

## MISSIONAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

9 MARCH 2023

District funding is available to support Transforming Mission and Properties Fit For Mission projects. Full details of our current scheme and what we have said we will prioritise are available at <https://www.sheffieldmethodist.org/what-we-do/finance-fundraising.html>



**If you think of in advance of the meeting of questions that you would like to ask about grant applications, please pass on to Neil Harland so that we can use our time together as efficiently as possible.**

### **SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT – ST ANDREWS PSALTER LANE CHURCH (LEP) – APPLICATION FOR DECISION**

This is a request for £12,000 towards urgent repairs of the spire on their listed chapel building.

As described in the application, this congregation (membership 109, average attendance 55) is a driving force both within our district and Sheffield's Anglican diocese on a range of social justice matters including environmental concerns and inter-faith relations. They have a close relationship with the local primary school (although changes in school governance may mean that the church needs to find new ways to engage with families) and other links into their local neighbourhood.

The membership are contributing themselves and have been active in seeking funding from a range of sources, some of which district funding will help them secure. They have sought advice from Tom Rattigan, and have explored cheaper options e.g. removing the spire.

Ideally they would take this moment as an opportunity to more clearly define the next chapter of their intentional mission. But to do this meaningfully requires more time than they have to raise these funds. We could make updating the mission plan, say within the next 12 months, a condition of the grant.

Sheffield Circuit Meeting is later in March. As is usually the case, I suggest that district funding be conditional on a financial contribution from the circuit.

### **CURRENT GRANT EVALUATIONS – REQUEST FOR SUPPORT**

**Sprotbrough families worker (Doncaster)** I have recently received evaluation of this May 2021 grant, required before the second year of three of funding is released. The role has two parts – local families ministry and leading the borough-wide Baby Basics project. Our grant was conditional on funding being sought from other sources to increase sustainability of the role and ensure best value for Methodist funds invested. Whilst the church are now alert to financial sustainability challenges, they do not appear to have sought additional salary grants or alternative sources of funding thus far.

Rather than me becoming sole gatekeeper to district funds, I would appreciate a short meeting including review of documentation with a couple of DLT members before making a response such as "we will be able to release the next grant instalment once you have done X, Y and Z".

Most evaluations show projects progressing as intended. Would you appreciate these being circulated to all DLT members when received?

## **POTENTIAL FUTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS - FOR INFORMATION**

**Hemsworth Little Fishes Soft Play (Barnsley)** In November 2020 we awarded a £22k grant towards first year salary costs, and indicated that future funding may be available if necessary for future years. The soft play has opened in 2022. They have indicated that they would appreciate further support, but I am awaiting details of their progress and financial projections.

**Inkersall (Derbyshire North East)** - construction of a new multipurpose church/ community centre. They are currently meeting in a cramped portacabin.

**Totley Rise (Sheffield)** – riverbank reinforcement, to prevent erosion leading to the undermining of the church premises. As with St Andrews Psalter Lane Church, I have emphasised need for a forward looking missional plan within their application.

**Centre Manager – The Grove and The Crossing (Trinity Circuit)** – once redevelopment work at The Grove in Retford is complete, an employed manager will be required to realise the potential of the building, as was highlighted in the property grant application we received. The Crossing in Worksop also still has untapped potential. This role is intended to become self-funding but seed funding will be required.

**New Christian communities** – I am in discussion with a number of churches and teams about potential funding for new Christian communities, either as a next developmental phase of an existing piece of work, or a new venture. As noted in our January meeting, these are long term ventures, often requiring both financial investment, education as to how they can be impactful, and thorough embedding in the local context.