

Support and Advice

Funding for community facilities



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 also worth finding out what local funds are available to you.

In addition, please do have a look at our advice for managing your church during Covid-19. It includes links to the latest guidance as well as practical resources to help you open (when allowed to), things to consider when opening, recovery (both welcoming your community and visitors, and maintenance to the building), as well as other funding information some of which is time limited in response to the crisis: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/news/advice-reopening-your-church>

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 www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/places-of-worship/. There is similar advice available from Wales' [Cadw](#), [Historic Environment Scotland](#) and Northern Ireland's [Historic Environment Division](#). Some of these bodies in addition to the advice they give, run grant programmes towards repairs.
- 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: <https://www.spab.org.uk/campaigning/faith-maintenance> and <https://www.spab.org.uk/campaigning/maintenance-co-operatives-project/mcp-fim-resources>
- The **Arthur Rank Centre** offers advice for rural places of worship. Their guidance and information hub is here: <https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/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: <https://www.hereford.anglican.org/parish-support/community-partnership/crossing-the-threshold-toolkit/>

For people who love church buildings

- The Diocese of Hereford also has a new online tool **Mission and Mortar** to help churches find the information and resources they need to better use their church buildings <https://missionandmortar.hereford.anglican.org/>
- **Growing the Rural Church** works to resource rural Mission Communities, to creatively use their talents and buildings and to connect with their unique communities and landscapes to develop sustainable futures: <https://www.growingtheruralchurch.org/>
- Rural communities in particular may also find useful advice and ideas from the **Plunkett Foundation** www.plunkett.co.uk who also have advice about setting up community run shops, and from **Action with Rural Communities England (ACRE)** www.acre.org.uk where you can find details of your local **Rural Community Council** and also the Village Halls Advice Network. Also **Village SOS** <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/village-sos>
- **Empowering Design Practices** - empowering those who look after historic places of worship to create more open, vibrant and sustainable places that respect and enhance their heritage www.empoweringdesign.net/. They have a range of guidance including booklets that offer a basic introduction to transforming historic places of worship through **community engagement**, tips for developing an engagement strategy and advice on making engagement count by capturing data from your activities. www.empoweringdesign.net/designing-places-with-people-booklets.html

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 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 funder's 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

- **Ecclesiastical Insurance** has a series of webinars on fundraising and giving which provide tips on the different ways that you and your church can continue to raise funds – www.ecclesiastical.com/church/fundraising/fundraising-webinar/ In addition they have produced a list of fundraising support resources specific to Covid-19, including emergency grant funders and top tips for fundraising during Covid www.ecclesiastical.com/church/fundraising/
- **Giving to Heritage** was 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. Their useful resources have been archived 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

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, some cover more than just buildings, but are still worth a quick look and may identify local funders.

- **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 VAT incurred on works to your listed building from the **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme**. You can find out more information here: www.lpwscheme.org.uk/
- **Parish Resources** also has very useful advice on fundraising and sources of funding, including digital giving. 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-Jul-2020.pdf>

Specific funding for new facilities to support wider use

- The **National Lottery Heritage Fund** (previously the Heritage Lottery Fund) has now fully reopened programmes that were closed at the outset of Covid-19. It is now accepting

applications for grants from £3,000 up to £100,000, and for grants from £100,000 up to £5m will resume in February 2021. 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 They have also launched an interest-free loans pilot for sums from £50,000 to £250,000.

- The **Garfield Weston Foundation** funds many churches around the country, usually for reordering in order to give greater flexibility of use, including assistance with disabled access and creating kitchen and toilet facilities. 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
- 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 FCC Environment, 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
- The **Trusthouse Charitable Foundation** give grants for projects in community support, arts, education & heritage, disability & health: www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk
- The **Norwood and Newton Settlement** fund the demolition and rebuilding of churches, church extensions and upgrades, building purchase to convert to churches from schools, pubs etc., and capital projects from local charities <http://norwoodandnewton.co.uk/>
- The **Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation** award grants for the refurbishment and improvement projects at churches and church halls that have a strong community angle: www.bernardsunley.org/index.html
- The **Joseph Rank Trust** consider applications for the adaption of churches with a view to providing improved facilities for use by the church and the community in which it is based: www.ranktrust.org/
- **Laing Family Trusts** support a wide range of charities engaged in promoting Christian faith and values and in the relief of poverty (interpreted in its broadest sense), both in the UK and overseas: www.laingfamilytrusts.org.uk/index.html
- **The Cinnamon Network** is an umbrella network for a range of social outreach and action projects: www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/ Their series of webinars hosted during lockdown are also full of useful information for meeting the needs of your local community www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk/cinnamon-connect-webinars/
- Find your **local community foundation** who may be able to support you: www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-network

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 available to churches, chapels and historic buildings across England and Wales (and Northern Ireland from June). 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, as well as high level repairs and repointing.

ExploreChurches

Churches, chapels and meeting houses are '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 National Lottery Heritage 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

Sign up to our newsletter <https://mailchi.mp/nationalchurchestrust.org/grants-sign-up-for-our-e-newsletter>

Check out our events <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/events>

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