

Fundraising initiative for the Civil Service Benevolent Fund *Ian & Yvonne Hopton*

This year the Fund celebrates its 125th anniversary. As our contribution to its 125 Year Appeal, Yvonne and I decided to cycle 125 miles on our tandem between Plymouth and Bristol. We completed the ride in under four days, finishing last Thursday afternoon (6.10.11).

We've been rather reluctant to seek sponsors from the Partnership churches and so far have concentrated our efforts on current and former colleagues, family and friends. As well as raising funds, the ride has provided us with an opportunity to raise awareness of the work of the Fund, particularly among people who may not know that they can apply to the Fund for help.

The Fund exists to help current, former and retired civil servants and their dependents who face unexpected difficulties. Even someone who left the Civil Service a long time ago and did not contribute while they were civil servants can still apply for help. It's help that is there for life. That help may take the form of financial assistance, but it may also be in the form of information and advice, e.g. debt counselling. The Fund could help someone facing bereavement or the breakdown of a relationship, as well as someone with health problems.

Therefore we would like to bring the 125 Year Appeal and the work of the Fund to the attention of people in the Partnership churches. There will almost certainly be some current, former or retired civil servants among our number.

To make a donation please visit our Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/Ian-Hopton. We have sponsorship forms for people who prefer to make a cash donation.

To contact the Fund dial 0800 056 2424 and ask for Help and Advisory Services, or visit the Fund's website at www.csbf.org.uk.

Thank you

Ian & Yvonne Hopton