



Eastern Synod

Synod M&M Advocate: Alan Clifton
Address for correspondence:
30 Wellstead Gardens
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex
SS0 0AY

Tel: 01702 343170
e-mail: alan_clifton30@yahoo.co.uk

Moderator: Revd Lythan Nevard
Synod Office United Reformed Church
36 Duxford Road
Whittlesford
Cambridge
CB22 4ND

Tel: 01223 830770
e-mail: admin@urceastern.org.uk

April 2023

To: Church Secretaries

MINISTRY AND MISSION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please find enclosed a 'Thank You' card for your congregation's gifts to the Ministry and Mission Fund last year. I would be grateful if you could display the card in your building and include copies, as appropriate, in your newsletters and magazines etc. The M&M Advocates would also like to pass on their own personal thanks for the support that they have received, during the year, from the congregations in the Eastern Synod.

While the day-to-day financial effects of the Covid pandemic eased during 2022, as our churches continued to re-open and have more engagement with their communities, many congregations had been left financially weaker by their experiences in 2020 and 2021 and continued to struggle. Against this background congregations responded impressively to the need to support the Ministry & Mission Fund. Your generosity enabled the Synod to meet, in full, its obligation to the fund, which pays the stipends of our ministers and Church Related Community Workers, meets the costs of education and training, and supports youth work and mission - both at home and overseas.

Unfortunately, however, a further test of our resilience is upon us: -

We are all aware of the current cost of living pressures, be this energy costs or rising costs more generally. Things are costing us more, both at home and in our churches. Ministry is no exception. Stipends have been increased to assist our ministers through this period. That increase will need to be funded by church contributions to the Ministry & Mission Fund if we are to maintain the level of stipendiary ministry currently in place.

While it seems a tough time to be contemplating this, it might be that our churches need now, to be pointing out to their congregations that church costs have increased too, and to seek increased freewill giving where our members are able to do this.

Please do pass on our appreciation to all within your church, not just for their financial gifts but for all that they do to help build God's kingdom and serve His people in these continuing difficult times.

With sincere best wishes,

Alan Clifton
Synod M&M Advocate