

## **YORKSHIRE NORTH & EAST METHODIST DISTRICT REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER TO SPRING SYNOD 2024**

The financial accounts of the District for the year ended 31 August 2023 are still in the course of preparation with our accountants, so unfortunately I cannot share any specific details in this report. When the accounts have been finalised a copy will be made available on the District website as usual and I will be happy to deal with any questions which may arise.

This gives me the opportunity to report in more general terms about the finances of the District and to say a bit about the way in which the District Leadership Team aims to use the funds at its disposal for the furtherance of the work of the District.

### **Core activities**

There are certain core activities which the District needs to provide and which are largely funded by the amount assessed on Circuits. These core activities include the following:

- District Chair – manse costs and expenses including travel and hospitality (note that the stipend and employment costs of District Chairs are borne by the Connexion).
- Office administration – District administrator salary and other office administration costs
- Safeguarding – costs of safeguarding officers and related costs including provision of courses
- HR – costs of our lay employment advisor
- Youth work – salaries of our youth team and running costs of youth activities
- Sundry costs – synod, training, committee expenses etc.

### **Other activities**

A lot of the other activities of the district are funded by using monies available in our District Advance Fund. These activities include the following:

- Circuit support and development – comprising development team leader, NPNP leader, grant fundraising enabler and net zero officer
- Digital Communications – salary and costs
- Wellbeing Officer – salary and costs
- “Flourish” weekend

### **District Advance Fund**

Annually, the District Advance Fund is boosted from two main sources of income. These are the levy which is charged annually on the Model Trust Funds of all our Circuits, and secondly a distribution which is made from the Connexional Priority Fund.

The District uses the funds available in the District Advance Fund for many purposes including the following:

- Funding District “other activities” (as listed above)
- Grants to help fund Circuit lay workers in certain special situations
- Grants to provide support for approved property projects
- Seed Funding and Warm Spaces grants
- Net Zero schemes

We all know that in the last year or two there has been high inflation and increased energy costs. This has had a marked effect on employee salary rates which, rightly, have needed to increase. Churches and circuits have been hard hit by this increase in employment costs and additional energy costs. Alongside this, our church members who fund the activities of our churches and circuits, have also had to face these increased financial pressures and that has had a noticeable effect in some areas on church incomes. The District Leadership Team recognises this problem and has earmarked some funding from the District Advance Fund to try and keep increases in the District Assessment as low as possible for Circuits. It remains to be seen to what extent it will be possible for the District to continue offering this support.

### **Other restricted funds**

Apart from the District Advance Fund, the District has a number of other restricted funds which are used for funding specific areas of work. Full details of these will appear in the District accounts which will be made available shortly.

As always, my thanks go to everyone in the District who hold positions of responsibility for finance matters. It is a vital and necessary role and your help and support is appreciated.

Malcolm Lucas

Yorkshire North & East District Treasurer (email: [treasurer@yorkshirenethodist.org](mailto:treasurer@yorkshirenethodist.org))

May 2024