

tabernacle : penarth

purpose: to reflect God's love in our church,
community and world.

434 fund

“There was no needy person amongst them.” (Acts 4:34)

Purpose

We read in the Book of Acts that in the early church there was “no needy person amongst them” (Acts 4:34). The reason, we are told, is because the members of the church would from time to time sell their possessions or property in order that the church would have funds to distribute to those in need (Acts 4:35). Earlier on in the Book of Acts we read that “All the believers were together and they had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were saved.” (Acts 2:44-47)

In other words, the generosity of the early church had three dimensions: the church was a **Welcoming Church** in so much as they were discovering what it meant to be a real community which shared their whole life together and everyone felt a part of it. They were a **Worshipping Church** who praised God continually not only with their words, but also with their actions and their giving. And finally they were a **Witnessing Church** because their life together was spoken of with favour by those around them in the wider community and many new people joined the Church on a daily basis.

Over the last four years money has been raised to set up such a scheme in this church. It is called the 434 Fund after Acts 4, verse 34. the purpose of this fund is to have a reserve of money that members can access when they are in need.

Application

Any member of Tabernacle who has a financial need that they cannot meet out of their own resources can access help from the 434 Fund simply by asking. Speak to one of the pastors or to one of the elders and they will ensure that your request for help is dealt with as soon as possible. It is our intention that the fund will be administered quickly so that money can be made available as soon as possible and with the minimum delay.

Sometimes we can feel embarrassed when asking for financial help. There is no need for this to be the case with the 434 Fund. It is not the intention of the scheme to cause discomfort to anyone and all requests for help will be kept strictly confidential. If we are to live as a fully functioning biblical community we need to change our understanding of how we handle money. This is not “our money” or “your money” or even “the church’s money” that is being used. This is God’s money and His desire is that we use it to be a community which reflects more fully His love for us.

To apply for money from the 434 Fund the following criteria will normally need to be met:

1. You are an active and regularly worshipping member of Tabernacle Baptist Church.
2. Money from the fund will fully or in large part meet the need you have at this time. It is not the purpose of the fund to meet on-going long term needs which will still be there after the funds are received. Long-term problems will normally need other solutions and we would love to discuss and pray about this with you.
3. Sometimes financial needs arise out of uncontrolled addiction such as gambling, alcohol or drugs. We believe that there is a better way of helping you if you have these problems than giving you money and we would love to talk about them. If you have one of these problems it does not mean that we will not help you but that we want to talk holistically about the best way to help you.

Administration

Once they have received a request for financial assistance, the pastors or elders will arrange the distribution of the money from the 434 Fund as soon as possible. The only people who will know about your request for help will be the pastor or elder you approached and the treasurer. We are keen to ensure maximum confidentiality and your name will not appear in any records as having received money from the 434 Fund. The money **does** have to be accounted for in the church annual accounts but your name will not appear next to the list of monies distributed through the scheme.

Income

The 434 Fund remains open for donations all year round. If you would like to follow the example of the early followers of Jesus as shown by Barnabas in Acts 4:36 you can do so at any time. Please put your donation in an envelope marked 434 FUND and either put it in the normal Sunday collection or give it to one of the finance team. Your gift will be designated for restricted use in the 434 Fund. Any gifts so designated may not be used for any other purpose.

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