



## **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.**

Signpost to the wide range of grants available

The Church of England's Parish Resources webpage on funding church buildings is here  
<https://www.pariahresources.org.uk/resources-for-treasurers/funding/>

The page includes a link to the 'National List of Charitable Grants for Churches' which 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

### **National Lottery Heritage Fund**

The Heritage Fund is a key source of grants for church repairs and engaging people in heritage, especially when major funding is needed. Churches which are listed or have other heritage interest or connections are eligible.

**A single grants programme covers all types of heritage project in the UK** including buildings, museums, wildlife and landscapes. How this operates depends on whether you are applying for a grant worth £3,000 to £10,000, £10,000 to £100,000, £100,000 to £250,000, or over £250,000.

Applications for grants worth between £3,000 to £10,000 and £10,000 to £100,000 can be put in at any time with decisions made in 8 weeks. There are quarterly deadline and decision dates for grants between £100,000 and £250,000 with 12 weeks for assessment followed by a committee meeting. Similar timescales apply to grants over £250,000.

A project enquiry form should be submitted to get advice from the Heritage Fund before making an application for a £10,000 to £250,000 grant. The application form has a 6,000 word limit and grants are given for single-phase projects. .

For grants over £250,000 an expression of interest form is required before the Heritage Fund decides whether you can apply. This is intended to prevent people wasting time developing applications when they have little chance of success and giving advice to those with projects that could be eligible for funding. Grants over £250,000 will be for projects which have two phases: development and delivery.

Whether partnership funding is required and how much depends on the size of grant and the Heritage Fund doesn't have to be the main source. Grants from other bodies and a contribution from the parish are welcomed.

**Applications should deliver the outcomes and other priorities of the Heritage Fund.** The Heritage Fund expects what is delivered to be in proportion to the size of grant.

**Nine outcomes or benefits are set out** including ***'Heritage will be in better condition'*** which will of course be produced by repairs and conservation. (It is generally harder to get funding for new facilities.) Applicants are likely to achieve a number of the outcomes and should focus on those which their project delivers most strongly. But all projects must deliver the outcome that ***'a wider range of people will be involved in heritage'*** which can be demanding.

Another outcome is that ***'People will have greater wellbeing'*** which can come from helping people connect with other people and places, getting involved and taking part. This and some of the other challenging outcomes can be achieved through working with social, health and educational services such as care homes, GP surgeries and schools. The Heritage Fund strongly supports projects which are developed and delivered with partners and local communities.

**Heritage at Risk** such as listed churches which are included in Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register, and potentially other churches identified as vulnerable by the diocese, are given more emphasis.

**Environmental sustainability** is a theme: all projects will have to demonstrate that they are good for the environment. Retaining old buildings and improving their condition and therefore their environmental performance will go some way to meeting this requirement.

**Enterprise** is a further theme: projects that secure new uses for under-used historic buildings will be supported including those which have commercial elements. **Projects which contribute to a local sense of place** and quality of life and give wider community benefits will also be supported.

**The Luton Borough Council area is one of 13 national targets for support from the Heritage Fund** because it doesn't get its fair share of funding and suffers from deprivation. The Fund will work with stakeholders to help organisations to meet local needs and encourage applications for priority heritage projects. Bodies which overlap with or otherwise contribute to Luton from outside could also benefit from this initiative.

**Getting grants from the Heritage Fund will continue to be a demanding challenge**, certainly if you are seeking more than a small amount of funding. Applicants face stiff competition with no guarantee that very good bids for important and much-needed projects will be successful.

However, the Heritage Fund may be the only source of grant aid which could give substantial funding. Your project may fit well with the grant requirements and if you ask for a realistic contribution you could be successful. It may, for example, be possible to secure funding of £200,000 for urgent repairs and involving a wider range of people in heritage at a listed church which is registered as 'Heritage at Risk'.

### **Advice on Heritage Fund grants**

David Bevan, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer, will give advice on whether the Heritage Fund (or other grants) are suitable for your project. He can also support you when you are developing your project and writing your grant application. Contact David at [HCBSupport@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:HCBSupport@stalbans.anglican.org).

Advice is also available from the Cambridge office of the Heritage Fund which is part of the Fund's Midlands and East area. More support will be given to first-time applicants.

For information on the National Lottery Heritage Fund see <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/>.

The Heritage Fund's webpage for Places of Worship is at <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/what-we-fund/buildings-and-monuments/places-worship>.

## **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 contribute to the partnership funding required by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. (The LPW scheme is currently expected to run at least until March 2020.)

## **National Churches Trust**

**The Trust's grant programmes** are set out as at the date of this note (revisions may be made):

### **Foundation Grants**

Grants: £500 - £3,000

Eligible work: Maintenance works (including access for maintenance); items identified as required within a Quinquennial Inspection Report/survey reports/other sort of report; small investigative works/surveys. Projects should cost up to £10,000.

### **Gateway Grants**

Grants: £3,000 - £10,000

Eligible work: Project development work up to RIBA stage 1; strategic or capacity building projects at regional churches Trusts.

### **Cornerstone Grants**

Grants of £10,000 - £50,000

Eligible work: Structural repairs/maintenance issues costed over £100,000; installation of kitchen and toilets over £30,000.

Grant decisions are made by the NCT's grants committee which meets three times a year.

### **The Trust's grant criteria includes:**

- 50% of fundraising has to be in place at the point of application (grant awards will never exceed 50%)
- Churches should have been constructed more than 30 years ago and open for regular worship
- Applicants must demonstrate how they meet one (or possibly more) of the Trust's outcomes:
  - Preserving heritage
  - Promoting sustainability
  - Inspiring support
- Places of worship must be open beyond worship for at least 100 days per year

For more information on the National Churches Trust grant schemes see

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/>.

The Trust also offers preventative maintenance micro-grants of £250 (for services costing between £500 and £1,000) and £500 (for services costing over £1,000). See

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/preventative-maintenance-micro-grants-apply>.

Only churches booking services through <https://www.maintenancebooker.org.uk/> are eligible for these maintenance grants.

### **The Church of England (ChurchCare)**

The Church of England (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 conservation grants'

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/churchcare/our-conservation-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 where organisations are tackling social issues and working in partnership. The Trust has grant-aided church repairs 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](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**

Email: [HCBSupport@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:HCBSupport@stalbans.anglican.org) Tel: 01727 818108

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