

**THE MARY THOMPSON FUND**  
supporting refugees and people seeking sanctuary in the tees valley

**Total Statement of Accounts 2017**

**Account Number 20103929/2023159/20135560**

	<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Jan-17</b>	Credits	<u>£1,193.00</u>	Debit	<u>£5,050.91</u>
		£1,193.00		£5,050.91
	Income /Expenditure		-£3,857.91	-£3,857.91
<b>Feb-17</b>	Credits	<u>£2,209.35</u>	Debit	<u>£4,350.00</u>
		£2,209.35		£4,350.00
	Income /Expenditure		-£2,140.65	-£5,998.56
<b>Mar-17</b>	Credits	<u>£3,765.53</u>	Debit	<u>£4,450.54</u>
		£3,765.53		£4,450.54
	Income /Expenditure		-£685.01	-£6,683.57
<b>Apr-17</b>	Credits	<u>£3,016.20</u>	Debit	<u>£2,050.00</u>
		£3,016.20		£2,050.00
	Income /Expenditure		£966.20	-£5,717.37
<b>May-17</b>	Credits	<u>£2,486.09</u>	Debit	<u>£3,791.47</u>
		£2,486.09		£3,791.47
	Income /Expenditure			-£5,717.37
<b>Jun-17</b>	Credits	<u>£4,236.66</u>	Debit	<u>£1,776.75</u>
		£4,236.66		£1,776.75
	Income /Expenditure		£2,459.91	-£3,257.46
<b>Jul-17</b>	Credits	<u>£5,740.06</u>	Debit	<u>£1,690.00</u>
		£5,740.06		£1,690.00
	Income /Expenditure			-£3,257.46
<b>Aug-17</b>	Credits	<u>£15,508.28</u>	Debit	<u>£2,650.00</u>
		£15,508.28		£2,650.00
	Income /Expenditure		£12,858.28	£9,600.82
<b>Sep-17</b>	Credits	<u>£1,736.11</u>	Debit	<u>£4,099.53</u>
		£1,736.11		£4,099.53
	Income /Expenditure		-£2,363.42	£7,237.40
<b>Oct-17</b>	Credits	<u>£3,505.02</u>	Debit	<u>£2,263.37</u>
		£3,505.02		£2,263.37
	Income /Expenditure		£1,241.65	£8,479.05
<b>Nov-17</b>	Credits	<u>£1,896.37</u>	Debit	<u>£4,229.60</u>
		£1,896.37		£4,229.60
	Income /Expenditure		-£2,333.23	£6,145.82
<b>Dec-17</b>	Credits	<u>£3,315.85</u>	Debit	<u>£4,454.87</u>
		£3,315.85		£4,454.87
	Income /Expenditure		-£1,139.02	<u><u>£5,006.80</u></u>
<b>Opening balance</b>		<b>£13,507.87</b>		<b>1980.19</b>
<b>Credits</b>		<b>£48,608.52</b>	<b>Debits</b>	<b>£40,857.04</b>
<b>Balance at 31st December 2017</b>		<b>£21,259.35</b>		

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## Annual Report 2017

The Mary Thompson Fund started the year 2017 with a balance of £13495.35. As last year, the Trustees felt this was amazing given increasing demand on our services. Due to the generosity of our supporters and larger grants towards the end of the year we ended this year with a surplus on £21,259.35. We gave 4107 grants totaling £40,861.04 to clients from 45 different countries ranging from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe

Throughout the year our supporters very kindly gave us gifts of clothes, shoes, personal hygiene items, bedding, baby equipment, kitchen items, and furniture and white goods. The clothes and smaller items are dispersed between Justice First in Stockton, The John Paul Centre in Middlesbrough and the Avenue Methodist Church in Middlesbrough, to be given out to those in need. Generally we can always call on a 'friend with a van' to help with the delivery of larger furniture and household appliances or a Trustee is always available to pick up and deliver donated items. We are also very grateful for the many donations of food we receive from religious organisations, schools and individuals. These are dispersed between Justice First, Stockton and The John Paul Centre, Middlesbrough. These are the two venues where the Mary Thompson Fund gives out the bags of food and the £5.00 money grant.

We are also indebted to the people who have set up monthly direct debits, which now total over £1000.00 per month, and to the many supporters who give us regular donations and one off donations. We do get many donations in memory of loved ones which, we think, is a meaningful way to commemorate their lives. Donations are also often given instead of gifts on a significant birthday or wedding anniversary which is a lovely way to mark a special occasion. The fund could not survive without these donations.

We give out a bag of food and a £5.00 money grants to, on average, 85 people per week. We also, very occasionally, give an extra £5.00 when funds allowed and we also were able to give a little extra at Christmas which was very much appreciated. We continue to use the money we have to give additional one off payments to clients for travel to solicitors, travel to resubmit an asylum application and to travel to have biometrics taken. We also give out one off payment for such things as School Uniforms, School Trips, or to buy books for university or college courses, to travel to doctor/hospital appointments, to buy food for people on special diets such as diabetic, to give ladies who are pregnant or have very young babies a little extra to buy nourishing food or to help with other medical emergencies.

Some people are referred to us in need of a rest or break from the anxiety and the stress of their situation; we can help by paying their travel costs to visit a friend or relative who has been dispersed to another part of the country.

Once again this year we held our annual sponsored walk as a means of fund raising and are indebted to our very good friends who helped us organize it. It brings in much needed funds to the charity and is a very nice social occasion. The 'toddle' (for those of us who are not as agile as the walkers) is also an important fundraising event enabling clients and supporters to meet in the local park, have a pleasant stroll and then enjoying afternoon tea with their friends at the treasurers' house.

**Chair**  
Pete Widlinski

**Secretary**  
Kath Sainsbury

**Treasurer**  
Veronica Wallace

Mary Thompson Fund, c/o Justice First, 135 Norton Rd,  
Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 2BG  
Tel. 07419 375 807

[www.marythompsonfund.org.uk](http://www.marythompsonfund.org.uk)

Supported by the generous donations of individuals & local organizations.

Charity Number 1112610

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## Annual Report 2017– Continued

We also hold various fund raising events over the year which are well attended and give use a much needed boost to our finances. We must also thank the many people who do crazy things to fund raise for us, their efforts are very much appreciated, and thank you to the people who reply to our appeals in the Newsletters for help with very generous donations.

Subject to having enough funds, we continue to produce our Newsletter helping to keep our supporters up to date with what is happening with the fund and enabling us to highlight any issues that might affect refugees and asylum seekers. The Newsletter is also an excellent way of publicizing any fundraising events and getting raffle tickets and appeals out to our supporters.

We are very grateful for all the support we receive from individuals, schools, churches and organisations from throughout the Tees Valley and beyond. We are also indebted to a number of local businesses that supply us with chicken, fresh fruit and bakery products that are surplus to requirements at the end of their day. This means that perfectly good food that would have been trashed at the end of the working day can be given to those in need.

During 2017 we started getting surplus food from two Tesco shops in Middlesbrough. This is a schemes set up by FairShare in conjunction with Tesco in which Tesco will give us any food that is still safe to eat but for some reason, such as a burst package or it is a Christmas/Easter/ Halloween product that is now out of season, or it is too close to its sell by date. These foods are very much still edible and enables our clients to have a little treat now and again. We have even been given flowers on some occasions and one gentleman was thrilled to be able to give his wife a bunch of flowers, something which he had not been able to do for some time. He told us the next time we saw him that his wife had been so happy. It is so nice to be able to do little gestures like that which mean so much to people and bring a little happiness. So far this partnership has been a great success.

Our thanks go to the people who are very generous with their time and skills, befriending refugees, accompanying them when they attend court, giving advice and support to refugees, helping them with their asylum applications, buying food and filling and distributing the food bags and giving out the weekly £5.00. These people give freely of their time and their skills. Without their help the Fund would not be able to continue. We are very grateful to everyone who contributes in any way to the Charity

We are always open to fresh ideas and funding suggestions and would welcome anyone who would be willing to join the Charity as a Trustee and lend us their skills.

The trustees feel it is a privilege for us to help in whatever way we can people who, through no fault of their own, have had to leave their homes and families as a last resort to save their own life and perhaps those of their family. We will continue to do so as long as we have the support and help of our community.

Veronica Wallace

Treasurer

1<sup>st</sup> September 2018

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