

FUNDING FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS: DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS & NEW WORK

You will find advice about funding for new works and development projects for church buildings on the national websites listed on our resources paper. It is important to be clear that some grant-making bodies will help with repair or conservation of buildings, but not with improvement or development projects, while others are more interested in the latter. The usual rule applies: check very carefully before putting effort into an application.

Community schemes

Most schemes for new facilities are 'community' based, in other words they are aimed at outside groups as well as the church congregation. This opens up a wider range of grant opportunities, but you will need to demonstrate genuine need and commitment by other bodies. Grant givers are very used to seeing long lists of organisations but understandably want to be satisfied that this goes further than hope and good intentions.

For example you might submit a letter from the "Mums and Toddlers" saying that their existing venue is on the verge of being closed down, or the Neighbourhood Watch committee might say that they use the village hall at present, but would prefer a smaller, more intimate space if it were available. In other words, get potential users to say very clearly why they want, and will use, the facilities you are planning to create.

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust *

<http://www.ghct.org.uk/grants.php>

For parishes in the diocese not in Gloucestershire or South Gloucestershire the relevant county Trust may be able to help.

The National Churches Trust *

www.nationalchurchestrust.org

Allchurches Trust Ltd *

www.allchurches.co.uk

The Rank Foundation

<http://www.rankfoundation.com/grant-applications/>

The Norwood and Newton Settlement

This charity supports church development schemes.

www.norwoodandnewton.co.uk

Local Authorities

Local Authorities Contact should be made with the Social Services Department of Gloucestershire County Council for building works connected with care projects. The relevant district or borough council should also be approached for help.

Heritage Lottery Fund

www.hlf.org.uk

The Heritage Lottery Fund “Your Heritage” scheme can make grants of up to £100,000 for a very wide range of projects in historic churches, where they will genuinely be used primarily by outside individuals or groups, rather than just the congregation.

See sheet 9 in this series.

The **Arts Council of England** may assist schemes directly related to promotion of artistic activities at a church, e.g. demountable staging, improved lavatories, etc.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Objects of Beauty

If you are commissioning a work of art of some description, try the Cottam Will Trust, which is looked after by the Friends of Friendless Churches www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk, then go to ‘Funding for Art’. This is quite a substantial trust and a number of churches in our diocese have benefited – two of the photos on the website show completed projects in Gloucestershire!

*** See Funding sheet 8, on local and national grant-makers.**

This is not an exhaustive list – see the national websites for further ideas.

If you need further advice in relation to this guidance sheet, please contact us at Church House on 01452 410022 or by email at dac@glosdioc.org.uk