

# Funding

A whistle-stop tour



Kingdom People

love • compassion • justice • freedom



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF  
WORCESTER

1. Making a case for support
2. Major funders and their requirements
3. Compiling a fundraising plan

# A case for support

# Purpose

- An internal document to outline the problem your church wants to solve, what you do about that problem, and what you're going to achieve as a result. It's your case for why donors or funders should support your work.
- A comprehensive, well-organised source of compelling and convincing content that you can draw on when you need it - for a funding bid, a meeting with a donor, to create copy for a web/print.
- A single, coherent message for your staff, PCC and supporters to feel more confident about writing and talking about your church's work.

# What to include

The need for your project:

- The problem you exist to solve
- The people that you work with - their circumstances, experiences, wishes and needs
- How you know all this - who you have asked, what they have told you.



# What to include

Your solution:

What you will do in response to these issues

Specific details about your planned activities: what, where, how long, how often etc.

Why you designed the project in this way

# What to include

## Your impact:

- The overall change you're trying to achieve, and the long-term, big-picture consequences of that change
- The measurable outcomes you'll achieve as you work towards that change
- How you'll measure, report on and reflect on your progress

# What to include

## Your expertise and credibility:

- What makes you best-placed to achieve this change (why a donor or funder should trust you to do the work)
- Brief background information about your church, as well as your unique skills, lived experience, knowledge, connections, track record and qualifications



# Funders



*“We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past”*

The National Lottery Heritage Fund seeks to pass on anything we value now to future generations. It is keen to *invest* money into schemes that will contribute to its new four Investment Principles: saving heritage, protecting the environment, inclusion, access and participation, and organisational sustainability.

**Great for:** larger schemes that have a clear story (and plan!) behind them and have plans in place for implementation, including sources of other funding and future-proofing.

### Grants available

#### Tier 1

Amount: £10,000-£250,000

Assessed: on a rolling basis throughout the year. 8 week decisions.

#### Tier 2

Amount: £250,000 to £10m

Assessed: via successful expression of interest,

Match min. 5% project costs for projects less than £1m, or 10% over.

Dates: 12 noon 15 August for December decision, 21 November for

March 2025 decision.

### Criteria

These change depending on the level of award, but generally include:

- Prospective
- Sustaining UK heritage
- Project does not exceed 5 years
- Must consider the four investment principles (though not necessarily to an equal degree)
- Cannot promote the cause of beliefs of faith organisations- so project needs to be clearly defined.



*“We support people and communities to thrive. Putting communities first”*



The National Lottery Community Fund seeks build community and support ideas that matter to people and communities. They want to create connection, and make organisations vibrant, diverse and active.

**Great for:** schemes focusing on community activities rather than faith-based activity or saving a ‘heritage’ asset. Excellent for community halls/ Dementia cafes/ community gardens etc. that have a clear social impact.

### Grants available

#### Awards for All

Amount: £300 to £20,000

Assessed: on a rolling basis throughout the year. 16-week lead time.

#### Reaching Communities England

Amount: Over £20,000

Assessed: via successful initial contact, usually takes 12 weeks first stage.

#### Forces in Mind

If you have a strong link with veterans and/or are wanting to provide services for them, consider this fund.

### Criteria

These change depending on the level of award, but generally include:

- Prospective
- Project does not exceed 5 years
- Must meet at least one of their cause criteria (building communities, improving spaces for communities, help people reach their potential, supporting people through cost-of-living crisis)
- Does not fund religious activity
- Cannot fund fundraising/ profit-making activity





*“...to help keep the UK’s wonderful collection of church buildings well-maintained, valued and used”*

The National Churches Trust has a wide remit of what it will consider funding, including repair works, improvements, and investigative works. Funding is match-fund dependent, and larger awards are less common.

**Great for:** smaller urgent repairs, match-funding/ adding to the pot for larger schemes.

### Grants available

#### Small

Amount: £500 to £5,000 (works up to £20,000)

Assessed: Bi-monthly, next closing date 30 June

#### Medium

Amount: to £10,000 (works up to £80,000)

Assessed: three times yearly, next closing date 13 August

#### Large

Amount: up to £50,000 (£15,000 average).

Assessed: Rolling, but two decisions per year. This is a two-stage process, the next Stage 1 deadline is July 2.

### Criteria

These change depending on the level of award, but generally include:

- Prospective
- 50% of cost must have been raised
- Multiple quotes
- Permission in place
- Conservation accreditation
- High priority work for smaller grants
- Charity Commission registration/ minimum opening for public use 100 days for larger projects..





*“Providing essential support to protect and enhance churches...”*



The Benefact Trust wants to make a positive difference by funding, guiding and celebrating the work of churches. It seeks to empower, and allow communities to flourish. They have a wide range of aims from social cohesion, to fabric repair.

**Great for:** a wide range of church projects from community to building. Important to have 30% funding already, and note that awards are often a smaller contribution to the whole. Applications reviewed on rolling basis.

### **Grants available**

#### Community Impact Grants

Amounts: Up to £10,000 and over £10,000

Scopes: wider use of church buildings; tackling societal challenges; growing congregations and communities.

#### Building Improvement Grants

Amounts: £750 to £100,000 (but typically a ‘small contribution to overall project costs’. Average in 2023 was £3,300

Scopes: essential repairs; improve disabled access; conservation; energy efficiency; aesthetic enhancements.

#### Roof alarm grants

Amount: up to 50% of cost to a maximum of £2,500

### **Criteria**

These will depend on the fund, but include:

- Prospective;
- Expectation of 30% costs funded;
- Preference for providing information for them to assess award, rather than requesting specific amount.



The Landfill Trusts seek to give back to communities within close range (around 10miles) of landfill sites. The ones we know of in the area are Biffa Award (managing the Hartlebury Landfill), Enovert at Himley, and FCC at Rowley Regis .



**Great for:** a variety of projects depending on which funder you're using.

### **Biffa Grants**

Amount: £10,000 to £75,000

Can cover community buildings or biodiversity.

### **Enovert Grant**

Amount: no maximum, but £50,000 suggested

Improving land/building for the public; restoring a heritage asset; improving biodiversity. Specifically mentions church buildings

### **FCC Community Action Fund**

Amount: £2,000 to £100,000 on up to £500,000 project.

Can only fund church halls or spaces available for hire.

### **Criteria**

These will depend on the fund, but include:

- Prospective;
- Within range of a landfill (not recycling);
- Needs to be open to the public minimum 104 days per year;
- c.10% Third Party contribution;
- Competitive tender may be required;
- Permissions to be in place.



# ChurchCare



16,000 buildings. One resource

Pilgrim  
Trust



The  
GOLDSMITHS'  
Company

Church Care provide grants for a vast number of projects that seek to safeguard objects within churches, such as plate, clocks, and stained glass. The funds are provided by a number of other funders and then paid out via the Church Care team.

**Great for:** a variety of projects when important objects require preservation or repair.

**Bells, books, churchyard structures, plate, clocks, organs, stained glass, textiles, brasses and metalwork, paintings, woodwork...and monuments**

Amount: up to £10,000

Dates: various across the year, depends on the items in question.

Whilst a conservation report is required in most cases, funding for these can also be applied for from Church Care up to a value of £5,000. This is very worthwhile to investigate best steps for precious items.

## Criteria

These will depend on the fund, but usually a general criteria is that a conservation report must have been carried out, and that the work will be carried out by an accredited conservator.







The Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant has been set up to fund urgent repairs to churches, alongside valuable improvements. Total project costs should not exceed £10,000 for listed churches, or £12,000 for unlisted.

**Great for:** issues such as minor roof repairs, replacing items of broken rainwater goods, new access ladders, upgraded accessible toilets.

### Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant

Amount: up to £10,000 for listed churches, or £12,000 for unlisted (due to VAT).  
Grant eligibility based on deprivation index status of the church, funding between 50% to 90% of a total project cost.

Dates: next closing date 31 August 2024, then 30 November 2024.

### Net Zero Quick Wins Grant

Similar but for minor works to improve emissions or environmental performance of building: e.g. replacement heaters, insulation.  
Launching later in summer.

### **Criteria**

These include;

- Prospective;
- Church buildings, not items within or churchyard features;
- If repairs then should be priority 1 or 2 on most recent QI;
- Cannot cover routine maintenance;
- Grants cannot be used as match-funding for bigger projects.







Local Trusts are ones whose focus is on Worcestershire and/or surrounding counties. They will have specific guidelines about areas of focus for funding.

**Great for:** approaching for initial funding or to gain assistance with special projects. Check individual charities for their funding criteria and focus.

### Criteria

Depend on the individual fund.

#### Laslett's Charities

For repairs and improvements to churches in local Dioceses. Not explicitly stated what level of grants given.

Dates: next closing date 8 July 2024.

#### Rowlands Trust

For repairs and maintenance to churches locally. Not explicitly stated what level of grants given.

#### Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust

Amount: usually around £1,000

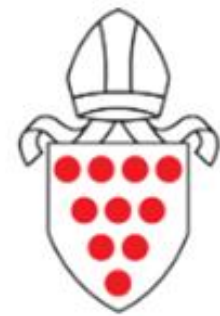
Uses: preliminary works, repair of the fabric, potentially for heating.





Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme gives grants covering the VAT on repairs over £1,000 to listed buildings used as places of worship



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Sites & Buildings Loan Fund

Loans of up to £20,000 to a PCC for emergency works, supporting cashflow (e.g. until the VAT grant applies) or other agreed reason

Healthier Churches Fund

Kingdom People Fund

Not to be utilized for building works but could be used for equipment etc. in support of missional activities.



- Funders want to see that the money they invest in your project will deliver the outcomes they want to achieve
- If you don't share their aims, don't apply
- Say thank you - acknowledge the support received promptly but follow the guidance given over press releases and displaying logos
- Funders will be pleased to be invited to visit a completed project or attend an opening ceremony although they may only be able accept a limited number of invitations
- If a funder ask for a project report, provide it in a timely manner –if you don't and ask for funds again in a few years' time, they are not likely to look on you favourably

# Notes of caution

- Be clear about what you are fundraising for. The Fundraising Regulator and Charity Commission can investigate should they feel malpractice.
- If you are offered a grant but need to use it differently or any other change – be honest to the funder, they may let you change things around but better to ask and be told no than proceed and be found out later.
- Consider future generations when making memorial funding: what if the next generation want to change things again?

# A fundraising plan

# Fundraising plan

- Working document
- Shared by project team
- Sets fundraising target
- Shortlists sources
- Plans activity
- Rationale for approaches