

POLICY AND PROCEDURE ON SUPPORT FOR CHARITIES AND GROUPS AT HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH HARPENDEN

1. Methodist Connexional Funds

The Church will support the following Methodist Connexional Funds via grants from its annual income. Currently, financial measures permitting, the total amount for annual distribution is set at 5% of the churches pledged and unpledged giving plus associated tax recovery. Financial support to these funds will be administered by a sub-group (Appendix 1) of the World and Society Committee who will keep the Church informed about the work of these Funds via whatever means of publicity the church has available including written and digital publicity:

- Methodist World Mission Fund
- Methodist Mission in Britain Fund
- Methodist Church's Fund for Property
- Fund for the support of Presbyters and Deacons
- Methodist Ministers Housing Fund
- Leaders of Worship and Preaching Trust
- All We Can (formerly known as Methodist Relief and Development Fund)
- Fund for Human Need

2. Envelope Appeals

The Church will support the following charities by an envelope appeal and endeavour to ensure there is a link person to organise the appeal and keep the church informed about the work of the charities via whatever means of publicity the Church has available including written and digital publicity (current list of link persons , Appendix 2):

- Methodist Home for the Aged
- Action for Children
- Methodist World Mission Fund (Easter offering)
- Christian Aid

3. Regular Support

The Church will support the following groups/charities as set out below and will ensure the Church has a link person to organise the necessary action and to keep the church informed about the work of the group/charity via whatever means of publicity the church has available including written and digital publicity:

- The Share Scheme by collecting food on a year-round basis and distributing as and when it is needed by Harpenden Trust, Batford Family Centre, Azalea or any other groups considered suitable by a sub-group of the World and Society Committee. The Church will also provide Christmas Hampers for distribution through Harpenden Trust and other groups that are identified.
- The Prison Fellowship by providing presents for prisoner's children via the Prison Angel's Appeal at Christmas.
- Christian Aid Week by participating in the national annual appeal, including the door to door envelope appeal, and by donating the collection from the midnight Communion service.

- Mencap by offering the church premises free of charge for a fund-raising concert once a year.
- Embrace the Middle East by collecting and sending off used stamps.
- Fairtrade by promoting Fairtrade fortnight and by ensuring that as many products as possible, sold in Wesleys, are Fairtrade or ethically and sustainably sourced.
- Action for Children by providing collecting boxes for those who wish to have them and by donating the collections from the Christingle Services.

4. Overseas Partnership

5.1 The Church entered into partnership with “All We Can” (formerly known as Methodist Relief and Development Fund) for an initial period of two years, with effect from the 2018/19 Connexional year. This was extended by one year to the to 2020/2021 Connexional year after which it will be reviewed by the World and Society Team.

5. Nominated Local Charity

5.1 In addition to the above the Church will aim to support one charity with a local impact nominated by members of the Church.

5.2 Nominations must be submitted either in writing or electronically to the Church office.

5.3 Nominations must be submitted on the Nomination form as set out in Appendix 3, copies of which will be available from the Church office and on the Church Website.

5.4 The World and Society Committee will ensure that the church members are informed of the closing date for nominations at least 4 weeks before the closing date via the Church notices, an announcement at the ‘Big Day In’ and any other means of communication the Church has available.

5.5 The World and Society Committee will consider and vote on the nominations in time to make a recommendation to the Church Council at the final meeting of the connexional year so that support can start at the beginning of the next connexional year.

5.6 The Church will support the chosen charity for a minimum of 2 years and may renew its support, following successful re-application, beyond this period if the World and Society Committee recommends this.

5.7 Any charity must satisfy the following criteria in order to be considered for support:

- A member, or group, of the congregation must be prepared to act as link person(s) or group for the charity; a link person’s role is to keep the church informed about the charity’s activities. This is as basic as signing up for the charity’s newsletter or writing updates for the church notices and obtaining promotional material when required. A link person would be welcome to join the World & Society Team for the duration that their nominated charity is chosen if they wished, but this is not a requirement.
- The charity must fit within the mission and vision of the Church as set out in Appendix 2.

6. Support for Nominated Charity

6.1 The Church commits to the following for any nominated charity it supports:

- To include the charity in its prayers regularly

- To keep the Church membership and congregation informed about the charity using all means of publicity available
- To publicise any events or requests for support on behalf of the charity and support wherever possible
- To invite someone from the charity to speak once a year
- To run at least one fund raising event each year, the proceeds of which will be divided between the nominated charity and All We Can.
- To offer Wesley's to the charity once a year
- To divide the proceeds from the Christmas carnival, the Harvest collection and the Christmas Day collection between the nominated charity and All We Can.
- To divide the donations to the charity box in Wesley's between the nominated charity and All We Can.

6.2 The World and Society Committee will be responsible for ensuring that all of the support listed above takes place.

7. Other Support

7.1 The Church will from time to time offer support to local organisations in response to specific requests for assistance.

7.2 The Church will from time to time respond to national or international appeals.

7.3 Requests for support or response to appeals will be considered and determined by a sub-group of Church Council made up of the Chair of the World and Society Committee, the Extending God's Kingdom Co-ordinator and the Presbyter who will consult with the other Mission Co-ordinators for advice on timing and location of any activity.

8. Review

8.1 The World and Society Committee will review and update this policy annually, in particular in relation to the Methodist Connexional Funds, Envelope Appeals and Regular Charity/Group Support. It will make any amendments necessary as a result of name changes or a "link person" no longer being available to organise activities and keep the church informed. Any amendments to this policy will be submitted to Church Council at its first meeting after the review has taken place.

8.2 At the annual review, the World and Society Committee will also consider whether there should be any additions to any of these groups and add them if necessary.

Appendix 1

Members of W&S subcommittee for Connexional funding

Presbyter - Revd Mark Hammond (*Ex officio*)

Deacon – Sarah Wickett (*Ex officio*)

Chair of World and Society Team – Mark Prentice

World and Society Representative - Linda Downie

World and Society and Finance Representative - Peter Russell

Steward Representative - Fran Gardener

Appendix 2

List of Current Link Persons for Charities

- Methodist Home for the Aged – Jennifer Prentice
- Action for Children – Ann Bird & Mark Prentice
- Methodist World Mission Fund (Easter offering) - Vacant
- Christian Aid – Linda Downie
- All We Can (Partner/Nominated International Charity) – Peter Russell
- The Haven (Nominated Local Charity) – Debs and Daisy Wilson

APPENDIX 3

LOCAL CHARITY NOMINATION FORM

Please read the guidance notes at the bottom before completing this form

1. Name of person(s)/group nominating

2. Contact details (if a group are nominating, please provide contact details for one member), including, where possible, email contact.

3. What is your interest in the charity?

4. Are you prepared, as an individual or part of a group, to be the charity's link person at High Street? (see below)

Yes / No

5. Name and registered number of Charity

6. Charity contact details (ie website, email, phone number)

7. What does the charity do? Please include details of the aims and activities of the charity (Max 200words).

- 8. Does the charity have any Christian background, history or values? If so, please give brief details (max 200 words).

- 9. What is the charity's annual income, if known?

- 10. Where does the charity carry out most of its work?

NOTES

1. For a charity to be considered for support it must:

- a) have a link person within the Church i.e. a person(s) or group who will: be proactive in keeping the Church and the World and Society Committee informed about its activities and needs; be willing to be involved in fundraising activity as able. A link person would be welcome for the 2-year duration of being the nominated charity, to join the churches World & Society Team but this is not a requirement.
- b) fit within the Church's Mission and Vision (please see attached below).

2. This form must be submitted to the church office either by hand or electronically (office@highstreet.church) before **1700, Friday 24th April 2020**. Whether handing in a paper or electronic application please ensure it is marked clearly so it can be processed accordingly.

The Committee will meet to discuss nominations and will present its recommendations to Church Council in July 2020 after which time you will be informed of the outcome.

3. Thank you for taking to time to be part of this process. Please be aware that we are only able to choose one charity from the applications received. We will prayerfully consider all applications. If the charity you have nominated is not successful this time please do apply again in the future.

APPENDIX 4

High Street Methodist Church Vision & Strategy

As part of the Methodist “discipleship movement shaped for mission”

OUR VISION is: Lives, relationships and communities in this world transformed by the love of God in Jesus Christ.

OUR STRATEGY for sharing in this work of God is to:

Encounter God;

Equip God’s people;

Extend God’s Kingdom.

To this end, alongside our fellow Christians Christ calls us to know Him and to make Him known.

Therefore, when gathered together corporately or dispersed as individuals, we at all times and in all places by the grace of God seek to be the salt and light of the world: filled with the Spirit of God; following the Son of God; all for the glory of God.

Corporately we believe God has called us to be a welcoming, outward-reaching and diverse all-age community living and growing for the glory of God by making, nurturing, equipping and sending disciples of Jesus Christ who are continually being filled, transformed, led and empowered by God’s Spirit to actively share in God’s mission of love to the world as ambassadors of Christ.

Individually we believe God calls us each to seek God’s grace: to grow in our love for God and for our neighbour; to grow in the likeness of Christ our Saviour; to be diligent in helping those who are in any need; to be disciplined in personal prayer, Bible study and worship; and through the joyful offering of ourselves, our time and our money to play our full part as members of Christ’s body: The Church.