

The objects of the trust are:

- a) To support diocesan, deanery or parish projects promoting spirituality, education, service or witness and/or
- b) To grant bursaries to individuals for the development of spirituality, education, service or witness.

Income in 2017 was **£38,261** as compared to £34,852 in 2016. The Trustees have continued with their policy of aiming to improve income whilst not compromising capital values. Total expenditure in 2017 was **£35,773** as compared to £33,544 in 2016. The increase in expenditure reflects an increase in the average size of grant made; the number of awards remains virtually unchanged. This reflects the Trustees' desire to give as much support as possible to deserving projects. The Trustees do not see the increased expenditure as necessarily significant; it will depend upon the number and quality of individual applications and the level of support sought and has fluctuated from year to year over a long period.

20 bursaries were awarded in 2017. There were also 20 bursaries awarded in 2016 and 22 in 2015. Total expenditure was **£11,147**, as compared to expenditure in 2016 of £12,564. The majority of bursaries continue to be granted in support of lay and ministerial education but we were pleased to assist one ordinand with resources for their training and four clergy from the Diocese with a bursary to assist towards the costs of their Extended Study Leave during 2017.

The Trustees also made grants totalling **£24,324** to 13 projects within the diocese, as compared to £25,730 to 12 projects in 2016. The wide range of activities supported is shown by the table below.

PROJECTS

Project Name	Project nature	£Amount
The Oak Church, Stevenage	Grant towards the cost of a two year project to establish Radiant Girls' Ministry	1,224
Bridge Youth Club, Bishop's Stortford	Grant towards the cost of taking a group of young people from Bridge Youth Club to the Soul Survivor Festival in Peterborough	770
"Here I am"	Grant towards the cost of a conference to explore vocations for young women	401
All Saints, Leavesden	Grant towards supporting a "Sharing Life" Parish Mission in July 2017	1500
Befrienders, Yarl's Wood	Grant towards the cost of employing a coordinator for the volunteers who visit the centre as befrienders to the detainees	5000
Radlett	Grant towards the cost of the parish youth work initiative	5000
"Transforming Luton"	Grant towards the cost of a mission project in 2018	1500

Love Stevenage	Grant towards a mission project in July 2017	735
Hatfield Roots Scheme	Grant towards the cost of expenses and training of three interns who were engaged at Hatfield for a year whilst they considered ministry in the Church of England	1200
Bedford Deanery Synod	Partial return of grant made in October 2016 (shown as a deduction)	-206.50
Friends for Life	Grant towards the cost of recruitment and training for continuing ministry among lonely elderly people in care homes across Bedfordshire.	2000
Hitchin	A grant was made towards the cost of supporting ongoing operation of The Hub Church, a Fresh Expressions project established five years ago in Hitchin. The Trustees noted that the project ought to be working towards becoming self-supporting	2200
St John the Baptist Church, Farley Hill	Grant for a contribution towards a fun Christmas-themed event providing free craft activities, food and drinks for families living in the Farley Hill estate.	1000

The Trustees have continued to be mindful of the need to support the three themes of “Living God’s Love”. The objects of the Trust align well with the objectives set out in Living God’s Love. Specifically:

- (a) Going deeper into God – the Trustees have consistently supported courses of study for both lay and ordained applicants which both help the individuals concerned to gain greater insight into theological issues and also benefit the wider Church when the results of courses of study are translated into teaching and sharing knowledge with congregations. We have also been pleased to award grants to support vocations with young people and an event encouraging vocations to ordained ministry from young women.
- (b) Making new disciples – the Trustees have continued to be particularly concerned to promote work with children and young people, including the Hub Church in Hitchin, children and youth work in Radlett and assisting with the cost of attending festivals and conferences. Several grants have been made to support missions in Leavesden, Stevenage and Luton.
- (c) Transforming communities – the Trustees were very pleased to be able to support a number of projects seeking to promote Christian justice and welfare, including an unusually large grant to support the work of the befrienders scheme at Yarl’s Wood, a Friends for Life scheme in Bedford for the elderly and isolated and a project at The Oak Church, Stevenage with teenage girls looking at the pressures that can result from social media with regard to body image, self-confidence and eating habits.

The Trustees will continue to make grants in line with the objects of the Trust and, in so doing, will aim to support the objectives of Living God’s Love. As ever, much depends on the nature of the applications received and the Trustees look forward to a continuing flow of applications which will support and enhance mission and ministry within the Diocese.