

## SUMMARY

Treasurer's reports are circulated to each District Leading Team meeting, to keep members informed of the financial position of the District. Key points to note in this report are:

- General fund expected lower deficit than budgeted
- Advance fund receipts higher than budget for this year, and grant claims are being received slower than expected
- Some trustees will have received communication from Charity Commission – no action is required
- Stewardship Generosity Repot suggests giving to churches could be significantly increased

## CURRENT YEAR DISTRICT FINANCES (Appendix 1)

### General fund

General fund is expected to be a lower than budgeted deficit of £21k. Cost of additional hours for Communications Officer (currently on a temporary basis) is offset by lower travel costs whilst Gill is serving as President of Conference.

### Advance fund

We have received significantly higher distributions from Circuit Model Trust Funds and Property Fund levies than budgeted. These are inherently hard to predict. There remain a number of potential New Christian Community applications in the pipeline, albeit progressing slowly, but fewer applications for building projects and other employed roles than we have seen previously. See discussion in strategy update about size of grants for New Christian Communities. We will carry forward approximately £550k of uncommitted funds into the next Connexional year.

### Restricted funds

These continue to perform largely in line with budget.

The Peak Park Rural Development Enabler fund needs to raise a further £13k between now and 2026.

Conversations will be held in the coming months with funding partners for the Persian Ministry Development Enabler to confirm funding for years 4 and 5 of the project. Our contribution is already confirmed for the full five years, subject to the viability of the role.

We will likely carry forward a small deficit of less than £2k on the Learning Network regional fund. This carries the cost of regional retreats and events. It is funded through individuals paying to attend retreats, districts subsidising ticket prices for events their members attend, and occasional top up funding from districts. With the region having increased from three to five districts this year, we will not be able to agree priorities for future events and funding plan until all the Chairs have had opportunity to meet with Learning Network staff.

Because accounting rules do not permit a restricted fund to be in deficit, we will make a temporary transfer from the general fund at the year end to cover this.

## CHARITY COMMISSION

I have still not been able to submit our annual return, because the Charity Commission website upgrade is unable to cope with people like me who use different email addresses for different trusteeships. The Charity Commission website states they are alert to this situation and that charities will not be penalised. I have however received and replied to an email from Charity Commission asking that we update our details. Other trustees may have received this communication too.

## STEWARDSHIP GENEROSITY REPORT

Stewardship is a Christian charity supporting churches in their fundraising and administration. They have recently released [results of a detailed survey of charitable giving by Christians](#). In a context where lack of income is regularly felt to be a limiting factor on our mission and ministry, their key findings seem relevant and helpful for us:

### Active faith



Active disciples donate more of their income to all causes than the general population. People whose faith is considered engaged (which Stewardship define as reading the Bible independently at least a month) give donate twice as much of their income vs people who attend church regularly (at least monthly), and five times as much as people who attend church less than monthly ("cultural Christians"). There are obviously

many reasons why we would want to encourage people to deepen their journeys of discipleship

### Connection to causes



Most people give or give more in response to an appeal or personal approach, rather than being pro-active in seeking causes to donate to. **How often do we talk about giving, generosity and use of money (beyond praying over the offertory plate) in our worship, preaching and teaching? How could we support Local Preachers, stewards and treasurers to talk about this more?**

People give more when they feel connected to a cause that can make a difference. **How often do our churches make explicit links between giving and the positive impact that this money will achieve through mission and ministry? How does this compare to communications from other charities you support?**

### Unlocking the giving potential



50% of people cannot afford to give any more than they do. But 50% can afford to – these people refrain from giving more because they do not trust that donations will be used well. **How do you decide you can trust a charity with your money? What can our churches do to convince those in our congregations who can afford to give more that increased giving will make a difference?**

People who discuss their giving (e.g. to encourage others to support a cause) give more themselves. American Methodist Robert Schnase talks about the importance of testimony about tithing in the *Extravagant Giving* chapter of [Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations](#). **What causes/ charities do you talk publicly about your support for? Could you invite someone to share testimony about their giving in their church?**

Neil Harland

2 July 2024

APPENDIX 1 – YTD FINANCES

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Var	Forecast FY	Budget FY	Notes
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
District assessment	87,818	87,818	-	117,091	117,091	
Other income	3,400	189	3,211	5,000	250	1
	91,218	88,007	3,211	122,091	117,341	
<u>Manse &amp; flat</u>						
Letting income	8,280	8,442	(162)	11,045	11,261	
Costs	(10,688)	(13,257)	2,569	(15,000)	(17,673)	
	(2,408)	(4,815)	2,407	(3,955)	(6,413)	
<u>Safeguarding</u>						
Employment costs	(21,276)	(21,276)	-	(28,366)	(28,366)	
Other	(1,468)	(2,142)	674	(3,000)	(3,000)	
	(22,744)	(23,418)	674	(31,366)	(31,366)	
<u>HR</u>						
Income	12,296	9,576	2,720	16,788	12,768	2
Employment costs	(21,792)	(17,649)	(4,143)	(27,557)	(23,537)	
Other	(1,515)	(1,494)	(21)	(2,000)	(2,000)	
	(11,011)	(9,567)	(1,444)	(12,768)	(12,768)	
<u>Retreats &amp; events</u>						
Income	380	3,500	(3,120)	500	3,500	
Costs	(10,963)	(17,378)	6,415	(15,000)	(18,000)	
	(10,583)	(13,878)	3,295	(14,500)	(14,500)	
<u>Other costs</u>						
Admin & comms employment	(36,966)	(35,802)	(1,164)	(50,255)	(43,775)	3
Other office costs	(17,371)	(16,466)	(905)	(22,300)	(22,300)	
Chair & volunteer expenses	(2,479)	(10,494)	8,015	(6,000)	(14,000)	
Learning & development	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Surplus/ (deficit) before transfers</b>	<b>(12,344)</b>	<b>(26,433)</b>	<b>14,089</b>	<b>(19,054)</b>	<b>(27,781)</b>	
Transfer to Learning Network	(1,607)	-	(1,607)	(1,607)	(2,000)	
Transfer to other funds	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Surplus/ (deficit) on unrestricted funds after transfer</b>	<b>(13,951)</b>	<b>(26,433)</b>	<b>12,482</b>	<b>(20,661)</b>	<b>(29,781)</b>	
<b>Advance fund</b>						
Income	413,175	180,000	233,175	415,000	180,000	4
Transfer to other funds	-	-	-	(21,954)	(26,000)	
Mission employment costs	(72,966)	(74,047)	1,081	(98,413)	(99,494)	
Mission other costs	(3,111)	(5,337)	2,226	(10,000)	(10,000)	
ONE Programme	(3,770)	(15,003)	11,233	(7,500)	(20,000)	5
Energy survey grants	(1,249)	-	(1,249)	(4,000)	-	
Other grants	(21,000)	(74,997)	53,997	(41,000)	(100,000)	
Other costs	(1,497)	(747)	(750)	(5,000)	(1,000)	
<b>Surplus/ (deficit) on advance fund</b>	<b>309,582</b>	<b>9,869</b>	<b>299,713</b>	<b>227,133</b>	<b>(76,494)</b>	

- 1) Higher interest income than budgeted
- 2) HR Officer now also providing hours to Darlington District, at no extra cost to our district
- 3) Increase in Comms Officer hours
- 4) Property fund levy, CMTF distributions and interest income higher than budgeted
- 5) 3 interns appointed vs 8 budgeted

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Var	Forecast FY	Budget FY	Notes
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
<b>MDSW</b>						
Employment costs	(3,371)	(2,290)	(1,081)	(3,371)	(2,290)	6
Other costs	(31)	-	(31)	(163)	-	
	(3,402)	(2,290)	(1,112)	(3,534)	(2,290)	
<b>Peak rural enabler</b>						
Income	49,210	45,830	3,380	59,578	47,000	7
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	9,954	14,000	8
Employment costs	(29,730)	(29,700)	(30)	(39,599)	(39,599)	
Other costs	(13,337)	(13,752)	415	(18,338)	(18,338)	
	6,143	2,378	3,765	11,595	3,063	
<b>Learning Network region</b>						
Income	14,649	-	14,649	14,700	10,000	
Costs	(17,789)	(9,000)	(8,789)	(18,500)	(12,000)	
Transfer from other funds	1,607	-		1,607	2,000	
	(1,533)	(9,000)	7,467	(2,193)	-	
<b>Persian ministry</b>						
Income	7,971	32,000	(24,029)	33,580	32,000	
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	12,000	12,000	
Employment costs	(30,150)	(30,150)	-	(40,198)	(40,198)	
Other costs	(3,457)	(7,452)	3,995	(9,500)	(9,937)	
	(25,636)	(5,602)	(20,034)	(4,118)	(6,135)	
<b>NPNP Pilot</b>						
Income	10,000	30,000	(20,000)	30,000	30,000	
Costs	-	(30,000)	30,000	(26,000)	(30,000)	9
	10,000	-	10,000	4,000	-	
<b>Surplus/ (deficit) on restricted funds</b>	<b>(14,428)</b>	<b>(14,514)</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>(5,362)</b>	
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>281,203</b>	<b>(31,078)</b>	<b>312,281</b>	<b>212,222</b>	<b>(111,637)</b>	

6) Using up remainder of Mission Enabler grant, thereafter part of Advance Fund cost.

7) Three year TMCP grant received as lump sum

8) Part of our current year contribution was made last year to avoid deficit on the PPRDE fund

9) Payments to Derbyshire North East reprofiled to help their budgeting

Applicant	Grant Description	Total offered £	Prior years payments/ lapses £	Paid this year £	Lapsed £	Remaining to pay £
<b>GRANTS FROM PREVIOUS SCHEME</b>						
Doncaster Circuit	town centre outreach worker	33,000	23,000			10,000
Edale MC	historic chapel renovation (up to 10% of project)	20,000	19,600			400
Sprotbrough MC	families worker	12,000	5,000			7,000
Peak Circuit	Hub at Hope development worker	27,000	19,000	8,000		0
<b>TRANSFORMING MISSION GRANTS</b>						
Derbyshire North East	Left Behind Places	20,000	5,600			14,400
Manor Church & Community Project	community cohesion & outreach worker	23,023	10,341	5,008		7,674
Sheffield Circuit	mental health coordinator	20,000				20,000
Doncaster Circuit	NPNP Rossington (phase 1)	20,000				20,000
Trinity Circuit	Facilities & Community Manager	20,000		10,000		10,000
<b>PROPERTIES FIT FOR MISSION GRANTS</b>						
The Grove	Growth of the Grove	20,000		20,000		0
Peak Circuit	Peak Wesley Way	14,000		14,000		0
Stocksbridge Christian Centre	community hub & food matters	20,000		20,000		0
SAPLC	emergency spire repair	12,000				12,000
St Johns Swinton	youth house roof	4,000		4,000		0
Totley Rise	riverbank stabilisation	3,000			3,000	0
Broom	AV & kitchen	4,000				4,000
		0				0
<b>Total main grants</b>		<b>272,023</b>	<b>82,541</b>	<b>81,008</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>105,474</b>

	31-Aug-23 Actual £	30-Apr-24 Actual £	YTD Movement £	
<b>Fixed assets</b>	211,898	209,621	(2,277)	
<b>Debtors and prepayments</b>	25,030	80,857	55,827	Includes £30k to Edale Methodist Church, £11k to Enable Housing repayable in instalments by 2029, £38k to Freedom repayable by 2028.
CAF	12,087	17,036	4,949	
TMCP	525,250	770,580	245,330	
MWiB	1,824	1,824	-	
CFB	80,274	12,976	(67,298)	
<b>Total cash</b>	<b>619,435</b>	<b>802,416</b>	182,981	
Grants payable	(165,264)	(101,256)	64,008	
Held for other organisations	(538)	(538)	-	
Other	(10,477)	(29,011)	(18,534)	
<b>Total creditors</b>	<b>(176,279)</b>	<b>(130,805)</b>	45,474	
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>680,084</b>	<b>962,089</b>	<b>282,005</b>	

<b>FUNDS</b>	31-Aug-23 Actual £	30-Apr-24 Actual £	31-Aug-24 Forecast £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>296,752</b>	<b>283,577</b>	<b>276,091</b>
MDSW	3,534	132	-
Peak Rural Enabler	-	6,143	11,595
LN region	646	(888)	(1,547)
MWiB	1,824	1,824	1,824
Persian ministry	32,547	6,912	28,429
NPNP Pilot	14,000	24,000	18,000
<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>52,551</b>	<b>38,123</b>	<b>58,301</b>
<b>Advance Fund</b>	<b>330,782</b>	<b>640,391</b>	<b>557,915</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>680,085</b>	<b>962,091</b>	<b>892,307</b>

<b>Unrestricted liquid funds (months spend held)</b>			
General fund	6.3	5.2	4.8
Advance fund	24.4	56.8	49.5