This booklet describes just a few of the many projects receiving grants from FHM (The Methodist Church Fund for Home Mission) including MAP (Mission Alongside the Poor).

A full list is available from the Mission Education Office on 020 7467 5116
The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

WORSHIP: The Church exists to increase awareness of God’s presence and to celebrate God’s love.

LEARNING & CARING: The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

SERVICE: The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

EVANGELISM: The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Conference 2004 Priorities for the Methodist Church

In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:

To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God’s love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God’s presence and action in the world and in the Church

As ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to the following:

Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer

Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide

Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved

Encouraging fresh ways of being Church

Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible
Mission in Britain

The following activities come under the umbrella of Mission in Britain.

- Evangelism training and resources
- Planting new congregations
- Prisons and industrial chaplaincy
- Chaplaincy in further and higher education institutions
- Media relations
- Mission in rural areas
- Cliff College
- Mission Alongside the Poor
- Grants to local churches and circuits
- Public issues
- Support for children’s & youth work
- Political and parliamentary affairs

The photographs printed in this publication are not necessarily from current projects, but aim to give some idea of the scope of projects that you are supporting through your gifts to the Methodist Church Fund for Home Mission.
Children’s Outreach Worker
Circuit 05/23: Blackheath

Marcus Jones is the outreach worker. He works with the Blackheath Circuit and two Church of England parish churches providing a valuable service to the local community in a wide variety of ways.

Blackheath is in the Black Country. It has a very diverse community, both in ethnicity and affluence. Many children have never been in a church and receive little or no spiritual/moral guidance. In summer, together with other outreach workers, he runs evangelical clubs. The clubs attracts both churched and unchurched children. It gives them the chance to explore and express their own spirituality within a Christian context.

In addition, Marcus is one in a team of five that runs two friendship clubs at lunchtime and after school in two different schools. The friendship clubs provide a safe environment for socially disadvantaged groups and those lacking social skills. Through the friendship clubs, children learn social skills and appropriate behaviours.

Marcus and his team have also made creative use of the popular Godly Play usually used in Sunday school. He once took a full Godly Play session in a special school as part of their Religious Education class. Future outreach plans include developing the friendship clubs for other schools, running a parenting group, providing a bereavement service once a year for children and fully engaging the children in church services.
Project Director
Christian Help in Partnership (CHIPS)
Circuit 21/18 Morecambe and Heysham

CHIPS is committed to serving the needs of isolated older people which cannot be met by social services. They do this by providing friendship, support and encouragement to the elderly through their volunteers. The charity also operates a drop-in centre and is highly regarded by the local social services and others concerned for the welfare of the elderly.

Industrial Chaplain, Airbus UK
Circuit 33/02 Buckley and Deeside

Airbus UK is the largest manufacturing plant in Wales. With the production of the new Airbus, the site is expanding to accommodate a workforce of over 6,500 over the next few years. At the same time, there are valid concerns and anxieties regarding the slump in the aircraft industry.

The industrial chaplain provides much needed spiritual and moral support for Airbus workers and a reassuring presence on the plant.

Family Support Project
South Bank Churches Family Action
Circuit 13/02 Middlesbrough and Eston

The South Bank is an area of high economic and social deprivation. The South Bank Churches Family Action is a family support project providing a direct response to the community’s needs. Services offered include direct work with children, parenting courses, support groups, detached family work and practical support eg, recycled clothes and furniture.
Brunswick Young People’s Project
Circuit 20/01

Brunswick Young People’s Project (BYPP) is situated in the Brunswick Methodist Church in Newcastle. The project works with 16-25 year olds, providing advice/information, guidance, support and advocacy. A significant part of their work is crisis resolution focusing on issues such as homelessness, difficulties with benefits, health, particularly mental health, and drugs.

BYPP provides the only detached youth work in the city centre, sometimes offering the only link with homeless young people.

What is detached youth work?
Detached youth work enables BYPP to contact vulnerable young people and to keep in touch with life in the city centre. Initially, it started as a research project to examine the needs of young people in the city centre and assess their relationship with the police and other authorities. Much of the work was centred on young people using the local shopping centre. The police saw them as public nuisances, as did the public and commercial businesses thus they were being moved on. The project lobbied on their behalf. Today, BYPP is still working on the issue of young people in the city centre being perceived as a problem and moved on regularly.

Other projects
The women’s group operates as a safe place for the young women to explore issues and share their experiences of womanhood. Past activities include teambuilding residential that enabled the group to work together and accept each other.

The men’s group is geared around a range of activities designed to build the young men’s confidence and enable them to gain life skills.

And that is not all. BYPP also has a parent support project for mothers with drug addictions. The programme’s primary aim is to encourage mutual support, positive parenting and stability in
an informal environment. This project is jointly run with Plummer Court Drug and Alcohol service. It is a creative answer for parents who 1), do not want the stigma of meeting at public drug and alcohol rehabilitation services and 2), wanted to disengage themselves from peers who could influence them negatively while still on the programme.

BYYP provides an outreach service at a local emergency housing project. This is an important part of their work enabling them to make regular visits to those that may slip through the net.

BYYP recognises the importance of working with relevant organisations for the benefit of the young people they work with. They’ve had the opportunity to attend a forum on self-harm with Streetwise, an under 25s’ youth project also based in Newcastle. The forum gave young people the space to discuss and raise awareness of the problem.

**BYPP success stories.**

Jen had been sleeping at a train station for a few nights as she was unable to cope with her long-term abusive partner. BYPP got her into a hostel and she started visiting the project on a daily basis. Six months after and with the help of BYPP, Jen is now in full-time employment.

Three years ago, Paul started attending BYPP unable to read or write. With BYPP’s encouragement, he began attending the Maths and English sessions at the centre. He passed his level one in Maths and now feels confident enough to go on to college.

Your generous giving to the Methodist Church Fund for Home Mission made all the difference to Jen and Paul.
Part-time Coordinator
Café 100
Circuit 11/16 Kidsgrove

A local newspaper article branding the young people in Holmfirth as 'drug taking yobs' prompted Joy Beverley and Chantal Noppen to respond. They defended the young people by pointing out that there was very little for them to do in Holmfirth. The only places to congregate and meet up with friends were bus stops, the local park and the local supermarket car park.

They suggested that a possible solution was to provide somewhere for young people to go - like a cyber café! It would provide a safe and warm environment where young people could hang out with their friends, listen to their music and talk about what they wanted. The project would allow young people to be themselves without getting criticised or nagged by parents or adults. Thus Café 100 was born.

Café 100 is based in the Choir Vestry of Holmfirth Parish Church. It’s equipped with facilities for drinks, snacks, Internet access, computer games and pool. From time to time, special evenings are arranged with film nights being particularly popular.

Café 100’s trustees are drawn mainly from the Anglican and Methodist churches.

Visit Café 100 on the web! Go to www.cafe100.co.uk
Mission Development Coordinator
Wythenshawe Oasis
Circuit 19/25

Wythenshawe Oasis is made up of five Oasis Projects each representing five Methodist churches with distinctive ministries. All five churches are strategically placed in an 80,000 people housing estate covering an area of three square miles. The social make up is people on low or assisted income, rented housing, limited education, young, single parents and high unemployment.

Through each project, Wythenshawe Oasis endeavours to fulfil the vision contained in Mary’s words, “Lifting up the lowly and filling the hungry with good things,” and in the process do church in fresh, creative ways.

Brownley Green Centre is at Brownley Green Methodist Church. It offers gym facilities, a low cost community shop, a community bank, snacks, Irish and contemporary dancing.
New Horizons is at St Andrews Methodist Church. It works among people with disabilities, impairments and special needs. At New Horizons, social inclusiveness is shown through sensitivity and respect.

Northenden Community Projects is at Northenden Methodist Church. It connects people to the community through its many activities such as dance and speech and drama classes for children. In addition, it works with the Autistic Society and provides regular high quality community lunches.

The Harvest Centre is at Baguley Hall Methodist Church. It offers a range of activities, therapies and care with emphasis on healthy living and easy learning for the over 50s. A few examples of activities offered are stroke prevention, weight watchers and creative art.

New Dawn is situated at Lawton Moor Methodist Church. It’s best described as a place to make friends, connect with the community and make sure everybody matters in the circle of life. Its primary focus is on well-being through pastoral care, counselling, children’s activities and affordable clothes, gifts and furniture.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up...I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland (Isaiah 43:19)
These are only a few of the projects supported in Britain. Articles are regularly featured in the *Methodist Recorder’s* Breaking New Ground article, and in our quarterly newsletter, *Mission Matters*. If you would like to know more or make a donation to the **Methodist Church Fund for Home Mission**, contact:

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Your generous giving to the Methodist Church Fund for Home Mission supports much of this work. Thank you!