

6th March 2018

Dear Church Leader,

I am writing on behalf of the Refresh Trustees to bring you up to date on developments with the Refresh finances. This letter goes hand in hand with the letter Cherry Clarke has just sent out about the prayer and Vision Day in May.

I am sure that you will all know by now that Refresh was successful in its application to the Reaching Communities Fund of the National Lottery to help finance both Refresh and the local CAP Centre which is one of the initiatives that comes under the Refresh umbrella. In practice this is five years of funding for the new Refresh Coordinator, Cherry Clarke, the CAP Debt Centre Manager, Sally Hunt and a second Debt Coach, Claire Atkin. A fourth post – that of an administrator – has recently been advertised. The effect of this funding is to secure the work of Refresh and to expand the provision for helping people out of debt through the amazing work of Christians Against Poverty. In fact, the need for this debt relief work is so great that more funding is being sought in order to provide a third Debt Coach to work primarily on Portland.

This large grant does **not** mean that we are absolved of our financial responsibilities as a local Christian community. Whilst we do not have to fund salaries we do have to fund all the expenses associated with Refresh including the Debt Centre. We are committed to raise £9,500 each year for the next 5 years as one of the conditions of the Reaching Communities grant. Last year the local churches gave £9500 to Refresh to support the work of CAP and we would ask that this year you make it known to your congregations and leaders that we need to at least maintain that level of support and prayerfully increase it to £10,500 to cover the increased commitment to those people in the community who need our help.

Refresh as a charity is definitely raising its profile within Weymouth & Portland and these are exciting times as new initiatives are starting up. It is living up to its title - "The Church of Weymouth and Portland in Action" - but to pay for all the overheads, Refresh itself has an annual budget of almost £3000 in addition to the monies mentioned above. The Trustees recently suggested that if every church gave a subscription of £1 per member of their congregation this target would be reached and so we are asking you to factor this into your church budgets. We would like to thank those churches who have already responded to the above suggestion and given this extra amount. This is greatly appreciated.

Above all we ask that you pray for all the work of the church in Weymouth and Portland in all its opportunities to witness to the love of Jesus and His saving grace in 2018.

Every blessing,



Neil Hardisty – Hon Treasurer of Refresh on behalf of the Trustees