



**ACTS
435**

**Your invitation
to be an Acts 435
Donor Church**

What is a Donor Church?

A Donor Church is a church that supports our work, both financially and by spreading the word to their church community about the impact that Acts 435 has on individuals in need throughout the UK. The financial support given by a Donor Church will go towards needs given to individuals through our Larger Gifts Fund, which has recently become an important part of how we help those in need in recent years.

The Larger Gifts Fund

The Larger Gifts Fund began in 2019 when we noticed a need for gifts that were larger than the normal requests on our website such as; rent arrears, funeral costs or urgent childcare. It was initially funded by personal donations but during the Covid-19 Pandemic it grew as we were given a crisis grant to help relieve the effects of the pandemic on individuals; because of this the Larger Gifts Fund has become a significant part of what we do in recent months, and has given us, and our local Advocates, the opportunity to serve those in poverty more broadly. We are hoping that alongside some of our regular donors, Donor Churches will enable us to continue this fund, which is having a great impact on those seeking help.

Supporting our Donor Churches

We'll support our Donor Churches to share our work by sending them a start-up pack including materials and videos, as well as an annual certificate to mark their fundraising efforts. They will also be sent materials to share with their congregations in time for our Acts 435 Sunday, which happens every July, and also in time for our Christmas Appeal; which they would be actively encouraged to share with their church congregations and communities.

It may also be possible to request a speaker to attend a church service to launch the partnership. Please get in touch.

Financial Support

We would expect our Donor Churches to financially support our work on an annual basis with a suggested donation of £5,000 each year. This suggested figure will be different for individual churches, but is suggested because it will make a significant difference to the Larger Gifts Fund and those it serves.

This donation can be raised in any way the church feels able. It may be that the church already has an annual budget for charity giving. However, you may want to incorporate a giving day on your Acts 435 Sunday, or another day of the year. There are many other ways to fundraise for Acts 435 too such as; sporting challenges, bake sales or other events.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long would we need to commit to being a Donor Church?

There are no time expectations for a church to continue being a Donor Church, but we would ask them to financially commit to at least one year.

Are we also required to post needs onto the website?

We are always looking for more churches to partner with us. However, we are aware that not all churches have the capacity to take on this role. This is why we have created the Donor Church model so that churches who cannot get involved in a practical way as Advocates, can still become key partners through their giving.

If we're a partner church, can we also be a Donor Church?

Yes, absolutely! We encourage all of our partner churches to share about our work, but currently there is no fundraising commitment. This could be a brilliant opportunity for these churches to encourage their congregations to give to the work of Acts 435 in a more structured way. However, we are aware that some partner churches do already encourage their congregations to donate towards local requests that they post onto the website, and we would continue to support them in this way too.

Why partner with Acts 435 as a Donor Church?

Acts 435 will always help those in need by one-off specific gifts, and the Larger Gifts Fund is a true extension of that. In addition to the smaller needs on our website a Larger Gift helps our Advocates to go the extra mile for individuals who are stuck in hardship, or facing crisis. In the last year we have helped 166 people through the Larger Gifts Fund, impacting the lives of individuals and families not only practically, but also enabling our local Advocates to show God's love in action. Here's just one story of someone helped in the last year through the Larger Gifts Fund:

'Jasmine' was referred to the local Advocate from her younger daughter's school, as someone needing weekly food parcels at the start of lockdown in May 2020. On getting to know Jasmine, she has, over recent years not been able to work because of health issues including fibromyalgia and back pain. She struggled with the stairs in her terraced house and was recommended and offered a ground floor flat, where she should manage better. The property needed flooring throughout and given the church was supporting her with weekly food, household and hygiene products, the advocate felt she would really struggle to maintain the commitment she had made to monthly payments to cover the carpet. The Advocate shared

“ Since December last year J has opened up to me, sharing her faith and desire to go to Church, realising God is with her, despite her struggles with health and lack of support from her family. Making a fresh start in somewhere she can manage and making Christian friends will have a great impact on her mental health, something her teenage daughter had already commented on. ”

How does our church sign-up?

If you're interested in signing up as a Donor Church, or would like more information, please email Katie Greene -

kgreene@acts435.org.uk