

Support and Advice

Funding for repair projects



In addition to our own grants www.nationalchurchestrust.org/our-grants, there are a number of funders who make awards to church buildings. Here are some common funders as well as a few places where you can search for funding from smaller and local trusts. It's worth finding out what local funds are available to you too.

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** 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: <http://germinate.net/resources-search/>
- You can also use our **Professional Trades Directory** to find tradespeople for your project: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/building-advice/professional-trades-directory
- **Crossing the Threshold** is a step-by-step guide to developing your Place of Worship for wider community use and managing a successful building project. Launched nationally in November 2017 and first created by the Diocese of Hereford in 2009, this newly updated resource is packed with 268 pages of advice, hints and tips for any group taking a community development approach towards adapting a church building for wider community use, while balancing the needs of existing worshippers. A full PDF of the toolkit can be accessed here: www.hereford.anglican.org/Crossingthethresholdtoolkit/

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.

For people who love church buildings

What funders most look for is a good project, one where they can see that their funding will make 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 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: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DbVwG0Kze8&list=PL5E79F0FBFB0194C7 and www.fbrn.org.uk/reading/good-fundraising-guide-where-start

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 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/support-organisations-advice-support-funding
- 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: 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. Find details about your local trust here by searching with the tag 'funding (trusts and foundations)' and your location: 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: www.parishresources.org.uk/resources-for-treasurers/funding/ A comprehensive list of current funding opportunities can be found here: <https://www.parishresources.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Charitable-Grants-for-Churches-Feb-2019.pdf>

Specific funding for repairs

- The **National Lottery Heritage Fund** (previously the Heritage Lottery Fund) has a variety of programmes which might suit your project, if it has a heritage angle. Their new [Strategic Funding Framework 2019-24](#) includes a new programme structure. Places of Worship can apply to any of their [3 programmes](#) which are designed on a sliding scale: £3,000 to £10,000, £10,000 to £250,000 and over £250,000. For projects under £250,000 there is only one round to the application process. Heritage and community are a key aspect of their projects, but do review their [range of outcomes](#) and read their [guidance notes](#) for full details. We suggest you then contact your local office for a chat: www.heritagefund.org.uk/in-your-area
- 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

Other National Churches Trust Initiatives:

MaintenanceBooker Based on the principle that prevention is better than cure, **MaintenanceBooker** www.maintenancebooker.org.uk can help churches and chapels avoid having to carry out major repairs to their buildings by making it easy to carry out regular maintenance. MaintenanceBooker is now available to churches, chapels and historic buildings across England and Wales. The service provides an online 'one stop shop' where churches and chapels can book accredited contractors for services including gutter clearance, tree maintenance, lightning protection system inspections and asbestos management services.

EXPLORE CHURCHES Churches, chapels and meeting houses are literally 'treasure houses' of heritage, history and community. Through our website, **ExploreChurches**, the National Churches Trust aims to develop a high quality resource for visitors and churches. We would like to include all churches, chapels and meeting houses that are open for visitors (even if this is only during specific hours or on certain days). Do bear in mind that being open for visitors helps you meet grant requirements for many funders including the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Churches Trust. If it is not already featured, please submit your place of worship to ExploreChurches online here: www.explorechurches.org/add-your-church.

For more information

Please email us at grants@nationalchurchestrust.org or telephone 020 7222 0605.