Update on the response of funders who grant aid church buildings work to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Version 3 - 10.7.20

INTRODUCTION

This update covers the funders in our advice note on National Grants plus a few others and four of the main funders featured in our advice note on Local Grants. (These two advice notes give more information on what, where and how funding is given and are found under https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/repairs-maintenance-grants/) We are also reviewing new sources of funding and including information if they are relevant to church building works. Main headlines are given here for each funder where information is available.

Common approaches in the responses from the funders to COVID-19 are: flexibility in the way projects already grant-aided will be dealt with including allowing delays or other changes to projects and the way they are dealt with; and emergency funding for vulnerable bodies and projects. Existing grant schemes are variously suspended, to be reviewed, changed or continuing.

As the COVID-19 emergency develops advice is likely to be added and updated frequently so it will be wise to check funders’ websites for the latest guidance. (Links may also change and you may need to start from the home page to find COVID-19 information.) Some of the trusts and foundations do not have COVID-19 responses on their websites.

We suggest you contact a funder for information and to discuss your situation if you are considering making an application to it, want information on an application made but not yet decided, or have already been offered a grant for your project.

NATIONAL GRANTS

National Lottery Heritage Fund


A Heritage Emergency Fund is providing short-term funding for organisations delivering projects or running previously funded projects. Detailed information on the fund, what is eligible and how to apply is here https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/heritage-emergency-fund. The application deadline is noon on Friday 31 July.

This fund is limited to those organisations which have had or are delivering Heritage Fund (formerly Heritage Lottery Fund) grant-aided projects. All those we know about have been contacted with detailed advice. If you think we have missed you please contact David Bevan (details at the end of this note).
The Digital Skills for Heritage Initiative is being accelerated and will include support for engaging people and other activities online.

Flexibility will be offered for grant-aided projects being delivered and advice given.

All new grants from £3,000 to £5m are halted at least until October 2020.

**Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme**

A COVID-19 Update is given in a panel on the home page of the website [http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/](http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/). This notes that administration of the scheme continues, queries will be answered and applicants will be able to submit invoices dated 1.3.19 to 30.6.19 until 30.7.20.

**National Churches Trust**


It says that *If you are concerned about the impact the outbreak could have on your grant offer or grant applications, feel free to contact us by email: grants@nationalchurchestrust.org*. All grant programmes are open as normal. Answers to questions on grants and looking after your church during the coronavirus pandemic are here [https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news/grants-and-looking-after-your-church](https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news/grants-and-looking-after-your-church). (June 12, 2020)

**Church of England (ChurchCare) Conservation Grants**

The webpage [https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/churchcare/our-conservation-grants](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/churchcare/our-conservation-grants) recognises the current difficulties with applying, accepting and claiming ChurchCare grants. A grant will not be lost if there are delays in accepting or claiming it with time periods extended. Advice and support is available with the contact link given.

**Historic England**


**The Allchurches Trust**

The Trust’s webpage on Coronavirus dated 22 May is here [https://www.allchurches.co.uk/news/message-of-reassurance-coronavirus/](https://www.allchurches.co.uk/news/message-of-reassurance-coronavirus/). The Trust recognises the need for flexibility and wants to offer support during the current situation. It will consider redirecting grant monies given for a specific purpose and will be flexible with reporting deadlines and in other ways. You should contact the Trust to discuss any changes to your circumstances or projects. Existing grant programmes are currently running as normal.

The Allchurches Trust has provided funding to organisations co-ordinating church and charity responses to the food poverty impacts of COVID-19. It cannot at this time fund
individual churches and charities who are supporting similar actions to reduce the harmful social and economic impacts of the pandemic. The Trust is looking to develop a new grants programme that will be open for applications later this year.

Please note that the Trust has provided exceptional grants focused on the extra costs of support provided to local communities by churches as a result of the flooding earlier in the year. This does not cover the costs of the impact of flooding on a church building which should be discussed first with the insurer before making a normal application. Please ask the DAC team for further information.

**Garfield Weston Foundation**

The Foundation’s starting webpage on COVID-19 (as of 10 July) is here [https://garfieldweston.org/covid-19/](https://garfieldweston.org/covid-19/). The Activities webpage notes that the Foundation is fully open and has a range of active measure in place including: being open to new applications and flexible on timescales and reporting for current grantees; and taking a phased approach to grants, including resilience funding for core costs as well as planning for longer-term strategic projects.

We suggest you check with the Foundation if you are considering applying for a grant or are about to submit an application. Contact details are here [https://garfieldweston.org/contact-us/](https://garfieldweston.org/contact-us/).

**The Headley Trust**

The Trust (one of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts) has this webpage on the impact of COVID-19 [https://www.sfct.org.uk/message.html](https://www.sfct.org.uk/message.html). Again the message is of support through the current situation and that the Trust’s funding is flexible and intended to help you deal with the challenges.

We suggest you contact the Trust at info@sfct.org.uk if you are thinking of applying.

**Laing Family Trusts**

The COVID-19 webpage describes the flexible approach being taken by the trusts [https://www.laingfamilytrusts.org.uk/covid-19/](https://www.laingfamilytrusts.org.uk/covid-19/). It recommends that applications not related to the current emergency are delayed until the beginning of May when guidance will be reviewed. (This message had not been updated when viewed on 10 July.)

**Foyle Foundation**

The Foundation’s Coronavirus Update of 1 June is given here [http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/](http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/). The Small Grants Scheme opened for new applications from 1 June. The Main Grants Scheme remains suspended for new applications with revised guidelines to be published this month (July).

The Main Grants Scheme is suspended for new applications with guidance planned for June. The Small Grants Scheme will re-open from June with new criteria. All current grant recipients will continue to be supported with the Foundation engaging with them and taking a flexible approach.
The Wolfson Foundation

The webpage still dated 20 April https://www.wolfson.org.uk/covid-19-and-how-we-can-support-you/ says that grant processes are being operated as normal with flexibility on changes to existing projects and pending applications.

The Foundation is currently reviewing how its funding will be structured for the rest of 2020 – with the aim of being as flexible and as supportive as possible. We look forward to sharing more information on this in the coming weeks. In the meantime (and in order not to waste any applicant’s time) we are pausing our open grant programmes and will not be accepting new applications.

Contact details are given.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

The Foundation’s coronavirus updates (with the last dated 14 April) are given here https://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/coronavirus---reassurance-for-those-we-fund. (Further information on the Foundation’s response which includes grants offered to selected organisations it already funds is here https://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/caroline-mason-on-esmee-fairbairns-response-to-coronavirus.)

The Foundation is currently closed to new applications. A flexible approach will be taken with existing grants.

Joseph Rank Trust


The Rank Foundation

The Foundation’s response to COVID-19 still dated 3 April is here https://rankfoundation.com/covid-19-update/. This gives information on emergency and resilience funds available to its existing networks and/or grant recipients. Its Pebble Grants programme is being reviewed and its major grants programme is suspended at the moment.

GRANTS WITH A LOCAL FOCUS

Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust

The Trust has provided this update on how it will deal with applications and emergencies:

- Requests for payment for completed works will be processed as normal
- Application forms will be sent out on request but decisions are subject to delays because of the current restrictions
- If an emergency arises where work has to be done immediately or to check on the timing of decisions, please contact the Grants Secretary on 01767 312966
The Trust’s website is here http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk/.

**The Steel Charitable Trust**

The Trust gives its response to the COVID-19 outbreak here https://steelcharitabletrust.org.uk/2019/01/31/deadline/. This follows a policy review on 29 June and says that: *Within its normal timescales and application procedures, the Trust is accepting funding applications for both core and project funding as well as short-term responses to COVID-19. Applications for grants not related to COVID-19 can be made in the normal way with the next application deadline on 31 July.*

**Francis Coales Charitable Foundation**

The Francis Coales Charitable Foundation website does not currently have information on its response to COVID-19 http://franciscoales.co.uk/index.html. Its contact email address is administrator@franciscoales.uk.

**Simon Gibson Charitable Trust**

The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust website does not currently have information on its response to COVID-19 on its website https://www.sgctrust.org.uk/. Contact details are given here https://www.sgctrust.org.uk/contact-us/.

**MORE INFORMATION**

**Further updates**


**For more information and advice on Church Buildings and grants:**

- visit the Church Buildings pages of the St Albans Diocese website at https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/

  - contact the DAC team at dac@stalbans.anglican.org or David Bevan, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer, direct at HCBSupport@stalbans.anglican.org

**COVID-19 Update on Church Buildings Grants**

**Version 3 – 10.7.20**

David Bevan

Historic Church Buildings Support Officer

Diocese of St Albans