

Support and Advice

Funding for repair projects



There are a number of funders who give grants for church buildings. Here are the most common funders (and those with the largest grant making capability) as well as a few places where you can search for funding from smaller and local trusts.

General advice

There is a great deal of advice available to churches wishing to embark on projects. The National Churches Trust website is an excellent place to find advice in one place.

- **Our website** has a whole section about managing a building project, which includes everything including planning, funding, managing, evaluating and dealing with problems: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/building-advice/managing-building-projects
- **Historic England (formerly English Heritage)** has comprehensive advice on caring for and making alterations to places of worship. There is similar advice available from Cadw, Historic Scotland and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. You can check out EH's pages here (each site has good information which is useful across all areas, excluding some of the legal information which may be different of course): www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/places-of-worship/
- The **Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings** also offers specific advice and training for those caring for and making repairs to places of worship. You can find it here: www.spabfim.org.uk/
- The **Arthur Rank Centre** offers advice for rural places of worship. Their guidance and information hub is here: www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications-and-resources/rural-church-buildings
- You can also use our **Professional Trades Directory** to find tradespeople for your project: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/building-advice/professional-trades-directory

General funding advice

Always apply to as many funds as possible, all at the same time. If you wait for each one it could take a long time to build up all the funding you need. Also, do it all at once so that they can each act as 'match funding' for the others. Most funders will want you (or another grant giver) to contribute something to the pot so going to them with absolutely nothing in the bank is not always a good idea.

What funders most look for is a good project, one where they can see that their funding has made a difference. This may be to the building or its use, or to the community involved. Whatever the end result is, this is what funders are giving you a grant for so you need to be clear in any application what the outcomes are that you are aiming for.

You need to prepare each funding application on an individual basis, taking into account each funders own preferences and priorities. Not many funders will respond to a round-robin letter or general appeal. Having a detailed budget and brief about each area of it can come in really useful. For some funders you may be able to apply for a share of the cost of the whole project,

For people who love church buildings

for others you may want to pick out a particular aspect of the entire plan (but don't forget that funding for one aspect can still count as match funding for the whole). Your architect may be able to advise you on phasing the work, which may help you to divide the budget into sections. It may be worth setting up a separate group to apply for funding and manage projects. This can make accounting and explaining projects less complicated, as they are kept separate from the general church management. There is detailed advice about setting up a Friends group on our website: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/involving-people/setting-friends-group

- **Giving to Heritage** is the Heritage Alliance's training programme for fundraisers in the heritage sector aimed at any member of staff, volunteer, committee member or trustee, from a heritage or community group with responsibility for developing and delivering fundraising activities: www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/gth/
- The **Institute of Fundraising** has produced a series of short videos providing a snapshot of the key principles of successful fundraising: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DbVwG0Kze8&list=PL5E79F0FBFB0194C7> and www.fbrn.org.uk/reading/good-fundraising-guide-where-start
- Through a special partnership you can join **JustGiving** for FREE, giving you access to the whole JustGiving online fundraising platform, and saving the usual £15 a month subscription fee. Find out more and apply here: <http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/how-we-help/justgiving-churches>

Searching for funding

There are a few places where you can search for funding based on criteria etc. Some of these are databases of funding for heritage churches. However, they are worth a quick look as some do not only fund heritage buildings.

- **Our website** has a whole section about applying for grant funding: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/how-fundraise-your-project/applying-grant-funding
- **Our website** also has a comprehensive resource centre and organisations database, where you can search for funding advice and sources, as well as other topics, using the drop down list of tags: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/building-advice/resource-centre
- The **Heritage Funding Directory**, managed by the Heritage Alliance and the Architectural Heritage Fund, is a free, easy to use guide to potential sources of support, financial and otherwise, for anyone seeking to undertake projects related to the heritage of the United Kingdom. As well as detailing sources of grants from trusts and foundations, the Directory also lists organisations offering loan finance, awards, scholarships and other "in kind" resources: <http://www.heritagefundingdirectoryuk.org/>
- **Funding Central** also provides up to date information on local and national sources of funding for charities and projects as well as funding training opportunities. Subscribe to a free alert service to hear about new funding programmes that match your criteria: www.fundingcentral.org.uk/
- Check the grants page of **ChurchCare**, where there are listed specific funds for churches. This is a Church of England site, but it lists potential funders for all denominations: www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/funding-and-grants
- Take the free trial at **Grant Online**, just make sure you check everything you want to whilst you have access to it for free: www.grantsonline.org.uk/
- Don't forget that your local **historic churches trust** may also offer grants for your project, perhaps also through a partnership grants program with us. Find details about your local trust here by searching with the tag 'funding (trusts and foundations)' and your location: <http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/building-advice/support-organisations-advice-support-funding>

- Make sure that you apply for a rebate of your VAT from the **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme**. Currently applicants are receiving quite a high percentage of their VAT back, so it could be that you receive a good amount. You can find out more information here: www.lpwscheme.org.uk/
- **Parish Resources** also has some useful advice on fundraising and sources of funding. Although a Church of England site, the information is applicable to all denominations: <http://www.parityresources.org.uk/resources-for-treasurers/funding/> A comprehensive list of current funding opportunities can be found here: <http://www.parityresources.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Charitable-Grants-for-Churches-2017.pdf>

Specific funding for repairs

- The **Heritage Lottery Fund** has a variety of programmes which might suit your project, if it has a heritage angle. Projects under £100,000 should consider applying to the Our Heritage programme, and projects over £100,000 should look at the Heritage Grants programme, though other programmes may be of interest too. Although heritage is the key aspect of their projects, they do want to see good community involvement and that you are open for use for local people and visitors. We suggest contacting your local office for a chat: www.hlf.org.uk/inyourarea
- The **Garfield Weston Foundation** award capital grants for the installation of basic amenities such as lavatories and kitchen facilities and for restoration works to historic church buildings. Applications are considered on an individual basis monthly. It normally takes 3 or 4 months for an application to be processed: 020 7399 6565 www.garfieldweston.org/ or fhare@garfieldweston.org
- The **AllChurches Trust** has a general fund which responds to requests for financial assistance from Anglican churches, churches of other denominations and the Christian community. The Trust supports appeals from churches for building and restoration projects, repair of church fabric, church community initiatives, religious charities, charities preserving the UK heritage and other charitable causes: www.allchurches.co.uk/
- Since 1996 Landfill Operators can choose to re-direct part of their tax bill to local communities near landfill sites rather than paying it to the Treasury. The Funds from **the Landfill Communities Fund** are distributed through Environmental Bodies (such as WREN, Bifa, Suez Communities Trust, Veolia Trust, Viridor Credits etc.) and is able to support the repair and wider community use of historic places of worship. It is also a vital source of match-funding for applicants to the Heritage Lottery Fund schemes, as well as other grant-giving bodies. Check postcode eligibility on their own websites, or search funds available at ENTRUST www.entrust.org.uk/environmental-bodies/eb-search

For more information

Please email Church Support at support@nationalchurchestrust.org or telephone 020 7222 0605.