

MISSION FUND

LOVE

Jesus calls us to Love God and Love our neighbours. This fund has been set up as an opportunity for our churches to find new ways to share love in their community. How can we use our time, money and other resources to make a positive difference in the lives of others ?

LISTEN

Pay attention to what is happening.

Where is the Holy Spirit already at work?

What is happening in the lives of your friends and family?

What are local areas of need?

What are the passions and joys that you could engage with?

LEARN

This fund is to enable you to try something new. Try to recognise a need or an opportunity and engage with it as a church.

Sometimes our best efforts will fail, and that is OK! Whatever the outcome of this project, it will be an opportunity to grow. Whether that's growing in our experience of mission or growing the people who are part of our church family.



WHAT IS THE MISSION FUND?

This is an opportunity to do something new that makes a positive difference in your community. The South Kent Circuit are making a pot of money available for new initiatives that create opportunities for churches to engage with their community - whether that's their local area or a group of people who could come together to form a new community.

This is not about improving our Sunday services or redeveloping our buildings. This is about showing love for our communities by taking positive action to support and encourage them.

This money can be used for any new missional activity - this is not limited to events that are overtly evangelistic! This could be any new activity that helps meet a social need in your local area. Or a project that engages a group with a particular passion or interest. It could be anything that helps to grow our church family in interesting and exciting ways.

So, what would you like to do?

HOW TO APPLY:

Each church is eligible for up to £5000. This can be used all in one go or via separate applications for different projects.

1) **Apply** - Applications should be sent to the Circuit Mission Fund Panel - via the circuit office: methchurch12@gmail.com

Please answer the following questions in your application:

- What is it that you'd like to do?
- Why do you think this will make a difference in your community?
- How will you know if this idea is successful?
- How much do you estimate it costing?

2) **Panel** - The panel (mixture of circuit staff and lay people) will consider how the application fits within the criteria of 'missional activities that make a positive difference to the community.' The panel may ask to speak with those applying to get extra clarification or to help you develop your idea further.

3) **Go!** - Once the panel has agreed funding, it's over to you and your big new idea can become reality! The circuit team will be available to support and encourage you as you begin and continue to grow your new project

If you need more information or some help with your application please speak with your minister or contact Tom Lewis, discoveryashford@hotmail.com



WHAT DO YOU ENJOY?

One place to start is with yourself. God created and designed you, he made you to be you! And He inspires your interests, skills and passions. The things you enjoy are God given, perhaps that hobby that brings you joy could do the same for others? How could you use your passions to show love to others?

Baking - Bread Church in Liverpool bases their worship community around baking together.
https://www.somewhere-else.org.uk/?fbclid=IwAR3hXAgZwGZ5ljFzqOCyMRkY18ON6tLf7i6AWTYH6m1Ug6UW-U7YYfsgG_E

Computer Gaming - A pioneer leader has created a worshipping community on Minecraft.
<https://pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org/2021/03/welcome-to-minecraft-church/>

Eating - Eating together is a fantastic way to show hospitality and build community.
<https://formission.org.uk/eating-meals-together-as-a-missional-activity/>

Gardening - Churches are using their gardens as opportunities to grow of community.
<https://youtu.be/f9RFCobRHw4>

Knitting - Christians have been using knitting as a way of sharing good news!
<https://churchmissionsociety.org/anvil/knitting-as-a-means-of-sharing-the-good-news-christine-dutton-anvil-vol-35-issue-3/>

Walking - Walkers have been using their hikes to grow in fellowship and worship too.
<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/come-church-walk.php>



WHAT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Listen to your friends, pay attention to your local Facebook or WhatsApp groups, watch the news - what's going on? What are the areas of need in your community? What could you offer that would make a positive difference? How can you church show love to those in need?

Child Care - Churches are helping deal with the cost of care by running kids clubs.
<https://cofe-worcester.org.uk/shine-after-school-club-supports-local-families.php>

Litter picking - Christians are showing love for their world by keeping their area clean.
<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/stories-and-features/church-communities-clean-streets-while-sharing-prayer>

Poverty & Debt - CAP help volunteers help those struggling financially or with debts.
<https://capuk.org/get-involved>

Repair Cafe - Showing love for the world by fixing broken things instead of throwing away.
<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/repair-cafe-gets-community-on-the-mend/>