

# 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 being 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.

During Tabernacle’s Gift Day 2009 money was raised to set up such a scheme at the church. It is called the 434 Fund after Acts 4:34. The purpose of this fund is to have a reserve of money that the church can distribute to any member who is in need.

## Application

Any member of Tabernacle who has a financial need that they cannot meet out of their own resources may ask for help from the 434 Fund. If you, or someone you know, is in need you can apply to the 434 Fund for assistance. Simply speak or write to the pastor or to one of the elders and they will ensure that your request 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 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 assistance from the fund the following criteria will normally need to be met:

1. You are an active 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 such a gift is made. These situations will normally need other solutions and we would love to discuss and pray about this with you.
3. The 434 Fund will not be used to meet needs arising from uncontrolled addictions such as gambling, alcohol or drugs. If after money is distributed from the fund your situation is likely to be unchanged, then the 434 Fund is not the appropriate place to seek help. However, we will be

delighted to talk and pray with you about long term solutions to your needs including funding for therapy or counselling to overcome your addiction.

## **Administration**

Once they have received a request for financial assistance the pastors or elders will arrange the distribution of money from the 434 Fund as soon as possible.

The scheme is overseen by the Pastor and elders. It is also the responsibility of the senior pastor and the elders to present to the Annual General Church Meeting a record of all income and expenditure from the 434 Fund during the year.

## **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.

If you would like to make a regular donation to the 434 fund you can do so by standing order. If you already give to the Church by standing order you will need to fill in a separate mandate form and mark it '434 Fund.'

Any gifts designated for the 434 Fund may not be used for any other purpose.