



Twinned with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone

PORT ERIN METHODIST CHURCH

Application for a grant from the District Advance Fund.

Please provide answers to the following questions to help us consider your application

1. Please give a brief description of the object of the grant application.

To help fund the running of a lunchtime drop in for those in the south who are socially and financially compromised, through the provision of a simple “bacon butty” drop-in / lunch, with tea or coffee. The aim is for this to be run as a joint ecumenical event with the C/E in Castletown or Ballasalla alternating on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Until January, the drop in will only function at Port Erin Methodist, on alternate Wednesdays to allow time for volunteers at Castletown to take the necessary Food Hygiene course and check DBS status.

2. Please give the date of the Church Council at which this application was approved and the name of the person who chaired it.

September 2nd 2021 chaired by Rev Dr Sean Turner

3. Please give details of any other funding bodies that you intend to apply to or have made application to.

Because this will eventually be a joint venture with the C/E in Castletown or Ballasalla they will be seeking funding to support the drop in when held at their church.

4. Please enclose a copy of your most recent standard form of accounts return.
Attached

5. Give details of any monies that will be given to this project from Church funds.

Port Erin Methodist will provide the premises, heating and kitchen facilities for cooking the lunch free of charge when meeting on Methodist premises. The Church of England will do the same.

6. Please state how this project/scheme has been envisioned and objectives set.

Through the church’s involvement in housing the Southern Hub of IOM Foodbank over the last 5 years, we have become increasingly aware of the number of marginalised folk in our local area who are in food and financial poverty, who rarely go out of the house and therefore have little or no opportunity for social interaction. This is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing, resulting in low self esteem and worth, and a difficulty in preparing to return to a functional role in society as and when their situation might allow this. As a church family, we feel that this is an area of outreach, on our doorstep, to which God is calling us.

Objectives:

- i) To provide a safe, welcoming opportunity for these people to meet others, chat, share experiences, memories, problems and possibly play board games etc
- ii) To (eventually) find opportunities for those who wish, to become involved with “voluntary” work in the community, designed to increase their sense of wellbeing and self worth, and to prepare them to take small steps to reconnect with society in all its forms.
- iii) To signpost them to get advice and help from relevant organisations and bodies, recognising our limitations, and when “professional” advice should be sought.

- iv) In a gentle way, to help them be aware that it is the church that is offering this support, and to take opportunities as and when they arise, to tell them of the good news of Jesus.

7. Please give details of the total cost of your project.

We estimate that each session will cost in the region of £20 - £25 depending on the numbers that attend. Over a 12 month period, we would estimate a total cost of around £500 but this would be shared between the Methodist and Church of England. There may also be funding needed for materials for activities if the drop-in develops along these lines. At the moment, we are in the evolutionary stage of taking a session at a time.

8. Please state the amount of grant you are requesting.
(The current maximum is £2,000.00)

We would like to request a grant of £300 a year for the next 3 years, based on alternate sessions being held by the Church of England, providing its own funding.

9. How will you monitor and evaluate the progress of the scheme in relation to the mission objectives?

The team will regularly discuss progress, how we feel objectives are being met, amend the format as necessary, and assess any progress in the welfare and social interaction ability of our clients.

10. Any other information you would like to add?

It has been agreed that the volunteers from both churches will help at both centres to maintain consistency, and provide a good balance between staff and clients. Despite initially taking our clients from those known to us through Foodbank, this is very definitely a church led activity with no input from Foodbank itself. We have contacted Housing Matters, Graigh, the local clergy and Salvation Army leaders to welcome contacts whom they feel might benefit from this fellowship.

We plan to limit invitations to a smallish number by personal invitation to enable those who wish for a one to one chat to be able to do so. The client group is quite specific and is not for those who just want company: there are other ventures for them, but this is for those who rarely go out of their homes because they have circumstantially largely withdrawn from society due to social issues and poverty in its various forms.

We have made enquiries from District Office about the use of the Prayer Bus to provide transport for one or two of those clients who may need it, but so far, this has not been needed.

At the first drop in, the group dynamics were interesting in that we initially all sat round one table, with a very lively discussion on a widely ranging number of topics. All the clients contributed, growing in confidence as the session progressed. After the "bacon butty" part of the session, the group naturally spilt into smaller sectors and each talked in their small group or even on a one to one basis. It was significant that some of the clients commented on being unaware of who were helpers and who were clients, which was very positive. One has rung since the session to thank us for giving him his first opportunity to have an intelligent conversation and social interaction for over 4 years. Another lady has already become involved with helping on a Tuesday afternoon to sort food which has been donated to Foodbank.