

Funders & Grant Applications



Your grant applications will often provide the largest size of funding towards your project. Prepare as much as possible before launching yourselves into writing any applications.

Your applications will be up against many others all asking for support so be as PERSUASIVE as you can – prove to the funders that their financial contribution will make a big difference.

There is a range of funders – some general purpose and some with a specific focus.

Read the criteria set out by individual funders – if a local trust only funds theatres rule them out!

Search out the aims or criteria on general funder's websites and see if you can tailor your application to those – if you can't don't waste your time trying!

It is worth exploring those with aims that are specifically Christian but don't restrict your search to just Christian funders.

Most funders that are not faith-based will make grants to churches, but with restrictions on the type of work that qualifies.

You might discover that a funder has a specific 'churches' stream i.e.: they will fund restoration work, but not toilets or conservation of stained-glass windows.

Be open to applying to funders for a specific part of your larger project.

Try to spread the net as widely as possible but not wildly! Try to avoid a scattergun approach and have a plan in place after selecting the funders you have decided to apply to.

Make sure you have all the documents you may need already loaded on to your computer and in the same folder. It will save time!

Never send generic applications – cut and paste is a no no!

Demonstrate in your applications what your church is doing towards raising funds – fund raising campaigns etc

Defining your project and having a good fit with grants

What your project is and isn't – and check this against grants

Funders can give money for a range of reasons – religious, secular, heritage, community, tackling urban deprivation etc.

Check that your project fits with a funder's aims to avoid wasting time – look at their websites and give them a ring

Make your case to show how you will deliver the funder's aims

There are better ways of making a case for funding –

Why this project, why here, why now, why this source of funding

What the problem is, what the solution is, how the grant will make this happen and what the benefits will be

The benefits to the heritage of a church are crucial to many grant schemes particularly if it is in a poor condition

And the difference or transformation that the project will make to the lives of **people** is key and help sell your scheme

Top Tip:

Impress funders with your green credentials!

Increasingly funders are looking at how green your church might be when deciding to fund you or not. Check the funder's website – look to see if they have recently funded any environmental projects.

1. Think about becoming an Eco-church
2. Is there space in your churchyard for a community garden?
3. If possible, use locally sourced building materials, equipment etc
4. Host a repair café/event
5. Hold a jumble sale
6. Organise a car washing event
7. Put on a vegan lunch fundraiser
8. Run a seed, plant and bulb exchange afternoon
9. Share surplus vegetables
10. Swap unused Christmas wrapping paper and cards

Local Funders

- Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust
- Francis Coales Charitable Foundation
- The Archer Trust
- **Bedfordshire –**
Steel Charitable Trust (has a particular interest in Luton)
Gale Family Charity Trust
- **Hertfordshire –**
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust
Bentley – small grants programme (within 20 miles of Hatfield Office)

The Big National Ones:

All three expect applicants to have raised a specific % of the project's costs.

National Churches Trust (50% required)

[Our grants | National Churches Trust](#)

Garfield Weston Foundation (50% required)

[Home - Garfield Weston Foundation](#)

Benefact Trust (30% required)

[Home | Benefact Trust](#)

These funders are known to be supportive:

Laing Family Trusts

[Laing Family Trusts The Laing Family Trusts | Home](#)

Henry Smith Charity

[The Henry Smith Charity - A Grant Giving Charity](#)

Bernard Sunley Foundation

[What We Fund - Bernard Sunley Foundation](#)

Congregational and General Charitable Trust

[Congregational & General Charitable Trust \(candgtrust.org.uk\)](#)

Joseph Rank Trust

[- The Joseph Rank Trust -](#)

**Contact me for a
more tailored list to
suit your project.**

Listed churches undertaking projects may qualify for the **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme** to reclaim VAT. For more information go to:
[Listed Places of Worship \(LPW\) Grant Scheme \(dcms.gov.uk\)](#)

For many PCCs
**The National
Heritage
Lottery Fund** is the
elephant in the room
when discussing
grants!



Decide very early on if the PCC is open to applying to the National Heritage Lottery Fund. If the decision is not to apply, please make sure it is minuted.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund: Home

You now only have 4 investment principles to consider – it's up to you how much emphasis you place on each one. I can help you with this!



Investment Principles

- **Saving heritage:** conserving and valuing heritage, for now and the future.
- **Protecting the environment:** supporting nature recovery and environmental sustainability.
- **Inclusion, access and participation:** supporting greater inclusion, diversity, access and participation in heritage.
- **Organisational sustainability:** strengthening heritage to be adaptive and financially resilient, contributing to communities and economies.

Heritage Grants: £10,000 - £250,000

- No deadlines so you can apply whenever you are ready.
- Submit a short **Project Enquiry** to get feedback on your project before applying (this is optional but strongly recommended). Response is usually within 10 working days.
- Decisions on applications take approximately 8 weeks.
- Payments are usually made in three stages: 50% in advance, 30% in advance, and then 20% in arrears.
- You should go out to tender before applying and include a healthy contingency in the project costs.
- Match funding is not required, grants can be for 100% of the project costs. However, it is recommended that you consider whether other funders, organisations or people might be able to support your project either through additional cash or non-cash contributions. This will help demonstrate that there is an interest in and commitment to your project. You will need to explain why you are unable to raise cash or non-cash contributions from your own resources or other sources if this is the case.

Heritage Grants: £250,000- £10million

- You must first submit an **Expression of Interest**. The response is usually within 20 working days and you will either be invited to submit a development phase application, or given feedback as to why you are not being invited to apply at this time.
- Deadlines for development and delivery applications are quarterly
- Applications are assessed within 12 weeks and then assigned to the next decision meeting.
- Two-stage process with development and delivery phase. Applications for each.
- For grants under £1m, you must contribute at least 5% of your project costs.
- For grants over £1m, you must contribute at least 10% of your project costs.
- Payments for development grants under £250,000 are made in three stages: 50% in advance, 30% in advance, and then 20% in arrears.
- Payments for development grants over £250,000, and all delivery grants, are made in arrears.

Project must not start before a decision is made and the formal Permission to Start is issued.

Budgets must be included in all projects for Publicity and Promotion and Evaluation. The amount should be proportional to the grant request.

Apply for what you need – for repair projects there is a preference to address all the urgent repairs in one single project. Where applicable, this should result in the church being removed from the Heritage at Risk Register, the database for vulnerable churches and/or the urgent category on a QI report. However, phased programmes will still be supported where there is strong justification. This this could be due to the nature of the repairs, or the capacity of the PCC to manage a large project.

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/>

Any church contemplating applying for a grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund are asked to contact me before you do anything so that I can support you from the very beginning.

Midlands & East of England

East of England

Email: MidlandsandEast@heritagefund.org.uk

Telephone: [01223 645 938](tel:01223645938) (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)

Address: [Mantle Business Centres, 9 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1GE](#)

Summary of consultant Trevor Burton's Do's and Don'ts -

Do:

- **Prepare your case:**

You need a clear understanding of what it is that you want to do, why you want to do it, explain who will benefit from your project, state how you will measure or quantify those benefits and finally, provide a clear explanation of the costs of the project.

- **Research your potential funders**

- **Prepare your applications and submissions**

READ THE GUIDELINES. Trusts and other funding bodies are in the business of giving money and making grants but please ensure that you read the giving guidelines very carefully.

- **Administration and coordination**

Sound administration is key.

Don't:

- **One size doesn't fit all**

Avoid the `Round Robin` application or scattergun approach to funding organisations.

Don't get too long winded

If the criteria do not fit, don't waste time and energy writing and submitting an application that will have little chance of success.

Takeaways:

Be clear what you want to do and how it will benefit your mission, community etc.

Explore all funding options and create a realistic plan of action.

Be creative about fundraising campaigns and events – generating engagement can be as important as the money.

‘Church’ and ‘Christian’ are not dirty words to many trusts and foundations – but they may have strings attached.

Budget for your fundraising events carefully and prudently.

Map out the risks to raising the funds needed for your project - how may those risks be mitigated?

My top tips:

- Your application is up against many others – make it stand out by being clear and concise – tailor your words to each individual funders' criteria – one size doesn't fit all!
- Keep a copy of every application you submit where at least one other person can find it! Make sure you tell them!
- Create a spreadsheet (or chart) where you list every application submitted, the date submitted, the amount requested, the date rejected/or successful and the amount given.
- When managing your project make sure every invoice is recorded and kept together. Likewise, any correspondence about your project.
- Be prepared that one or more of your applications may be rejected – don't take it personally! Accept any feedback you are given as helpful advice and not as criticism.

My role is to support any church within the Diocese planning on a large project or, is in need of specific help with grant applications.

I can give lists of potential funders for specific types of project:

Kitchens and toilets

Churchyard wall repairs

Heating, lighting, audio-visual equipment

Monuments etc.

I can also provide targeted advice on your project.

Email: awise@stalbans.anglican.org