

Grants & Resources Directory

Updated November 2025



This directory aims to bring together local sources of funding for church buildings and their churchyards. It also directs the reader to additional sources of information on how to imagine, develop and deliver a church project, and has links to national guidance and 'best practice' across a myriad of related topics.

If you discover other suitable sources of locally sourced grant for churches not included here, or if amendments are needed, please share with the Historic Churches Support Officer.

Index

Local Trusts & Foundations
Major Works Fund (Diocese of Peterborough)
Landfill Communities Funds
Local Authorities Grants
Community Grants
Other Funding Directories

Planning Your Church Project
Best Practice & National Guidance links

Local Trusts & Foundations

Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust

Interest free loans and grants towards works to repair and improve places of worship in Cambridgeshire. Includes the installation of new facilities, rewiring, and heating projects. Grants of up to £3,000 for projects in excess of £10,000.

To apply: application form via website – www.camhct.uk

Contact: Graham Pledger, Grants Secretary. Email grants@camhct.uk, Telephone 01223 861314

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust

Grants towards the preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and reconstruction of churches in Northamptonshire. Priority is given to projects for repairs to the structure of the church, including stonework repairs, re-roofing, attention to timber and plasterwork, glazing repairs and drainage.

To apply: application form via website - www.nhct.org.uk

Contact: Michael Moore, Grants Secretary. Email michael.moore@breathe.com, Telephone 01536 483505

Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust

Works towards the preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and reconstruction of churches in Rutland. Grant potential: £2,000 to £5,000.

To apply: application form via website - www.rhcpt.co.uk

Contact: Clifford Bacon, Grants Secretary. Email rhcptrust@googlegmail.com, Telephone 01780 410382

Benham Charitable Settlement

Small grants are available for heritage, environment, conservation or religious activities. Grant potential: £500. The Settlement has a strong preference for projects based in Northamptonshire.

To apply: in writing via letter.

Contact: Benham Charitable Settlement, 1 Virginia Drive, Virginia Water, Surrey, GU25 4RX

Constance Travis Charitable Trust

Community projects in Northamptonshire, including improvements to church buildings for community use. **Note:** in recent years, a grant has been made to Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and applicants may need to approach them instead. Grant potential £500 - £1,500.

To apply: in writing, via letter.

Contact: Constance Travis Charitable Trust, 86 Drayton Gardens, London SW10 9SB.

Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust

Projects that benefit rural communities, especially those with a connection to the Fitzwilliam Estates in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Grant potential between £500 and £5,000.

To apply: in writing, via letter.

Contact: Estate Office, Milton Park, Peterborough PE3 9HD. Telephone: 01733 267740. Email: efct@miltonestate.co.uk

Francis Coales Charitable Foundation

Structural fabric repairs to buildings built before 1875 in Northamptonshire, but including all of the Diocese of Peterborough. Heating, lighting and facilities are not eligible for support. Grant potential £1,000 to £2,500, but larger grants are possible.

To apply: application form via website - www.franciscoales.co.uk

Contact: Francis Coales Charitable Foundation, The Old Rectory, Rectory Way, Lympsham, Somerset BS24 0EW. Telephone: 01934 750817. Email: administrator@franciscoales.uk

Jack Patston Charitable Trust

Projects towards the preservation of wild life, the environment, the advancement of religion and the preservation of rural church fabric in Cambridgeshire and Rutland. Grant potential £500 to £5,000.

To apply: in writing, via letter.

Contact: Deborah Lewsley, Buckles Solicitors LLP, Grant House, 101 Bourges Boulevard, Peterborough, PE1 1NG. Telephone: 01733 888888. Email: deborah.lewsley@buckles-law.co.uk

John Warren Foundation

Repairs to the building fabric of small churches in Northamptonshire and to promote and further the advancement of religion. Grant potential £500 to £1,000.

To apply: in writing, via letter.

Contact: John Warren Foundation Trustees, c/o Lamb & Holmes, West Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN16 0AZ. Telephone: 01536 513195. Email: jelamb@lamb-holmes.co.uk

Simon Gibson Charitable Trust

Grants for preservation of historic buildings of architectural interest, including places of worship, in Cambridgeshire, with a focus on conservational, educational or religious purposes. Grant potential £2,000 to £5,000.

To apply: application form via website - www.sgctrust.org.uk

Contact: SGCT Applications, PO Box 609, Welwyn Garden City AL7 9QQ (for posting applications). Email: info@sgctrust.org.uk

Diocese of Peterborough

Church Major Works Fund

Exists to help parishes undertaking major church building projects, by providing loans to assist with cash-flow over the project lifetime. The church building must be adequately insured, to at least 75% of the latest valuation.

The maximum loan normally available is 20% of the cost of works, up to a maximum of £50,000, however these terms can be varied according to individual circumstances. No interest is charged on loans to be repaid over five years or less.

To apply: download an application form via the website link below. Submit electronically or by post to David Mason, Chief Finance Officer

Contact: David Mason, The Diocesan Office, The Palace, Peterborough PE1 1YB.
Email: david.mason@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

More information here: <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/aboutus/diocesan-staff-teams/finance-office/church-major-works-fund.php>

Landfill Communities Fund

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), formerly the Landfill Tax Community Scheme (LTCS), was created in 1997. It followed the introduction of Landfill Tax under which companies have to pay a fee for every tonne of waste that goes into a landfill site.

This was brought in to cut down the amount of waste that is land filled and to promote a shift to more environmentally sustainable methods of waste management. Landfill operators receive a credit for a proportion of the tax that they send to the Government. This can then be donated to organisations that have been set up to distribute funding.

Customs and Excise established the regulatory body of ENTRUST to oversee the administration of the landfill tax. More information about the scheme is available at <https://www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund>.

NOTE: You will need to make a payment to the relevant Fund to release their grant if you are successful. This is called a Contributing Third Party payment (CTP).

Landfill operators receive a tax credit of about 90% of the money they give towards the LCF. This leaves them with a 10% shortfall. Each LCF grant beneficiary is therefore asked to arrange a payment to the landfill operator who has provided the money for their grant. This payment is retained by the landfill operator to cover the 10% tax credit shortfall and enables the grant to be released. Please check with the relevant funder for details.

Augean Community Fund

Projects to restore or repair buildings for religious worship, within 10 miles of an Augean landfill site. Projects that maintain or improve public amenities, including church buildings, within 10 miles of an Augean landfill site. Priority is given to projects within 5 miles of a landfill site. Grant potential £5,000 to £50,000.

To apply: see the Grantscape website, www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/augean-community-fund

Landfill sites: Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire, PE8 6XX
Thornhaugh, Cambridgeshire, PE8 6NL

Biffa Awards – ‘Community Buildings’ and ‘Rebuilding Diversity’

Improvements to a community building, including church buildings, where there is a wider community benefit. For schemes to establish, protect and enhance habitats for biodiversity, access and inclusion are essential. Project must be within 5 miles of a Biffa Operation or 10 miles of a licenced landfill site. Project must cost less than £200,000. Note: no standalone fabric repairs. Grant potential £10,000 to £75,000.

To apply: through the Biffa Award website - www.biffa-award.org

Biffa Operations: Northampton Depot, Northamptonshire, NN3 9ER
Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, NN10 8HN
Cottesmore Depot, Rutland, LE15 7BY
North Luffenham Depot, Rutland, LE15 9DW
Eye Landfill Site, Peterborough, PE6 7TH
Peterborough Depot, Peterborough, PE7 2EY

FCC Communities Action Fund

Previously known as WREN, this scheme can help with the maintenance or improvement of a public amenity, including church buildings, within 10 miles of a licensed and active FCC Environment landfill site. For churches, this must be a community space and open and accessible as such. Grant potential £2,000 to £100,000.

To apply: through their website - www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk

Landfill sites: Bletchley, Newton Longville, Bucks, MK3 5JU
 Colsterworth, Stainby, Lincs, NG33 5QT
 Dogsthorpe, Peterborough, PE1 3TD
 Weldon, Northamptonshire, NN17 3JG

Mick George Community Facilities Fund

Improvements to a community building, including church buildings. Projects must be located within the vicinity of Mick George Ltd's operations in Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland. Refer to the map on GrantScape's website for precise details of the eligible funding area. Total project cost should be less than £100,000. Faculty, planning permission and other funds need to have been obtained. Grant potential £5,000 to £50,000

To apply: see the Grantscape website, www.grantscape.org.uk/fund/mick-george-community-fund

Operations areas: Mick George Northampton, NN3 5HQ
 Milton Keynes, MK15 9PA
 Rushton, Northamptonshire, NN14 1QT
 Raunds, Northamptonshire, NN9 6FZ
 South Witham, Lincolnshire, NG33 5QB
 Peterborough, PE8 6NL
 Peterborough, PE8 6NX
 Peterborough, PE1 3TD

Suez Communities Trust

Maintenance, repair or restoration of Grade I listed buildings, structures or sites, including churches. Also, the conservation, restoration and enhancement of natural habitats. Eligible funding areas very limited and currently focused on east of Kettering and Wellingborough, and south of Northampton. Grant potential up to £50,000.

To apply: see the Suez Communities Trust website - www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk. Online application. Use the postcode checker for geographical eligibility.

Valencia Communities Fund

Building projects focussing on Heritage or Community, located within 10 miles of a Viridor Landfill site. For community projects, the church building must be open at least 104 days per year. Eligible areas are very limited and currently focused on the south part of Brackley deanery. Grant potential up to £50,000, or £50,000 to £100,000 for the Large Grants Scheme.

To apply: see the Valencia Communities Fund website – www.valenciacommunitiesfund.co.uk. Online application. Use the postcode checker for geographical eligibility.

Local Authorities

West Northamptonshire Community Fund

Projects to include community buildings, including churches, as well as training, publicity and marketing. Projects must have a demonstrable benefit to the local community, not just the congregation. Funding for purely religious purposes is not eligible. Grant potential up to £5,000 or £15,000 depending on the funding round.

To apply: see the website - www.westnorthants.gov.uk/community-funding-grants
Contact: Peter Worth, Community Funding Officer. Telephone: 01327 322227.
Email: peter.worth@westnorthants.gov.uk

North Northamptonshire Community Fund

Projects to include community buildings, including churches, as well as training, publicity and marketing. Projects must have a demonstrable benefit to the local community, not just the congregation. Funding for purely religious purposes is not eligible. Grant potential up to £5,000, but may be more.

To apply: see their website - www.northnorthants.gov.uk/community-safety-and-emergencies/community-grants-and-funding
Contact: Community Funding. Email: communityfunding@northnorthants.gov.uk.
Telephone: 0300 126 3000.

Community Grants

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation

www.cambscf.org.uk/home

Support Cambridgeshire

www.supportcambridgeshire.org.uk/funding/find-funding

Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation

www.llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk/our-grants

Northamptonshire Community Foundation

www.ncf.uk.com/grants

Peterborough Think Communities Fund

<https://haypeterborough.co.uk/activities/think-communities>

Projects to help build community resilience, including wellbeing and environment enhancements. Churches can apply but the project must not be for the promotion or advancement of religious beliefs. Grant potential £2,000 to £3,000.

To apply: via the link above, online application form.

Other Funding Directories

Grants Online - www.grantsonline.org.uk

Heritage Funding Directory - www.heritagefundingdirectoryuk.org

My Funding Central - www.myfundingcentral.co.uk

Funds Online - www.fundsonline.org.uk

Planning Your Church Project

There is plenty of online guidance to help you to consider ways in which church buildings might be adapted to further worship and outreach in your community.

Mission & Mortar Toolkit

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/parish-support/community-partnership/mission-and-mortar>

This toolkit is designed to help you explore and develop ideas and plans to increase the use of your church building, to review and assess use through time, and to respond to new ways for mission. The diversity of church buildings and parishes means there is no 'one size fits all' approach for mission in the community, and this is a great place to start.

Crossing the Threshold Toolkit

<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/parish-support/community-partnership/crossing-the-threshold-toolkit>

A comprehensive suite of documents providing advice and help on all aspects of undertaking church projects. The toolkit, created by the Diocese of Hereford and available through their website, is a free resource available to anyone to download. It

breaks down projects into three key stages - Preparing the Ground, Looking at Your Options, and Delivering Your Project.

Growing The Rural Church

www.growingtheruralchurch.org

Growing the Rural Church works to help resource rural Mission Communities, to creatively use their talents and buildings, and to connect with their unique communities and landscapes to develop sustainable futures.

Seven Key Grant Application Tips

- 1) **Plan your project!** Make a list of eligible grant sources, note application deadlines, and record any feedback if you are unsuccessful. Are you able to reapply?
- 2) **Speak to the local community** about your project to gather wider support. How might the changes you want to see benefit them?
- 3) **Research the grant funder.** What are their priorities? Tailor your applications to meet their objectives.
- 4) **Engage** with the funder where possible before writing your application. Do they promote discussion before you apply?
- 5) **Demonstrate the need** for your project and provide evidence for your case. Repairs or conservation work should be clearly identified as urgent in your Quinquennial or other professional report as this can help decision-makers. For reordering projects, evidence gathered through community consultation will help with some funders.
- 6) **Share your draft** grant application paperwork with someone before submitting it.
- 7) **Supply all of the additional documents** requested. Follow their format for submission, adhering to any guidelines they set out.

Best Practice & National Guidance

Church of England [Churchcare](#)

Church of England [Parish Resources](#)

Peterborough Diocesan Registry [DAC Notes for Guidance](#)

Historic England – www.historicengland.org.uk

Historic Buildings & Places – www.hbap.org.uk (was the Ancient Monuments Society)

The Georgian Group – www.georgiangroup.org.uk

The Victorian Society – www.victoriansociety.org.uk

The Twentieth Century Society – www.c20society.org.uk
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings – www.spab.org.uk
The Council for British Archaeology – www.archaeologyuk.org

Natural England – www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england
Bat Conservation Trust – www.bats.org.uk
Caring For God's Acre – www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk
The British Lichen Society – www.britishlichensociety.org.uk
The Ancient Yew Group - www.ancient-yew.org
Eco Church - <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk>
Parish Buying - www.parishbuying.org.uk
Net Zero Carbon church - www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church

National Churches Trust – www.nationalchurchestrust.org
Historic Religious Buildings Alliance - www.hrballiance.org.uk
The Building Conservation Directory - www.buildingconservation.com
War Memorials Trust - www.warmemorials.org
The Church Monuments Society - www.churchmonumentsociety.org
The Ecclesiological Society - www.ecclsoc.org

The House of Good report on the economic and social value of church buildings
www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org

Covid-19, Churches and Communities – a report on the impact of closing churches during the pandemic www.churchesandcovid.org

Charitable Grants for Churches	
Contents:	
Conservation, Preservation, Heritage & Restoration	P2 - 11
Bells, Organs, Windows & Other Specific Funding	P12 - 18
Community Projects / Improved Facilities	P19 - 31
Environmental and Sustainability Projects	P32 - 58
Christian / Religious Activities	P59 - 65
Landfill Communities Fund	P66 - 70
Lottery Funding Available	P71 - 76
Sources of Information	P77 - 78

The National Stewardship Team would like to thank and formally credit London Diocese, Lincoln Diocese and Worcester Diocese for the use of their excellent diocesan lists, which fed into both the template and content of this National Resource.

Last Updated July 2020

The national list of Charitable Grants for Churches is available to download from the Historic Churches section of the Diocese of Peterborough website:

<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/aboutus/diocesan-staff-teams/teams-supporting-parish-ministry-noshow/historic-churches.php>

For further advice and guidance on grant funding for church buildings, maintenance and developing projects, contact Jon Breckon, Historic Churches Support Officer.

Email: jon.breckon@peterborough-diocese.org.uk
Telephone: 07732 894457