

**INTEREST, INSTANTLY:**  
CASH THAT ALIGNS WITH YOUR MISSION

SIMON WOOLNOUGH



## INTRODUCTION

# ABOUT ME

- ▶ Head of Business Development for Epworth Investment Management
- ▶ 37 years in Financial Services
  - ▶ Sun Life (AXA), Flagstone, Blackfinch, now Epworth
- ▶ I live in Bristol, and travel the UK extensively, wherever our clients are

### SHOW OF HANDS

- Q1. Who has been asked to find an interest-solution for their church in the last 24 months?
- Q2. Who retains their church surplus cash in their high street bank account?
- Q3. Who has heard of Epworth, before today?!?

## INTRODUCTION

# ABOUT YOU

**Treasurers = “Task-rich and time-poor”**

*“Please make our money work hard for us”*

= another item on your ToDo list!

The real-world options:

Route	Pros	Cons
<b>Your High Street Bank</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name gives reassurance</li><li>• Path of least resistance</li><li>• Size</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quite “anti-charity” of late</li><li>• Long opening process</li><li>• Poor Instant Access rate. Always!</li></ul>
<b>Cash Portals (Flagstone / Insignis, etc)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One application – multiple banks</li><li>• All rates at a glance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rates drop off quickly after headline</li><li>• You do ALL the work, managing durations, maturities and banks</li></ul>
<b>FTDs or Notice Accounts with A.N.other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get decent rate</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No access to money</li><li>• Lengthy account opening</li><li>• Multiple logins</li><li>• Rate chasing</li><li>• Top ups?</li></ul>

### **Once chosen**

- Need to get committee buy-in
- Then open the account
- Then living with your decision
- Then another rate appears....!

## INTRODUCTION

# THERE IS ANOTHER WAY



**“The best kept secret in the church and charity sector”**  
**YCT**

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR NEEDS

# CHURCH FINANCES:

## CAN YOU DO GOOD, WHILST DOING GOOD?



Questions I assume you've considered:

- ▶ How important are ethics to your Church?  
Is it just about rate, or is it rate with a conscience?
- ▶ How do you choose the "right" institution?
- ▶ You're just one-voice, so how can you make a difference?
- ▶ What is a 'good' rate?
- ▶ How do I keep abreast of all the rates out there?
- ▶ How do I balance a rate with locking my money away?
- ▶ Do I just look at surplus cash or can I really maximise the opportunity for the Church?

### Treasurer Checklist

- ✓ Simple
- ✓ Easy to apply
- ✓ Good Rate
- ✓ Safe
- ✓ Low entry £
- ✓ Easy to work with!

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR NEEDS

# REALISTIC CASE STUDY

You will have a variety of cash needs. Some examples:

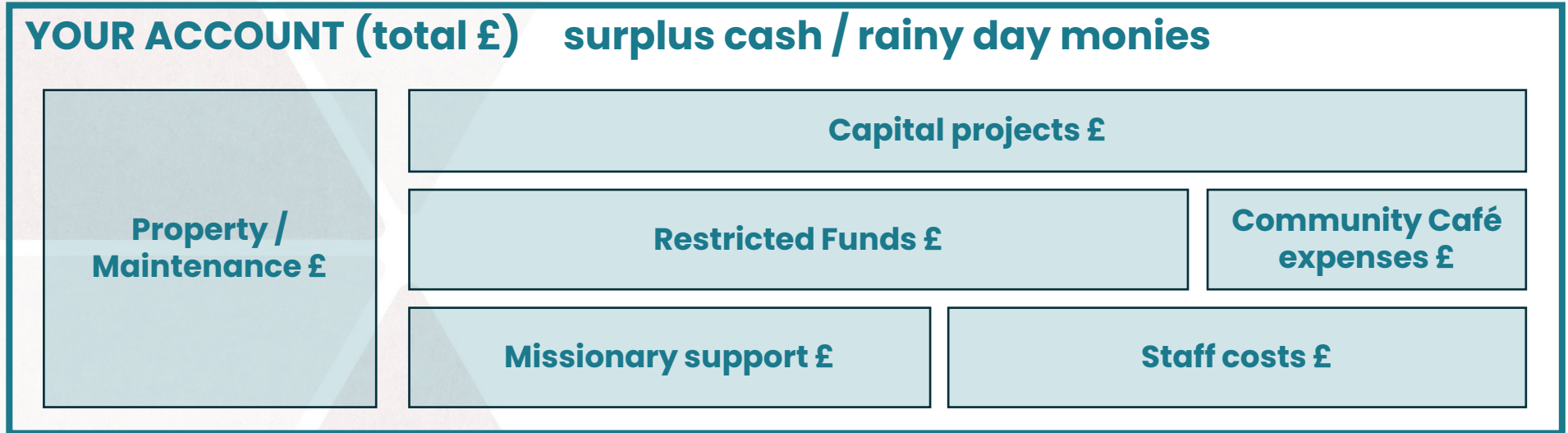
- ▶ Surplus cash / rainy day monies £
- ▶ Restricted Funds £
- ▶ Property / Maintenance £
- ▶ Missionary support £
- ▶ Community Café expenses £
- ▶ Capital projects £
- ▶ Staff costs £

The reality is that all these examples have different timelines and entry / exit points, but some of these pots get neglected as they're seen as too small or complicated to set up and manage.

**But why not get a rate on all of it?**

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR NEEDS

# REALISTIC CASE STUDY



SMALL CHURCH	MEDIUM CHURCH	LARGE CHURCH	COLLECTION OF CHURCHES
Total cash needs of <b>£65k</b>	<b>£200k</b>	<b>£750k</b>	<b>£2,000,000</b>

# ABOUT EPWORTH

- ▶ Proudly, and wholly, owned by The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB)
- ▶ CFB was established in 1960 by an Act of Parliament
- ▶ Epworth was founded in 1996 to run wider denominational and non-faith charity money
- ▶ We only work with churches and charities
- ▶ We're small, (and beautifully formed!), and pride ourselves on our service
- ▶ We have three core solutions

**Cash Plus Fund**

**Multi-Asset  
Fund**

**Discretionary  
Service**

EPWORTH CASH PLUS FUND FOR CHARITIES

# ABOUT EPWORTH



**STILL  
HERE.  
STILL  
FAITHFUL.**

**Epworth has been serving churches and charities with integrity since 1996.**

We remain independently owned, mission-led, and deeply rooted in Christian values. Our investment approach prioritises transparency, ethical clarity, and governance you can trust.

## EPWORTH CASH PLUS FUND FOR CHARITIES

# ABOUT EPWORTH

- ▶ At the core of what we do is a thorough examination of what defines a good company, guided by Christian principles
- ▶ Our Christian Ethics have four cornerstones
  - ▶ Investment Pillars
  - ▶ Levels of Tolerance
  - ▶ Our priority matrix
  - ▶ Voting
- ▶ With Banks, engagement is crucial, and our Deputy CEO has been highly active in this space

### HSBC ENGAGEMENT: ITV INTERVIEW AND FEATURE, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

IN THE NEWS

<https://www.itv.com/news/2024-01-19/hsbc-duping-public-after-helping-raise-37bn-for-new-oil-and-gas-fields>



<https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2024-05-13/barclays-billions-of-sustainable-finance-for-fossil-fuel-industry-is-greenwash-says-investor>

BETTER BANKING ■ AUGUST 6

### THE BANKER

Banks cannot self-regulate their way to net zero

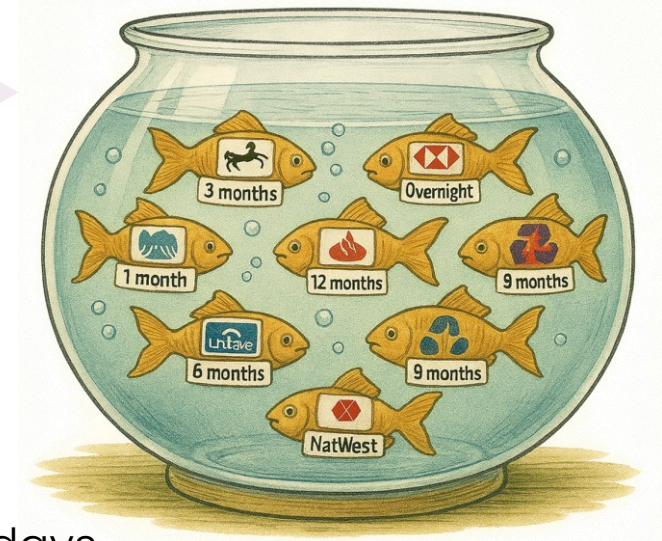
Barclays and HSBC's NZBA exits are not procedural; they expose fundamental issues with banks' climate commitments

by Andrew Harper

<https://www.thebanker.com/content/8ca31ba4-8a1a-43f7-8e94-3e4fe8716479>

# THE CASH PLUS FUND FOR CHARITIES

- ▶ Fund objective to have a highly competitive interest rate, with same-day access (BACS or CHAPS)
- ▶ A common deposit fund
- ▶ Access to ~40 high quality banks. Our partners:
  - ▶ Must be rated A or Higher **AND**
  - ▶ Must be in top 75 global banks
- ▶ Fund was created in Nov 2006. Tried and Tested
- ▶ Low minimum – just £1,000. No maximum
- ▶ Simple application form and accounts open within 5 days
- ▶ Our average Epworth client holds £660k in the fund
- ▶ Two similar solutions in the market – the other one has daily pricing, ours is monthly.
- ▶ In short, **We do the heavy lifting, so you don't have to!**



A charge for same day transfers applies (currently £12 via CHAPS) or can be done for free in 2-3 days (via BACS). We reserve the right to require 7 days' notice of withdrawals in exceptional circumstances but typically provide same day access.

# HOW THE FUND OPERATES

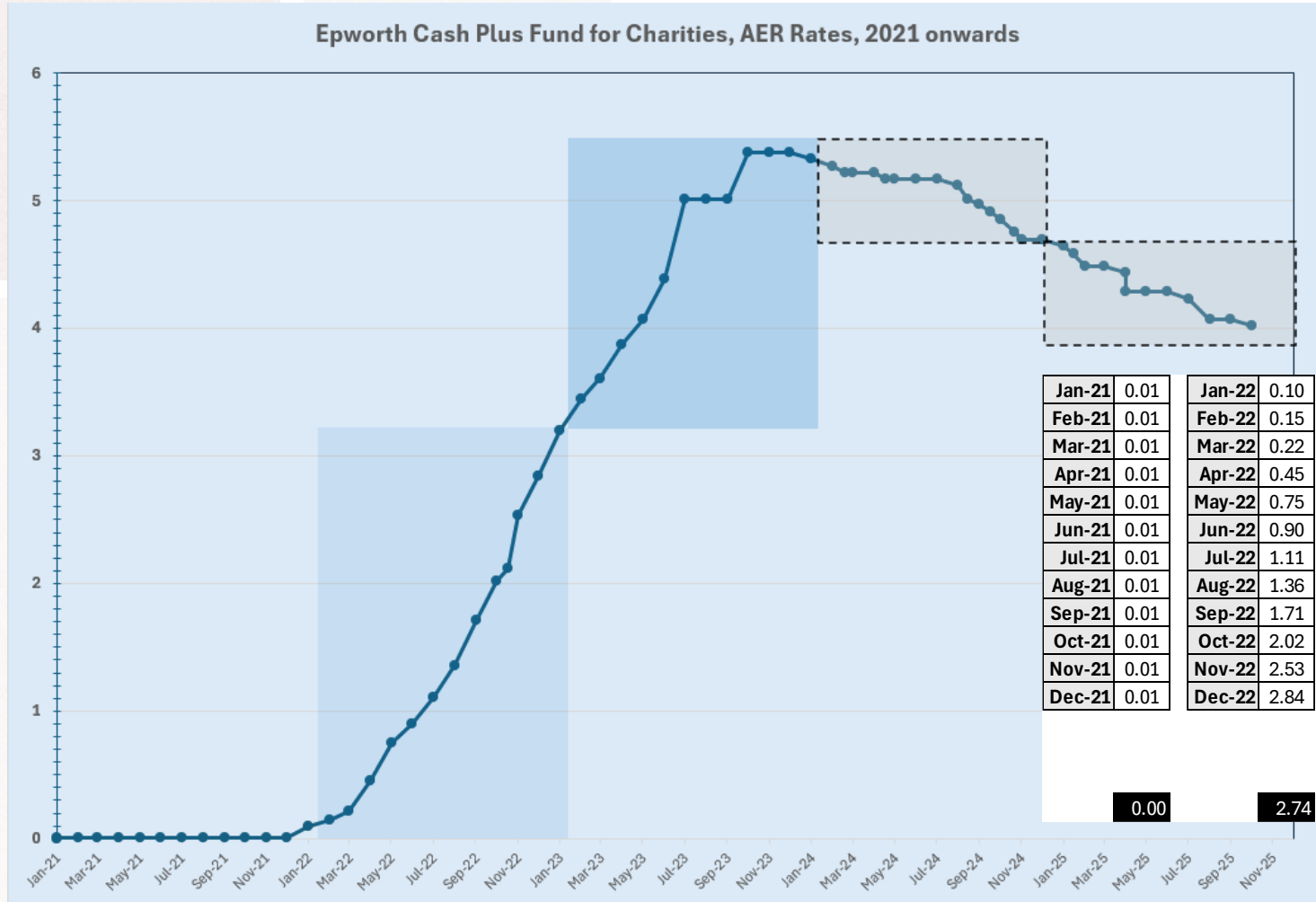
- ▶ Epworth is fully regulated by the FCA. The fund is regulated by The Charity Commission
- ▶ Strict governance around our banking panel and how much we place with each institution



- ▶ The net rate is passed to you
- ▶ Monthly email from me with the rate for that month, helping you plan

# EPWORTH CASH PLUS FUND FOR CHARITIES

## HOW HAS IT PERFORMED



Jan-21	0.01
Feb-21	0.01
Mar-21	0.01
Apr-21	0.01
May-21	0.01
Jun-21	0.01
Jul-21	0.01
Aug-21	0.01
Sep-21	0.01
Oct-21	0.01
Nov-21	0.01
Dec-21	0.01

Jan-22	0.10
Feb-22	0.15
Mar-22	0.22
Apr-22	0.45
May-22	0.75
Jun-22	0.90
Jul-22	1.11
Aug-22	1.36
Sep-22	1.71
Oct-22	2.02
Nov-22	2.53
Dec-22	2.84

Jan-23	3.20
Feb-23	3.45
Mar-23	3.61
Apr-23	3.87
May-23	4.07
Jun-23	4.39
Jul-23	5.01
Aug-23	5.01
Sep-23	5.01
Oct-23	5.38
Nov-23	5.38
Dec-23	5.38

Jan-24	5.33
Feb-24	5.27
Mar-24	5.22
Apr-24	5.22
May-24	5.17
Jun-24	5.17
Jul-24	5.12
Aug-24	5.01
Sep-24	4.97
Oct-24	4.85
Nov-24	4.75
Dec-24	4.70

Jan-25	4.65
Feb-25	4.59
Mar-25	4.49
Apr-25	4.49
May-25	4.44
Jun-25	4.29
Jul-25	4.29
Aug-25	4.23
Sep-25	4.23
Oct-25	4.07
Nov-25	4.07
Dec-25	4.02

0.00

2.74

2.18

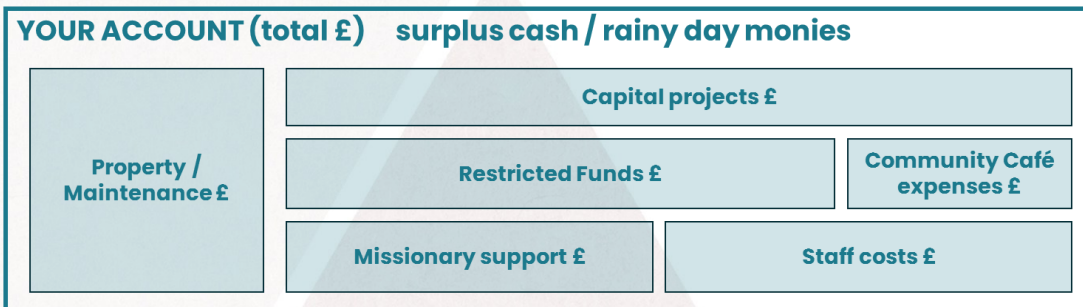
-0.63

-0.63

## EPWORTH CASH PLUS FUND FOR CHARITIES

# BENEFITS TO YOU

- ▶ NET Rate is currently 4.02% a.e.r. with same-day access
- ▶ You are in the fund for as long or as short as you want
- ▶ Top up easily, and withdraw easily
- ▶ Online portal
- ▶ Interest accrues daily and paid monthly



- ▶ Sub Accounts are free to setup and interest accrues within each “pot” to save you time each month with reconciliations. You can call them what you need

SMALL CHURCH	MEDIUM CHURCH	LARGE CHURCH	COLLECTION OF CHURCHES
Total cash needs of <b>£65k</b>	<b>£200k</b>	<b>£750k</b>	<b>£2,000,000</b>
<b>4.02% = £2,613pa</b>	<b>£8,040</b>	<b>£30,150</b>	<b>£80,400</b>

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## EPWORTH CASH PLUS FUND FOR CHARITIES

# COMPARISON TABLE

► The range of institutions offering charities same-day access is a small one!

SOURCE	RATE (a.e.r.)	COMMENTS
<b>Epworth Cash Plus Fund for Charities</b>	<b>4.02%</b>	<i>£1,000 minimum. No maximum. Tangible engagement with banks</i>
CCLA COIF	3.94%	<i>About to be acquired by Jupiter Asset Management. Rate calculated daily. No mention of bank engagement policy</i>
United Trust Bank Charity Easy Access Tracker	3.65%	<i>6 month introductory rate of 4.05%– then goes to 3.25%. £5,000 minimum. £100,000 maximum. No mention of bank engagement policy</i>
Flagstone Charity account	3.58%	<i>This is average rate. They have one bank (Chetwood) offering 4.04% but rates drop quickly after this one headline rate. No mention of bank engagement policy</i>
Charity Bank Ethical Easy Access account	2.94%	<i>£10,000 minimum. £500,000 maximum. Rate is gross, not NET. No mention of bank engagement policy</i>
Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	2.12%	<i>No minimum. No maximum. No mention of bank engagement policy</i>
CAF Gold Account	1.76%	<i>No mention of bank engagement policy</i>
Metro Bank Community Instant Access Deposit Account	0.75%	<i>Other costs incl £5 per statement. No mention of bank engagement policy</i>

All figures correct as at October 9<sup>th</sup> 2025. Sources were each individual company website

## EPWORTH CASH PLUS FUND FOR CHARITIES

# IT'S NOT JUST ME THAT LOVES THE FUND

**YCT  
(a non-  
faith)  
Charity**

**The Epworth Cash Plus Fund is the best kept secret in the charity sector. We've been using it for years and tell all our charity connections about it!**

**The service we get from the team in London is exceptional – you can actually speak to someone who understands what we want!**

We have found Epworth Investments invaluable in their support and guidance when deciding what to do and when with tranches of monies. Staff are supportive, knowledgeable and flexible to accommodate the needs of our (complex!) organisation.

Their guidance and understanding has been invaluable in supporting us in placing funds and securing an excellent rate of return but moreover, making the transfer of funds from one banking entity to themselves seamless and easy.

**The  
Salvation  
Army**

**SBC  
(a  
Catholic  
charity)**

**"Thank you so much for all you do for me. The fund is amazing and you're always on hand when required to answer any questions"**

# MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE FOR OUR CLIENTS

## Epworth are a VERY broad church

- ✓ **Methodists (clearly!)**
  - ✓ **Catholic**
  - ✓ **Baptist**
  - ✓ **URC**
  - ✓ **Unitarian**
  - ✓ **Church of England**
  - ✓ **Jewish**
  - ✓ **Salvation Army**
  - ✓ **+c. 300 non-faith charities**
- ❑ *A landing zone for 3 large property sales whilst the national body made up their minds what they wanted to do with the proceeds (£63m)*
  - ❑ *A savings scheme for a large church in central London, ensuring they could accelerate their church roof project (£1.8m)*
  - ❑ *Weekly sweep of ~4,500 Methodist Church Sunday collections (£15!)*
  - ❑ *Private Schools use it each term to maximise their interest on term fees, then draw down on it during the school period (£m's)*

# EPWORTH CASH PLUS FUND FOR CHARITIES

## WHAT NEXT?



Route	Pros	Cons
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<b>ECPF</b>	<b>• Answers all of the above</b>	<b>• Removes all of the above</b>

LUCRIN  
GENEVA

### Treasurer Checklist

- ✓ Simple to use
- ✓ Easy to apply
- ✓ A GREAT Rate
- ✓ Safe
- ✓ Low entry £
- ✓ No maximum
- ✓ Top ups are a breeze
- ✓ Service is key
- ✓ Sub accounts 😊
- ✓ We do the heavy lifting

www.lucrin.com

<https://epworthim.com/cash/>



EPWORTH CASH PLUS FUND FOR CHARITIES

**THANK YOU**

HOPEFULLY MY SESSION HAS BEEN ... INTEREST-ING?



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Epworth Investment Management Limited (“Epworth”) is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA Registered Number 175451). It is incorporated in England and Wales (Registered Number 3052894), with a registered office at Methodist Church House, 25 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SF and is wholly owned by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

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The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investors should note that actual portfolio returns may be different to the returns of the managed portfolio. Levels and bases for taxation may change.

The monthly interest distribution rate can fluctuate, and past performance is no guarantee of future returns. To help manage the risk of capital losses, the Fund spreads its investments across a wide range of financial institutions. The possibility of capital loss does exist; however, it has never occurred in the Fund’s history. A charge for same day transfers applies (currently £12 via CHAPS) or can be done for free in 2-3 days (via BACS). We reserve the right to require 7 days’ notice of withdrawals in exceptional circumstances but typically provide same day access. Full details and terms, including the Scheme Particulars, can be found at [www.epworthim.com](http://www.epworthim.com). The Epworth Cash Plus Fund for Charities is exempt from the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and depositors are not eligible for the Statutory Investors Compensation Scheme or the services of Financial Services Ombudsman. The Manager is however duly authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000



**ANY  
QUESTIONS?**