



Advice on National Grants for Church Building Repairs and Alterations

This advice covers:

- Signposts to the wide range of grants available
- Key national bodies and trusts giving grants
- Other trusts with a national scope

Note that different grant schemes fund either repairs or alterations or both.

Signposts to the wide range of grants available

The **ChurchCare** 'Sources of Funding' webpage is a good place to start getting to grips with the range of national grants of different types available. It has links to information on grants given by trusts such as the National Churches Trust and bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund along with those available from smaller funders

(<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/funding-and-grants/other-sources-funding>).

The page includes a link to the **Parish Resources** 'National List of Charitable Grants for Churches' (<http://www.parishresources.org.uk/resources-for-treasurers/funding/>). This is broken down into sections including:

- Conservation, Preservation, Heritage & Restoration
- Bells, Organs, Windows & Other Specific Funding
- Community Projects/Improved Facilities

Key national bodies and trusts giving grants

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Stop Press July 2018: for information on changes to existing HLF grants and new grants see the end of this entry.

The HLF is a key source of grants for church repairs and engaging people in heritage, especially when major funding is needed. The final deadline for applications to the HLF's Grants for Places of Worship scheme was 14 August 2017 but a number of other schemes are available. Churches which are listed or have some other heritage interest or connections are eligible.

Resilient Heritage grants of £3,000-£250,000 can help you strengthen your team and volunteers and, for example, fund viability studies, investigations into new approaches and research into engaging with communities and visitors.

Sharing Heritage grants of £3,000-£10,000 can fund repairs and better management of churches. A project also has to provide benefits for people and if possible communities. Applying to Sharing Heritage for support for a small project can give experience and confidence which will help you make larger bids for funding from the higher-level HLF schemes in the future.

Our Heritage grants of £10,000-£100,000 can fund repairs and better management of churches. A project also has to provide benefits for people – learning about heritage is given special weight – and if possible communities. Our Heritage is a one-stage grant with applications assessed in 8 weeks followed by a decision.

Heritage Grants of £100,000 upwards involve a two-round process. The first and second rounds are assessed in three months and then go to decision meetings. Between the first and second rounds is a development stage, lasting up to 24 months, where more preparatory and detailed work including specialist investigations is done prior to the second-round application. This work can be supported by the grant.

Heritage Grants can fund repairs and the better management of churches. A project also has to provide benefits for people and communities. A couple of heritage, people and community benefits are given special weight. Heritage Grants place more demands on applicants and the projects awarded grants particularly when larger grants are sought.

Information on these and other HLF grant schemes is available [online](#). This includes application guidance which gives much more detail on each scheme.

The HLF introduces three of the grant schemes which are suitable for places of worship (Resilient Heritage, Our Heritage and Heritage Grants) on its [website](#).

Please contact David Bevan, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer, if you want to discuss the HLF grant options or if you are thinking of applying to any of the schemes for the first time. His email address is HCBSupport@stalbans.anglican.org.

Stop Press July 2018

The **Heritage Lottery Fund** will be changing its grant schemes to reflect the priorities in its new strategic framework due to be published in January 2019. We are therefore in a transitional period. For information on the current changes to existing grants and the last application deadlines for schemes see <https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy/changes-our-grant-making>. The HLF has also noted that round two application stages will be more competitive.

The Heritage Lottery Fund's webpage for Places of Worship is here <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/what-we-fund/buildings-and-monuments/places-worship>. This introduces **Places of Worship: Inspiring Ideas** which will fund a small number of creative projects that look at new ways of making historic places of worship more resilient and sustainable. Further information will be added soon.

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

This scheme makes grants towards the cost of the VAT incurred in making repairs and carrying out necessary alterations to listed churches (<http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>). As a result the scheme can provide most or all of the 5% partnership funding required for the HLF Grants for Places of Worship.

National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust has offered four type of grant (<http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants>). **Community Grants** - to install essential facilities such as kitchens and toilets and improving access for all; **Repair Grants** – to support structural repair projects costing more than £100,000; **Project Viability and Project Development Grants** – to provide funding so that problems can be investigated and viability studies and plans produced before a major grant application is made; **Partnership Grants** – made subject to agreement via local trusts.

However, these current grant schemes will close at their next deadlines from July 2018 on and new schemes will open before the end of the same year. There will be three bands of grants reflecting different sizes of project: **Foundation** (£500-£3,000) – for maintenance and small investigations; **Gateway** (£3,000-£10,000) – including for repairs/maintenance, new facilities and project development; and **Cornerstone** (£10,000-£50,000) – for repairs/maintenance and new facilities.

For more information on the final deadlines for existing grant programmes and the new grants see <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/grant-programmes-2019-2023>.

ChurchCare

ChurchCare provides grants for repairs to the fabric of churches along with the conservation of a range of building and churchyard features, fittings and furnishings, and conservation plans, as set out under 'Our Grants' (<http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/funding-and-grants/our-grants>).

The Allchurches Trust Limited

The Allchurches Trust (<http://www.allchurches.co.uk/>) supports the mission and work of the Christian church and charitable projects that have a Christian foundation. It likes to assist in areas of greatest need but there are no firm rules governing what will be supported. The Trust has grant-aided church restorations and new facilities.

Other trusts with a national scope

Other trusts and foundations that have given grants to churches in the diocese include:

- Garfield Weston Foundation (<http://www.garfieldweston.org/>)
- The Headley Trust (<http://www.sfct.org.uk/Headley.html>)

Further potential sources for churches are:

- Beatrice Lang Trust (http://www.laingfamilytrusts.org.uk/beatrice_laing_trust.html)
- Foyle Foundation (<http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/small-grants-scheme/>)
- The Wolfson Foundation (<http://www.wolfson.org.uk/>)

Feedback and help

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

For further help and advice contact:

David Bevan, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer, Diocese of St Albans

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