

NORTHAMPTON METHODIST DISTRICT

District Advance Fund - Trust No. 16023

Report to Synod for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025.

1. Ministry Grants Paid

Circuit	Project	£
Leicester West	Circuit Mission Enabler	8,000
East Mercia	Growth & Nurture Support Worker	8,000
East Mercia	Corby Lay Community Chaplain	5,000
East Mercia	Daventry Church Family Worker	6,500
Peterborough	Westgate New Church – BOB	3,000
Peterborough	Lay Pastoral Assistant	8,000
Nene Valley	Circuit Operations Manager	6,000
High Wycombe	Mission Enabler (from London Mission Fund)	10,000
Vale of Aylesbury	Children's Work Enabler	10,000
District / Northampton	Support for Podcasts (One Voice)	3,000
District	District Mission Team Leader	62,500
District	Overstone Chaplain	37,000
District	Ecumenical Subscriptions	9,159
District	St. Philip's Centre	10,000
District	St. Philip's Centre – Confident Christianity	27,083
District	FEAST	28,000
District	Youth Work	8,550
District	Safeguarding	27,500
District	Digital Enabler	53,500
		<u>330,792</u>

2. Property Grants Paid

Circuit	Project	£
Wantage & Abingdon	St. Amand Drive Manse - Modifications	60,000
Wantage & Abingdon	St. Amand Drive Manse – Solar Panels	4,500
Banbury	Hinton MC – Phases 1 & 2	11,536
3Bs	Brackley MC – Community Cinema	10,000
3Bs	Steeple Claydon MC – AV Upgrade	1,250
Leicester West	New Parks MC – Regeneration Project	1,600
Loughborough	Trinity MC – Open the Door Project	12,700
Hinckley	Earl Shilton MC – Hall & Toilets	4,565
		<u>106,151</u>

3. Mission Start-Up Grants

Circuit	Project	£
Banbury	Easington MC – Lego Church	500
Loughborough	Circuit Community Cafe	3,000
East Mercia	Daventry MC – Lego Church	1,000
Nene Valley	Wellingborough MC – Peace Together	1,500
Nene Valley	Raunds MC – Youth Pizza Project	4,653
Vale of Aylesbury	Upgrade Steaming Equipment	2,000
		<u>12,653</u>

4. MAPJ Grants

Circuit	Project	£
3Bs	Towcester MC – Fridges	2,000
Leicester Trinity	Syston MC – Warm Space	750
Leicester Trinity	Birstall MC – Warm Space	750
Leicester West	New parks MC – Food Bank	4,800
Northampton	Emmanuel Group - FISH	3,500
East Mercia	Kettering MC – Hot Meals	1,000
Vale of Aylesbury	Cheddington MC – Warm Space	750
		<u>13,550</u>

5. Action for Hope Grants

Circuit	Project	£
Loughborough	EV Charging Points	500
Loughborough	EV Charging Points	546
		<u>1,046</u>

6. Future Commitments

2025/26	Property	19,435
2025/26	Property – Action for Hope	39,600
2025/26	Property – London Mission Fund	50,000
2025/26	Ministry	448,833
2025/26	Ministry – London Mission Fund	19,900
2026/27	Ministry	369,583
2027/28	Ministry	302,783
2028/29	Ministry	206,733
2029/30	Ministry	130,350
		<u>1,587,217</u>

7. Summary of Accounts

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Levies rec'd from Circuits	251,350.59	Ministry Grants Paid	330,792.00
CPF distribution	504,482.89	Property Grants Paid	106,150.78
Interest	87,125.35	Start-Up Grants Paid	12,653.00
CPF Contribution to MAPJ	29,937.06	MAPJ Grants Paid	13,550.00
London Mission Fund	98,150.00	Action for Hope Paid	1,046.00
Action for Hope Funds	246,335.74	Manse Purchase	-3.00
Proceeds from Manse	3.00	Management Charge	4,409.24
Total Income:	<u>1,217,384.63</u>	Total Expenditure:	<u>468,598.02</u>
Total Income	1,217,384.63	Balance from 31.08.24	1,356,690.36
Total Expenditure	<u>468,598.02</u>	Net Income	<u>748,786.61</u>
	<u>748,786.61</u>	Balance at 31.08.25	<u>2,105,476.97</u>

In addition to the transactions detailed above, a bridging loan of £405,000 had been advanced to the East Mercia Circuit during 2023-24 and this was repaid on October 24th 2024.

8. Balances and Commitments by Funding Source

Fund	Balance	Commitments	Uncommitted
MAPJ	16,387.06	0.00	16,387.06
Action for Hope	245,289.74	39,600.00	205,689.74
London Mission Fund	88,150.00	69,900.00	18,250.00
DAF	1,755,650.17	1,477,717.00	337,933.17
Total	2,105,476.97	1,587,217.00	578,259.97

9. District Officer's comments and report.

The balance held in the DAF has increased significantly for the following reasons.

- The sums held in Circuit Model Trust Funds have grown resulting in an increase of more than 50% in the levies paid to the DAF, when compared with 2023-24.
- The CPF distribution increased by more than 20% compared with the previous year.
- £245k has been received for Action for Hope grants.
- The London Committee has changed the method of distributing grants from the London Mission Fund so that the Districts now receive the full allocation and are responsible for paying the grants to circuits and churches.

The value of the grants that have been paid has increased slightly, but it appears that there is a continuing reluctance to commit to new projects and there have been difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff.

It is our policy to keep the uncommitted balance as low as possible and the value of our future commitments has increased by more than £200k but, due to the additional funds received, the small over commitment on 31st August 2024 has become an under commitment of £578k.

Circuits with large Circuit Model Trust Fund balances (over £100,000) are encouraged to use their funds imaginatively and grant applications are normally only considered if a Circuit contribution is being made. The Mission Team Leader is in contact with Churches and Circuits to advise and support them and he ensures that new proposals follow the Mission Policies of the District and Circuits and the priorities of the Methodist Church.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

In addition to continuous and routine informal monitoring, if a personnel project has been awarded a grant for more than one year, the second and subsequent payments will not be made unless an Impact Monitoring and Evaluation report of the activities undertaken has been received and approved by the F & G Committee. Several payments have been temporarily withheld due to the failure of the recipients to submit reports.

A Property Panel advises Churches at an early stage, particularly for larger property schemes and property schemes that were approved over 3 years ago are reviewed to ensure their continuing viability.

All recipients of a grant from the DAF are expected to provide a report at the end of the project.

Presented by: Andrew Lewis
Position: District Treasurer and Grants Officer
Date: September 2025