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Advice on 'Local Grants' for Church Building Repairs and Alterations

This advice covers grant-giving trusts and foundations which have a focus on part or all of the area of the diocese including the important Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust. Information on grants limited to a single place will be available from parish, town or district councils.

Trusts and Foundations

Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust

The grants provided by the Trust cover Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire (and correspond to the St Albans Diocese area) with a stream of funding from the Wixamtree Trust limited to Bedfordshire. Grants are given towards restoration and repair e.g. for repairs to roofs, stonework, floors and other historic fabric and features, damp eradication and drainage. Development work such as new toilets and kitchens is only grant-aided in Bedfordshire (from Wixamtree funds).

Web: http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk/

Email: grants@bedshertshct.org.uk

Tel: 01767 312966

Steel Charitable Trust

The grants cover five wide categories - Arts and Heritage, Education, Environment, Health, and Social or Economic disadvantage – and can have a range of purposes. Applications from Bedfordshire, and Luton in particular, are welcomed with about 30% of the funds allocated to the county but grants are also offered to churches in Hertfordshire. Grants between £2,500 and £25,000 are given, but despite over £1m been given in grants in one year the success rate of applications is limited (12%). Grants have been offered for church restoration works and new facilities (including in Bedfordshire) and other heritage and community schemes.

Web: https://steelcharitabletrust.org.uk/.

Email: info@steelcharitabletrust.org.uk

Francis Coales Charitable Foundation

The objectives of the Foundation are to provide grants for the structural repair of ecclesiastical buildings (built before 1875) which are open to the public. Preference is given to churches in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. Grants for the conservation of monuments and monumental brasses are not limited to these counties. Examples of grant-aided works are repairs to a chancel roof and the

conservation of hatchments, wall paintings, monuments and monumental brasses. Grants may also be given towards publications, research and purchase of documents. Grants are not given for services such as heating or new facilities.

Web: http://franciscoales.co.uk/

Email: administrator@franciscoales.uk

Tel: 01934 750817

Simon Gibson Charitable Trust

Hertfordshire is one of the areas supported by the trust. The Trust has a bias towards organisations which favour the young or the elderly, or those with conservation, education or religious purposes. Grants can cover core or project costs up to £20,000 though the typical grant is £3,000-£5,000.

Web: http://www.sgctrust.org.uk/

Contact the Trust: https://www.sgctrust.org.uk/contact-us/

Address: The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust, PO Box 109, Cowbridge, CF71 9EA

Gale Family Charity Trust

The Trust gives grants for charitable causes in Bedfordshire including for religious activities, education/training. Have given a grant of £2,000 for alterations to a historic Bedfordshire church.

Web: https://galefoundation.org.uk/

Email: galefamilytrust@gmail.com

Tel: 01234 354508

Address: Northwood House, 138 Bromham Road, Bedford, MK49 2QW

Mrs B L Robinson's Charitable Trust

Grants for general charitable purposes in Bedfordshire including historic churches. Grants of £1,000-£5,000 are typical.

Web: see https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regid=802552&subid=0

Email: anne.quinn35@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01234 307756

Address: 7 The Square, Wilstead, Bedfordshire, MK45 3HL

The Balney Charitable Trust

The Trust offers grants for preservation, conservation, welfare and service facilities. North Bedfordshire and north Buckinghamshire are preferred areas and applications from local community organisations are restricted to these areas.

Web: see https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?subid=0&regid=288575

Email: balney.trust@outlook.com

Tel: 01908 611901

Address: Hill Farm, North Crawley Road, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, MK16 9HQ

The Luke Trust

The Trust (administered by the National Churches Trust) focuses mainly, but not exclusively, on grants for the advancement of the Christian religion. Preference is given to the repair of certain churches with family connections followed by those in north Bedfordshire.

Email: clare.wand@nationalchurchestrust.org

Tel: 020 7600 6090

Address: c/o National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London, EC1A 7HU

Bedfordshire Charitable Trust Limited

The Trust provides grants aimed at care for older people and then for general charitable purposes. A wide range of type of recipients include the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust.

Tel: 01234 352840

Email: secretary@bedsct.co.uk

Address: Ladyslaude Court, Bramley Way, Bedford, MK41 7FX

Salisbury Pool Charity

The Charity provides grants for general charitable purposes mainly in Hertfordshire and Dorset and has included grants for historic churches in Beds and Herts.

Email: j.green@gascoyne.org

Tel: 01707 287000

Address: The Estate Office, Hatfield Park, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5NB

Community foundations

Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation

The Foundation is an award/grant maker supporting local groups and charities in Bedfordshire and Luton and a few areas via the London Luton Airport Near Neighbours Fund. See the website for more information on eligibility.

Web: https://blcf.org.uk/

Email: administrator@blcf.org.uk

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Tel: 01525 306960

Hertfordshire Community Foundation

The Foundation provides a range of different community grants including HCF Small Grants (up to £1,000) and HCF Large Grants (up to £5,000). The website does not suggest any direct funding for historic church restoration or alteration but it may be worth exploring indirect funding from the Foundation.

Web: http://www.hertscf.org.uk/

Email: office@hertscf.org.uk

Tel: 01707 251351

Address: Foundation House, 2-4 Forum Place. Fiddlebridge Lane, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 0RN

Feedback and help

Please get in touch if this advice note needs updating or if you know about another good local source of grant-aid that should be added.

For further help and advice contact:

Ann Wise, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer, Diocese of St Albans

Email: awise@stalbans.anglican.org Tel: 01727 818108