

Property Information Sheet:

Grants for Churches UK (excluding those available from the SW Synod)

INTRODUCTION

We are often asked about whether we can provide grant information to churches who are needing to do work on their buildings in addition to those we provide via the URC grants and loans schemes.

In an attempt to being positive, we have put together this leaflet about some possible sources of funds.

For information on loans for building work see our **Property Information Sheet 12:**

WHERE ELSE TO START LOOKING FOR GRANTS:

There are various trusts and grant-making organisations around the country that can be approached, and this Property Information Sheet gives information about the national ones which we are aware of. Some local research (e.g., library, other churches, local authority, local Council for Voluntary Service etc.) will reveal others.

Some local authorities have 'Big Society' funds so it may be worth investigating what's available from yours. These grants will only be available for initiatives that clearly benefit the local community.

Churches that have Listed Buildings to maintain probably have more chance of finding funding. The **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme** provides grants towards VAT paid on repairs, maintenance, and alterations to listed places of worship. For more information and application forms visit their website www.lpwscheme.org.uk or write to them at Topmark (LPOW), 160 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TB (Tel: 0800 500 3009) We also have a leaflet about the scheme LB05: Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

You should be aware that grants usually come with conditions. It is the responsibility of the Charity Trustees of the Church obtaining the grant to satisfy themselves that the conditions are reasonable and can be fulfilled.

Some grant-making organisations will require the Church's Property Trustees to be party to a formal Agreement. If that is the case it is important to make sure that it is primarily the Charity Trustees and not the Property Trustees who enter the covenants regarding the use and application of the grant moneys.

We will try and update this leaflet when we discover other sources of grants. If you know of other national funds that could be added to this list, please let us know.

Allchurches Trust

This trust is the parent company behind Ecclesiastical Insurance from which it receives its income. In 2019 they made some changes to their grant scheme and now encourage any church to apply for their open grant programmes. Their grants normally support projects which meet one of their 'areas of funding focus' which are:

- Building communities, especially where they are hurting or broken
- Helping people, especially those in particular need, to flourish
- Growing churches, spiritually and numerically

They particularly favour projects which are innovative, ambitious in vision, broad in scope and have a clear focus on the potential positive impact on people and communities. They can help churches with the costs of building and restoration projects, repair of church fabric and church community initiatives. The application form is available from their website.

Contact details:

Address Iain Hearn, Allchurches Trust Ltd, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JZ

Tel 01452 873189

Email atl@allchurches.co.uk Website www.allchurches.co.uk/how-to-apply

Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation

An independent grant-making charity which offers one-off grants for capital projects including church community projects. They will often support projects which are about improving access for the disabled and modernising kitchens and toilets in line with Health and Safety regulations and the DDA. They generally provide small grants – most are between £1000 and £5000. They have an online application process via their website.

Churches need to be aware of the following: “We receive many requests for funding from churches; those that are successful in receiving a grant host a high proportion of secular activities (i.e. no connection at all with religion or spirituality) that are open access to their local community, as opposed to being accessed mainly by the congregation. Your application needs to provide strong evidence of the range of secular activities and the numbers involved.”

Contact details:

Address: The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, 20 Berkeley Square, London W1J 6LH

Tel 020 7408 2198

Email office@bernardsunley.org Website: www.bernardsunley.org

Garfield Weston Foundation

This is a family-founded, grant-making trust which has been supporting charities across the UK for over 50 years. From small community groups to large national institutions, their aim is to support organisations that have effective solutions to helping those most in need. They have various categories of organisations which they support - one of which is ‘faith’.

According to their website: “This category demonstrates the impact the Foundation’s grants are able to make to local communities by providing funds towards simple but practical projects that enable religious buildings to be used for an inclusive range of charitable purposes by their local communities. Capital grants include funds towards the instillation of basic amenities such as lavatories and kitchen facilities and for restoration works to historic church buildings.”

Their website includes an application form as well as full information about how to make an application.

Contact details:

Address Garfield Weston Foundation, Weston Centre, 10 Grosvenor Street. London W1K 4QY

Tel 020 7399 6565

Email via their website

Website www.garfieldweston.org

Heritage Lottery Fund

Some grants that are available come from the Lottery (e.g., Heritage Lottery Fund). Some Churches will refuse absolutely to be involved in any use of lottery money. Others will point out that in days of financial constraints when other grants are not available it is wrong not to use what funding is available. Both stands are valid.

The Heritage Lottery Fund recognise that places of worship sit at the very heart of local communities. That’s why they are committed to helping congregations to conserve, restore and make them more accessible. The National Lottery Community Fund is offering grants of up to £300,000 for community-led projects that brings communities across the UK together.

The Bringing People Together programme will support projects run by charities, voluntary and community organisations, CICs, CIOs and statutory bodies that build stronger connections across communities and improve the infrastructure and conditions that are needed to strengthen these connections.

This is funding is from the National Lottery Community Fund UK Portfolio. The UK Portfolio is where the National Lottery Community Fund explores new approaches, experiments with how to do things differently, and look to fund work that is more future focussed.

The Fund expects to make up to twenty awards over the next twelve months to enable organisations to deliver collaborative projects across at least two countries in the UK that focus on equality, diversity and inclusion, particularly amongst communities disproportionality affected by the pandemic such as people of colour, disabled people, LGBTQ+ people, and asylum seekers or refugees.

Applications can be made at any time.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/bringing-people-together>

For more information go to <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/what-we-fund/buildings-and-monuments/places-worship>

Congregations caring for historic places of worship (i.e. 'Listed Buildings'), of all faiths and denominations, can apply to HLF for funding to support a broad range of projects including capital repair. Grants range from £3000 to £5m

Contact details:

Address Lottery Heritage Fund, 7 Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NR

Tel 020 7591 6042/44 (Grant enquiry line)

Email enquire@hlf.org.uk Website www.hlf.org.uk

Their 'Contact us' page also gives contact details for regional offices

Laing Family Trusts

The Laing Family Trusts support a wide range of charities engaged in promoting Christian faith and values and in the relief of poverty. Although there are four Trusts they are administered centrally, and any application will be directed to whichever is most appropriate. They won't fund 'church restoration or repair' but will fund new or redevelopment projects. Full details of how to apply can be found on their website

Contact details:

Address: Laing Family Trusts, 35 Bunns Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7 2DX

Tel: 020 8238 8890

Website: www.laingfamilytrusts.org.uk

National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust formerly the **Historic Churches Preservation Trust** is a not-for profit organisation which is independent from the government and church authorities. They promote and support church buildings of historic, architectural and community value and accept grant applications from listed and unlisted Christian places of worship throughout the UK.

The National Churches Trust's aim is to "promote and support church buildings of historic, architectural and community value across the UK". It carries out this aim by providing financial grants to repair and modernise church buildings, supporting projects to enable churches to remain open, collaborating with local Churches Trusts and volunteer bodies, providing practical advice, support and information, and working to promote public awareness of the needs of churches. Its forerunner was the Historic Churches

Preservation Trust, whose functions it has taken over, together with those of the Incorporated Church Building Society.

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/>

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/applying-grant-funding/list-major-grant-funders>

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/applying-grant-funding/where-search-grant-funding>

The grants that the Trust currently offer are listed below.

The Cornerstone Grants programme offers grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 towards the cost of urgent structural repair projects costed at more than £100,000 including VAT. The Trust will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use, costed at more than £30,000 including VAT. Their grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost.

The Gateway Grants programme offers grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 towards project development and investigative work up to RIBA planning stage 1, to support churches preparing for a major project, and in developing their project to the point at which they can approach a major grant funder. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project costs for this phase.

The Foundation Grants Programme offers grants of between £500 and £3,000 towards urgent maintenance works and small repairs identified as high priority within a recent Quinquennial Inspection or Survey Report. Also, small investigative works and surveys. Project costs should not exceed £10,000.

Contact details:

Address The Grants Team, The National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB

Tel 0207 222 0605

Email grants@nationalchurchestrust.org Website www.nationalchurchestrust.org

Joseph Rank Trust

This Trust is specifically for promoting the Christian faith as it was originally set up by Joseph Rank as a practical expression of his strong Christian beliefs and his desire to advance the Christian faith and to help the less fortunate members of society.

The current Trustees have identified two main areas of interest, as follows:

- Projects that demonstrate a Christian approach to the practical, educational and spiritual needs of people of all ages.
- The adaptation of Church properties with a view to providing improved facilities for use by the church and its work in the community in which it is based.

Contact details:

Address The Joseph Rank Trust, Worth Corner, Turners Hill Road, Crawley RH10 7SL

Tel 01293 873947

Email secretary@ranktrust.org Website www.ranktrust.org

Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) (May not be applicable in our region – check the location on these websites)

There are a number of organisations which distribute money from this fund. The LCF has five main areas of work that qualify for funding and these include “The repair, maintenance or restoration of a place of worship”. (Project type E). Some funders will also include churches under the aim of “The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or another public amenity” (Project type D) – but you will need to demonstrate that your facilities are (or will be) available for use/booking by the general public for a minimum of 104 days per year

The Entrust website gives details of all Environmental Bodies (EBs) who fund projects through the LCF in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. You can use the search facility to see which funders give grants in your area and then use the links to find out more about what they support.

Below we list some current funders who could support churches, but you will need to check their websites carefully to see if your project will qualify. There are others which have very specific location criteria just as just one county.

Enovert Community Trust <http://www.enovertct.org/>

Tel: 01753 582513

Projects must be within 10 miles of an Enovert Landfill Site or within 10 miles of Enovert's waste management facility in Weston Super Mare. Their normal maximum grant is £50,000 and they state that it is important to demonstrate how your proposal will benefit your community.

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (Biffa) <https://www.biffa-award.org/>

Tel: 01636 670000

Projects must be within 5 miles of a Biffa operation or within 10 miles of a Biffa Landfill Site. They provide grants of between £10,000 and £75,000 for projects of up to £200,000.

Suez Communities Trust: <https://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk>

Tel: 01934 524013 Projects must be within a 2.5-mile radius of a qualifying SUEZ recycling and recovery UK waste processing site. Grants of up to £50,000 are available for projects up to £250,000 and you will need to demonstrate that your facilities are genuinely used by the community on a regular basis

The Veolia Environmental Trust www.veoliatrust.org

Tel: 0203 567 6820

Projects must be "in the vicinity of a qualifying Veolia site" (postcode checker on their website). Grants of between £10,000 and £75,000 are available for projects up to £250,000

Viridor Credits Environmental Company www.viridor-credits.co.uk

<https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/apply/caf>

Tel: 01823 476 476

Projects must be in an "eligible area" which you can check on their website. They have three different level of grants – up to £20,000, £20,000-£50,000 and £50,000-£100,000

Waste Recycling Environment Ltd (WREN) <http://www.wren.org.uk/>

Tel: 01953 717 165

Projects must be situated within 10 miles of an FCC environmental landfill site. Grants of between £2000 and £100,000 are available for projects up to £500,000.

OTHER WEBSITES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

www.fundingcentral.org.uk - is a website for **charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises**. It includes information about applying for grants as well as having a search facility for relevant grant-making bodies. If your church has annual income under £100,000 then you can register for free. Others will need to pay £100+VAT

www.fundsonline.org.uk is run by the Directory of Social Change (DSC) and, for a fee, you can search their comprehensive database of 4500 grant-making trusts. The annual fee is £350 + VAT for registered charities

(for 1 user). There is also an option for a week's subscription but their website doesn't say how much this is so you would need to contact them to find out more.

<http://www.buildingconservation.com/directory/prodlist.php?category=Grant+sources> - Sources of grants for the conservation, restoration and repair of historic buildings and places. Not all of these will be relevant. The following are specifically church/historic buildings focused:

Crowdfunding:

The following is taken from [a feature article published in the Church Times in 2013](#) (pdf).

Crowdfunding is one way of raising finance which can benefit church and community projects, and offer ethical projects for donors and investors. It takes traditional fund-raising online, and utilises the potential of internet and social-media sites to communicate aims and receive funds.

There are several different types of crowdfunding ...

- Donation model – backers of the project simply donate funds to a good cause
- Rewards model – backers pledge funds towards a project in return for related rewards, and the satisfaction of feeling that they have supported a good cause
- Interest model – backers provide a loan, and expect a return in the form of interest
- Equity models – backers buy a stake in the project, and expect a return in the form of a share of the profits

... and there are many platforms. The following may be of interest, but see also the tips below.

- [Spacehive](#) – civic and community-based projects; donation model
- [Abundance Investment](#) – UK ethical and sustainable energy projects; investment model

1. Pick your model and platform: First research the [different types of crowdfunding models](#) to find which best suits your needs: donation, reward, equity, etc. Then you'll need to find a website to host your crowdfunding campaign. Take a look at for example this ["Ultimate List of Crowdfunding and Fundraising Websites"](#) for some tips. Consider the types of projects on each website you consider, and their fees and funding deadlines. With a rewards model, think about how you are going to deliver the rewards. With interest or equity models, consider talking to a business adviser first.

2. Budget carefully: Consider the costs of the campaign and project. Take into account site costs and transaction charges, as well as costs and delivery of rewards.

3. Make a good pitch: Look at successful pitches, and note why their pages work. Use images or short footage to enliven your page and tell your story. Include people connected to the campaign, such as the person behind it.

4. Create a "crowd": Work to engage potential funders before launching. Use mailings, blogs, and social media several months before. If possible, involve your "crowd" in the design of your project. Target social-media figures who can influence your crowd. Do not neglect traditional media.

5. Keep momentum: Most sites require you to set a time limit for your campaign. Plan in advance when key events are to happen, such as updates, marketing pushes, or target milestones. Get supporters to

pledge early, and approach your target groups only when the momentum increases. Update your campaign pages regularly and respond quickly to any comments and questions.

6. Plan the end: Have a “Plan B” if you fail to raise the target. You can always try again. If successful, deliver on promises made, including what happens to any extra money. Success is likely to be of interest to local media and is a good way of ensuring a bigger “crowd” for your next campaign.

Building Work Grants:

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme enables churches to apply for a refund of VAT where qualifying work has been done to a listed building.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/buildings/caring-for-places-of-worship/>

Historic England supports congregations and faith groups using historic buildings, whether they were built as places of worship or have been converted for that purpose.

They offer advice on sensitively adapting spaces and installing new facilities so that places of worship can be used for a wide range of purposes. They helped to produce an [online tool](#) to help congregations to prepare Statements of Significance so they can understand what is important about their building.

They also provide [technical guidance](#). This covers a variety of topics from building repairs to making places of worship more resilient to climate change. Many congregations are also working to achieve Net Zero by 2030 and Historic England has a [range of guidance](#) to inform decisions about how to achieve this.

A [guide](#) to the range of places of worship and their architectural and historic significance is available online, as are their recently published short guides to [19th- and 20th-century Roman Catholic churches](#) and [Nonconformist places of worship](#).

Local Authority Grants, including Parish councils:

It is possible that your Local Authority will have funds to assist you with your project, whether funds are required for maintenance or repair to your church building or for assistance with your churchyard. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits a Local Authority (whether at county, district or parish council level) to contribute towards the maintenance, repair or adaptation of churches on the basis that the expenditure would be in the interests of, and bring benefits to, some or all of the inhabitants of the area.

There is an upper limit and other conditions on the amount that local authorities can spend each year in this way but it is worth enquiring. The church is often one of the chief local cultural assets and tourist attractions, as well as a local community facility, and so you can confidently present your project as being in the interests of the community.

Parish councils (which are often responsible legally for carrying out maintenance to closed churchyards) may be prepared to make an annual grant towards the upkeep of open churchyards and given sufficient prior warning for budgeting purposes, may be able to do the same for maintenance of the church building itself.

Local Authorities may also be prepared to fund a project if it matches one of their aims. For instance, if they want to do community work in a deprived, densely populated area and you have a building in the area that can be adapted for the purpose. In such cases you and your Local Authority become stakeholders in the project. This can be a win-win situation, where you get repairs and alterations done and the Local

Authority fulfil their aims. It is, however, important that you are clear as to what they wish to do and how long they will be involved. It is wise and good practice to have properly minuted negotiations before the project begins. It is also worth contacting your County Council and Regional Development Agency to see what funds they have available for projects in the area.

Statutory Grants

Statutory means that the grants come from the government or a local body such as the local or county council, Health Authority or Education Authority. Money is made available to voluntary groups for work that the government or local agencies have identified as necessary.

Regeneration/Economic Development Initiatives

Other sources of funding available are those for regeneration and economic development of areas. These are usually only accessible through LSP (Local Strategic Partnerships) formed between Local Authorities and the community and business sectors.

Enquiries for funding are best preceded by some low-key lobbying as opposed to a letter addressed impersonally. A good starting point is your local district/borough councillor who will be aware of what is available. Your local CVS (Council for Voluntary Service) is also a good source of information.

Some key policies you should be aware of before approaching your local authority for funding include Best Value and Local Compacts. As well as grant opportunities, funding opportunities from local government agencies include the delivery of public services under contract and asset transfer.

