

MISSIONAL GRANTS OVERVIEW - UPDATED

11 MAY 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 – TOTLEY RISE RIVERBANK STABILISATION – APPLICATION FOR DECISION

This is a request for £3,000 towards at £45,000 project to stabilise the riverbank at the rear of the church site, which will otherwise continue to erode. A substantial contribution has been raised towards this work by local membership.

The church is missionally active, much of which relies on their premises, which are used by church and community led groups throughout the week. The church started but abandoned preparing a new mission plan prior to covid, with their latest plan having been written in 2013. I have encouraged them to reprioritise creating a new plan.

Whilst the application indicates that Sheffield Circuit has not approved a grant, I believe that the circuit have now confirmed a financial contribution since this application was written, and hope to have an updated funding position for our meeting. As with the application from St Andrews Psalter Lane Church discussed at our March meeting, I suggest that district funding be conditional on a financial contribution from the circuit.

DONCASTER CIRCUIT – ROSSINGTON NPNP – APPLICATION FOR DECISION

This is a request for a grant towards creation of a new Christian community in the ex mining village of Rossington, which would also be supported with Connexional funding via the New Places for New People programme.

This is our first application for a circuit-led project, following on from the District NPNP Pilot. It therefore uses the Connexional application form, rather than the more flexible paperwork requested for most district grants. As agreed at our January meeting, the five year funding package (if approved) for such projects would be:

- £20,000 committed now from District Advance Fund
- A further £20,000 from DAF for year 3 onwards, contingent on satisfactory progress and the District Advance Fund having sufficient uncommitted funds available at the time (on the expectation that the DAF will continue to receive new income to allocate each year)
- £20,000 committed now from Connexional funds. The process for this is that we forward the application to the NPNP Project Officer together with a cover slip explaining whether it has district support. Due to unfortunate timing of meetings and paperwork deadlines I have provided the enclosed draft cover slip and promised the Project Officer an update following our meeting. **This does not commit the district to anything or pre-judge any decisions by DLT about this application**

As can be seen from the paperwork, considerable exploration has been undertaken over an extended period, following a similar process to the District NPNP Pilot and involving myself and other district officers.

In addition to the paperwork, a [short video presentation](#) has been prepared.

As part of the NPNP programme, this grant would be subject to six monthly evaluations.

ROTHERHAM & DEARNE VALLEY CIRCUIT – ST JOHNS SWINTON – YOUTH HOUSE ROOF

Apologies for a late application – the church are striving to raise funds as quickly as possible to get this work done before the winter.

A request for £4,000 towards a £40,000 project to replace and insulate to modern standards the leaking roof, which will be the final phase in an extended programme of modernising and making fit the church premises. The Youth House is already used for church-led community outreach and other local groups (see the picture on page 10 of your district magazine!), and the circuit intend to use it as a strategic third location for their successful Family Fun Church initiative. There is a financial contribution from the circuit. I anticipate that the church will make some contribution, but are presently carrying less than three months spend in reserve.

UPDATES ON OTHER GRANT EVALUATIONS – FOR INFORMATION

Sprotbrough families worker (Doncaster)

As noted in our last meeting, the evaluation report received had caused concern that the church were not seeking additional funding to sustain the role, which had been a condition of the grant. Having consulted with Julie Coates and Vic Loveday, I have explained to the church that we will not be able to release the next grant payment until it has been possible to meet with them and understand the actions they will taking. This appears to have been well received but the meeting has not yet been arranged.

St Andrews Psalter Lane Church (Sheffield)

At our March meeting we approved a grant of £12,000 towards emergency repairs to the spire of their listed building. This was conditional on circuit grant funding being provided. The circuit meeting has since met and approved a grant, and the work is due to start in June.

Neil Harland
Mission Enabler
4 May 2023