept to a minimum by the undertaker, was still too much for us to pay. I phoned the Methodist Church's Finance Department to attempt to withdraw funds from a car account that all ministers personally had then. I was asked if I was buying a car... I told the young lady our circumstances and she asked me to hold the line while she talked with her boss. He came to the phone himself and told me that a cheque would be on our mat the next morning. I am choking up even as I recall the feeling of relief.

Today, I am happy to be involved with FHN and to know that what we are doing brings the same kind of relief to others. It is 'need' we address more than we do 'poverty'. The two are different and demand different solutions.

As Secretary, I oil the wheels of our organisation, preparing the agendas (along with the chair) for our Trustees Meetings, sending out calling notices, playing my part in the meetings and preparing and sending out minutes as quickly as possible after the meetings as accurate records of the reports received and our decisions. When it comes to our AGM this coming November we will once again (Alleluia!) meet together at Methodist Church House in Marylebone Road, London. I've already arranged the venue, also the simple lunch. Invitations are yet to go out to guests and District 'Friends of FHN'.

As a charity, we have legal, moral and ethical responsibilities. The Chair, the Treasurer and myself are the principal officers who address these things in collaboration. All the trustees just now have policies to



The Methodist Church  
**Fund for Human Need**  
Charity Registration No. 208866

*'All the apostles asked  
was that we remember  
the needy -  
the very thing  
I was eager to do.'*



Paul, Gal. 2.10

**FHN: where a little means a lot**  
to those who are **destitute** or **desperately in need**

**WITH YOUR SUPPORT – FHN GIVES**  
one-off payments, mostly through agencies  
to the homeless and hungry  
refugees and asylum seekers  
ex-prisoners  
those whose relationships have broken down  
and those with mental health or medical issues

For more information, or to give to FHN

- Write to us at 6 Newlands Road, Darlington, DL3 9JL
- Email 'Gill' at [fundhumanneed@gmail.com](mailto:fundhumanneed@gmail.com) or
- Visit our website: [www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk](http://www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk)

review. And, given a successful application four years ago, to Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice, for support with our administration costs, we now have responsibilities for an employed worker for the first time in FHN's history. And it's Gill who has got me writing this!

She and I work together - seeking further grants, also on promotional matters. We've exhibited at many functions, including Greenbelt and the Christian Resources Exhibitions. We would have covered more, but for covid19. Advertising is pretty much my responsibility, in the Methodist Diary, the Conference Agenda (shown aside) and the Minutes of Conference. Making FHN known, and telling people about the relief it really gives to people in need, is the responsibility of us all.

**Like most Charities we have had a serious drop in our income. As churches families and individuals try to adapt, we know many are wondering about their own financial future but can you help us help the most desperate?**

## Congratulations!

Last time we mentioned how Revd Gill Hulme was planning to cycle the whole way from her church at Bishop's Stortford to the superintendent's conference in Blackpool, (300 miles). We are pleased to add that after some adventures and enjoying the hospitality provided en route Gill arrived safely in Blackpool



**Gill's ride has so far raised the fantastic sum of £3,275** 'It was tougher than I imagined it would be as I don't do well in heat, but I did make it to Blackpool on Monday morning, having cycled a total of 296 miles (did the extra 4 on my way home by train on Wed) I'd like to thank you for your messages of support and also your prayers. They stopped me giving up!' You can still add to this at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gill-hulme2> (or by sending donations to our Administrator marked Cycle.) **A big thanks to all who sponsored Gill, if you are inspired could you do whatever you are good at to raise some badly needed funds for FHN?**

**How we Helped:** May 2021: Helen\* was released from prison roughly two years ago and has been working hard to get her life back on track, fully engaging with services and help. She is on a very low income currently as money is deducted from her Universal Credit, this is because of advances she took, attachments of earnings to her benefits for a fine she received some time ago and an over payment of Housing Benefit from 2018. Helen has improved so much we would like to get her moved on into independent living via social housing. Any property offered will be empty. She does not have funds or any savings to buy furniture, as her remaining universal credit barely covers the service charge for her current accommodation, food and clothing. Her support worker has been able to help her in getting a cooker and fridge freezer so far and I am now applying to you on her behalf for £120 which she could put towards buying other household basics and furniture including a bed. Amount of Income, benefits or support received: Helen is currently receiving £240 (from a single person's allowance of £316) a month via Universal Credit. This is due to the deductions mentioned above. (Name changed \*)

**From Centrepoint UK. Award £80.**

**"Many thanks for going out of your way to provide support to this young person, you guys are really making a difference." Centrepoint.**

**How we Helped:** Many Thanks to the Methodist Fund in Human need for the awards to clients. We have received messages from clients expressing their sincere gratitude for the awards- be in no doubt, it comes as welcome relief/financial breathing space

The funds provided have:

- Replaced a residence card and Children's passport so a client can restart her life free from Domestic abuse.
- Given food and basics to a client with communication difficulties while he makes a new universal credit claim.
- Allowed a mother of 2 to feed her children while she starts a new life away from family violence.
- filled the 'benefit gap' for a family of four
- helped a client with severe mental health issues to pay for temporary accommodation, food and basics.

You make a huge difference to the lives of these clients. Thanks very much for your generosity of spirit.

Enabling Lives Project Worker:

[firstlovefoundation.org.uk](http://firstlovefoundation.org.uk)

## 2020/21

Awards made by FHN in the year to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August **affected the lives of 1108 People**. The amazing amount of £57,950 was placed in the hands of those in the most desperate need.

The applications to us were mostly for food and basic necessities (**814** applications) and over **450** of these included children and pregnant mothers. Although many homeless had been placed in accommodation due to Covid, there were still **213** applications which included homelessness (only down by 50 from last year) and **91** people recently housed.

Possibly as an effect of the lockdowns the number of applications including medical and mental health issues increased by **65** people. Those affected by debts and domestic violence are also increasing.

We now have over 170 organisations on our lists. They apply to us where their charitable purposes (rules) do not allow them to pay for or provide what the client needs. To spread our resources, we ask them to only make 2 applications per month each. However more new organisations are coming to us every month reflecting the growth of the need.

**Thank you. All of you made a response possible.**

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## Superintendents' conference.



Not only did Revd Gill Hulme make a sponsored cycle ride all the way to Blackpool for us but, once there, along with the help of Revd Rosemary Fletcher, spent part of the time at the conference working to advertise the Fund for Human Need to fellow superintendents. We have found that it is very valuable in terms of support for us to meet people at this type of event and hope to get back to a full programme next year.

**How we Helped:** June 2021: Talia\* has been homeless for the last 5 years, partly sofa surfing and partly street living. Due to Covid she has recently been placed into Emergency Accommodation by the Council. Talia was brought to the UK as a child and when the adults she was with were refused leave to remain she was placed into Foster Care. On leaving the care system Talia became involved in a violent and abusive relationship. Eventually with the help of others and after police intervention she fled. Due to having to leave the area complications with housing issues left her homeless. She has no family to support her. Because of her situation Talia has no bank account or ID so is unable to claim benefits. She has recently been put in touch with a solicitor to try and sort this issue.

Talia has a mobile phone to contact support workers / solicitor but is unable to pay for credit, she is also in need of new clothing and basic hygiene essentials. (\*name changed)

**From: Southdown Housing Association: Award £80.**

## It's DOWNLOADS for DONATIONS

The results of our secretary Revd David Palmer's New Testament research are available on a new website where documents and charts can be downloaded. In return he is asking you consider a donation to **FHN**. <https://new-testament-new-testimony.com/> Have a look!



**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)

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.

## 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?

**Resources** - Our film, copies of this news sheet and other resources are available on the website – [www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk](http://www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk)

**Electronic giving-** We are on 'Just giving'.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundforhumanneed>

**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.

**60<sup>th</sup> Birthday card appeal** - As with everyone's lockdown birthdays we are keeping this going until everyone has had chance to celebrate.

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

**GIVING TUESDAY**  
OFFICIAL PARTNER

**Giving Tuesday takes place on Tuesday 30th November 2021.** Giving Tuesday is a day where everyone, everywhere can do something to support the good causes that mean so much to them.

You can donate money; share your skills; volunteer your time; campaign for something; donate goods, food, or clothes; organise a community event such as a street or park clean-up or a coffee morning.

It is a day to give back by supporting a cause close to your heart or doing something good for your local community or someone in need.

<https://www.givingtuesday.org.uk/> Could you raise some much-needed funding for us?