Funding for church building projects – can we help?

Catherine Townsend

For people who love church buildings
The National Churches Trust

- The national, independent, non-profit organisation promoting and supporting church buildings of historic, architectural and community value across the UK

- Support, advice and funding to Christian places of worship of ALL denominations

- For information on all of our activities please visit www.nationalchurchestrust.org

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Recent activity

- Between 2015 and 2017
  - 1200 applications
  - 528 grants awarded
  - Over £4 million distributed
  - 1 in 4 success rate
  - New programmes meaning 6 schemes
  - Refined scoring, eligibility, guidance, terms and conditions and reporting requirements

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New strategy 2019-23

- NCT’s new strategy
  - Backlog of repairs
  - Maintenance is not static
  - Not enough priority given to Maintenance
  - More can be done to make churches valuable and valued resources
  - Huge untapped potential to engage wider public support

- 3 goals:
  - Preserving heritage
  - Promoting sustainability
  - Inspiring support

- 3 streamlined grant programmes
Our revised grant programmes

Cornerstone Grants - OPEN
- Awards of between £10,000 and £50,000
- Repairs costing over £100,000
- New facilities (kitchens & toilets) over £30,000

Gateway Grants
- Awards of between £3,000 and £10,000
- Project development upto RIBA Stage 1

Foundation Grants
- Awards of £500 to £3,000
- Maintenance and repair projects up to £10,000

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Will you be eligible?

- Located in the UK (although we fund projects from across the UK, the North East of England, Wales and Northern Ireland have been identified as priority areas)

- Originally built as a place of worship (over 30 years ago) and open for regular public worship

- Work not yet started

- Over 50% funds raised

- Open at least 100 days per year

- Leading qualified professional with conservation accreditation if listed

- Necessary permissions and multiple quotes in place
Scoring Criteria

• Heritage
• Need
• Case for investment
• Risk management & Project planning
• Heritage & Community impact
  o Preserving heritage
  o Promoting sustainability
  o Inspiring support

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Outcomes

- Preserving Heritage
  - Building will be in better condition
  - Building will be better managed
  - Building / heritage will be better understood

- Promoting Sustainability
  - Building will be more suitable for wider community uses
  - Building / organisation will be more secure for the future building
  - Problems will be diagnosed and / or projects well planned

- Inspiring Support
  - Church will engage with more people
  - Increased opportunity for volunteering
  - Place of worship will be more financially viable

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Top tips

• Read the guidance note before applying
• Supply all documents requested
• Meet any deadlines

In your answers, let us know:

• Why your project is essential and why you need our support
• How the project is well planned, viable, sustainable
• How your community is engaged
• The benefits and impacts of your project

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What happens next?

- All grant decisions are made by the grants committee which meets 3 times a year.

- Deadlines can be found on the relevant grants page of our website.

- Successful applicants will also be required to register on our websites - MaintenanceBooker and ExploreChurches if successful.

For people who love church buildings
Discover the wonder of the UK’s sacred heritage

Inspire Me

**Ancient yew trees**
As ancient as they are beautiful, our churches are the present custodians of yew trees planted and cared for over many centuries.

**Bill Bryson**
Everybody loves Bill Bryson, here are his gorgeous favourite churches.

**Wooden churches**
Wooden churches are, therefore, rare in the UK and offer unique insights into our heritage.

Great days out

**Trails**
If feeling the earth beneath your boots or bike is your thing, you are in for a treat. Our churches, chapels and meeting houses are set within some of the finest natural landscapes in the country.

**Church of the week**
Although well known for its delicious baked goods, the beautiful All Saints church is another highlight of Bakewell in Derbyshire.

Keep in touch
We’d love to keep you posted when we add new churches, trails and inspiring ideas for places to visit. Sign up to our monthly five minute update.

Please support us
ExploreChurches has been developed by the National Churches Trust using our own funds. Please consider making a donation or, even better, become a Friend of the National Churches Trust.

Add your church
Your church is unique, we would love to include it on ExploreChurches. It’s quick and simple.
Book accredited contractors experienced in church and historic building maintenance for services including:

- **Rainwater Goods Maintenance**
- **Lightning Protection System Inspection**
- **Tree Risk Assessment/Full Surveys**
- **Tree Surgery Maintenance Services**
- **Asbestos Surveys and Removal**

How it works:

**Step 1**
Register and submit a job request for the service that you want.

**Step 2**
Receive and review your quotes.

**Step 3**
Book job and finalise details with supplier.

**Step 4**
Review and pay supplier.

*Julie Barham, DAC Secretary, CofE Sheffield*
Our grants

Welcome to our grants pages.

We support a wide variety of projects through our grant programmes. From repairing a roof to helping to install an accessible toilet - and many other projects - our grants help people to continue to serve, and to serve better, their local communities.

To find out more about applying for a grant, please select the relevant programme below or visit our Choose the Right Grant page.

You can find details of churches, chapels and meeting houses we have helped with grants on our interactive map or view our case studies.

If you have any questions, please check the programme guidance notes and our Grants FAQ page in the first instance. You can also watch our videos below.

Managing building projects

Many churches consider building work of some kind. It may be to carry out essential repairs to the fabric, or to install new facilities to enable the building to be used more widely.

It is widely acknowledged that keeping a building in use is more likely to result in the preservation, proper maintenance and sustainability of that building. So adapting and enhancing the usability of your church may have a positive impact on its state of repair as well as on its use. However, remember that your church is still a place of worship and it is important that people still recognise it as such.

Small changes can often achieve a lot. You don’t have to launch straight into a large project. Start small and try out some ideas to see what works within your building and with your community. If you are about to undertake any works whether repairs or re-ordering or even maintenance, you could also take the opportunity to think about access and energy efficiency. It might be easier to make improvements as part of a staged bigger project, rather than doing everything separately.

Finding the money

It is often said that failing to plan is planning to fail. Do not neglect planning. Time spent planning and preparing for your project is never wasted, and can prove invaluable if something goes wrong further down the line.

Which grant is right for my project?

We support a wide variety of projects through our grant programmes. From repairing a roof to helping to install an accessible toilet - and many other projects - our grants help churches, people and local communities.

If you are looking for funding from us, but are not sure we can fund your project, or are unsure which grant programme to apply through, please look through the options below. Just click on a red button for more information.

Please note that to be eligible for any of our grant programmes, you must have 50% of the funding required in place. This can include any IF you are eligible to receive through the United Kingdom National Lottery Grants.

If your church is looking for a repair grant, then please check our Repair Grants list.

You can find details of churches, chapels and meeting houses we have helped with grants on our interactive map.
Other things we do

- Ride and Stride (September 2019)
- Professional Trades Directory
- ComRes polls
- E-Newsletters
- Advice e.g. on fundraising
- Campaigns – 50 Things, Sacred Wales
- Social media
- HLF Inspiring Ideas partner

For people who love church buildings
Any questions?

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