

## Guideline Leaflet M06: Grants for Building Work

We are often asked about whether the Baptist Union can provide grants to churches doing work on their buildings. Sadly the answer is “no we don’t” but, in an attempt to be a little more positive and helpful, we have put together this leaflet about some possible sources of funds.

This Guideline Leaflet is regularly reviewed and updated. To ensure that you are using the most up to date version, please download the leaflet from the BUGB website at [www.baptist.org.uk/resources](http://www.baptist.org.uk/resources)

The date on which the leaflet was last updated can be found on the download page.



# M06: Grants for Building Work

**These notes are offered as guidelines by the Legal and Operations Team to provide information for Baptist churches.**

**These notes can never be a substitute for detailed professional advice if there are serious and specific problems, but we hope you will find them helpful.**

**If you want to ask questions about the leaflets and one of the Baptist Trust Companies are your property trustees, you should contact them. They will do their best to help.**

**If your church property is in the name of private individuals who act as trustees they may also be able to help.**

## INTRODUCTION

We are often asked about whether the Baptist Union can provide grants to churches who are needing to do work on their buildings. Sadly, the answer is "no we don't" but, in an attempt to be a little more positive when saying no, we have put together this leaflet about some possible sources of funds.

For information on loans for building work see our leaflet M01: *Loans to Churches*. The Baptist Union Loan Fund can lend over £25,000 for purchasing property (including Manses), constructing a new church building or enlarging or renovating existing church buildings. Baptist Churches can also apply to the Baptist Building CIO ([www.baptistbuilding.org](http://www.baptistbuilding.org)) and, if appropriate, to the Particular Baptist Fund ([www.pbfund.org.uk](http://www.pbfund.org.uk)) A couple of Associations do have small grant schemes although most have loan funds some of which are interest-free.

## WHERE TO START LOOKING FOR GRANTS

There are various trusts and grant-making organisations around the country that can be approached, and this leaflet gives information about the national ones which we are aware of. Some local research (e.g. library, other churches, local authority, local Council for Voluntary Service etc.) will reveal others.

Some local authorities have 'Big Society' funds so it may be worth investigating what's available from yours. These grants will only be available for initiatives that clearly benefit the local community.

Churches that have Listed Buildings to maintain probably have more chance of finding funding. In particular the **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme** provides grants towards VAT paid on repairs, maintenance and alterations to listed places of worship. For more information and application forms visit their website [www.lpwscheme.org.uk](http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk) or write to them at Topmark (LPOW), 160 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TB (Tel: 0800 500 3009) We also have a leaflet about the scheme LB05: *Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme*

You should be aware that grants usually come with conditions. It is the responsibility of the Charity Trustees of the Church obtaining the grant to satisfy themselves that the conditions are reasonable and can be fulfilled. Some grant-making organisations will require the Church's Property Trustees to be party to a formal Agreement. If that is the case it is important to make sure that it is primarily the Charity Trustees and not the Property Trustees who enter into the covenants regarding the use and application of the grant moneys.

## LOTTERY FUNDING

Some grants that are available come from the Lottery (e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund). Some Churches will refuse absolutely to be involved in any use of lottery money. Others will point out that in days of financial constraints when other grants are not available it is wrong not to use what funding is available. Both stands are valid. In the 1990s the Baptist Union Council decided that they could not actively encourage Baptist Churches to apply for lottery funding and recognised that it is for each local Church to determine their own policies on these matters. They also agreed that application for, or the receipt of, lottery funding would not of itself count against a church who applies for a grant from Home Mission or a loan from Baptist Union sources.

## SOME HELPFUL PLACES TO LOOK

We will try and update this leaflet when we discover other sources of grants. If you know of other national funds that could be added to this list, please let us know.

### **Baptist Building CIO**

Baptist Building CIO offers Empowering Change grants of £5,000 – £25,000. These are aimed at small scale standalone building projects for smaller churches (often in rural or deprived urban areas) where a grant will make a big difference to the project. In the last 2 years they've helped churches install disabled toilets, improve kitchens, create accessible entrances and upgrade electrics, transforming their buildings to bless the church and the local community. They have a vision to support local Baptist Church mission, and applications should show how a grant towards building costs will enable church mission strategy to become a reality. Full details of grant criteria and an application form can be found on their website [www.baptistbuilding.org/grants](http://www.baptistbuilding.org/grants). If you're planning a bigger project, they also offer loans up to £250,000; more details can be found at [www.baptistbuilding.org/loans](http://www.baptistbuilding.org/loans).

Contact details:

Baptist Building CIO

Tel 07506 663761

Email [admin@baptistbuilding.org](mailto:admin@baptistbuilding.org)

### **Benefact Trust**

This trust is the parent company behind Ecclesiastical Insurance from which it receives its income. In 2019 they made some changes to their grant scheme and now encourage any church to apply for their open grant programmes. Their grants normally support projects which meet one of their 'areas of funding focus' which are:

- Building communities, especially where they are hurting or broken
- Helping people, especially those in particular need, to flourish
- Growing churches, spiritually and numerically

They particularly favour projects which are innovative, ambitious in vision, broad in scope and have a clear focus on the potential positive impact on people and communities. They can help churches with the costs of building and restoration projects, repair of church fabric and church community initiatives. The application form is available from their website.

Website [www.benefacttrust.co.uk](http://www.benefacttrust.co.uk)

### **Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation**

An independent grant-making charity which offers one-off grants for capital projects including church community projects. They will often support projects which are about improving access for the disabled and modernising kitchens and toilets in line with Health and Safety regulations and the DDA. They generally provide small grants – most are between £1000 and £5000. They have an online application process via their website.

Churches need to be aware of the following: *"We receive many requests for funding from churches; those that are successful in receiving a grant host a high proportion of secular activities (i.e. no connection at all with religion or spirituality) that are open access to their local community, as opposed to being accessed mainly by the congregation. Your application needs to provide strong evidence of the range of secular activities and the numbers involved."*

#### **Contact details:**

Address The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, 20 Berkeley Square, London W1J 6LH

Tel 020 7408 2198

Email [office@bernardsunley.org](mailto:office@bernardsunley.org)

Website: [www.bernardsunley.org](http://www.bernardsunley.org)

### **Garfield Weston Foundation**

This is a family-founded, grant-making trust which has been supporting charities across the UK for over 50 years. From small community groups to large national institutions, their aim is to support organisations that have effective solutions to helping those most in need. They have various categories of organisations which they support - one of which is 'faith'.

According to their website: "This category demonstrates the impact the Foundation's grants are able to make to local communities by providing funds towards simple but practical projects that enable religious buildings to be used for an inclusive range of charitable purposes by their local communities. Capital grants include funds towards the instillation of basic amenities such as lavatories and kitchen facilities and for restoration works to historic church buildings."

Their website includes an application form as well as full information about how to make an application.

#### **Contact details**

Address Garfield Weston Foundation, Weston Centre, 10 Grosvenor Street. London W1K 4QY  
Tel 020 7399 6565  
Email via their website  
Website [www.garfieldweston.org](http://www.garfieldweston.org)

#### **Heritage Lottery Fund**

The Heritage Lottery Fund recognise that places of worship sit at the very heart of local communities. That's why they are committed to helping congregations to conserve, restore and make them more accessible.

For more information go to

<https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/what-we-fund/buildings-and-monuments/places-worship>

Congregations caring for historic places of worship (i.e. 'Listed Buildings'), of all faiths and denominations, can apply to HLF for funding to support a broad range of projects including capital repair. Grants range from £3000 to £5m

#### **Contact details:**

Address Lottery Heritage Fund, 7 Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NR  
Tel 020 7591 6042/44 (Grant enquiry line)  
Email [enquire@hlf.org.uk](mailto:enquire@hlf.org.uk) Website [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

Their 'Contact us' page also gives contact details for regional offices

#### **Laing Family Trusts**

The Laing Family Trusts support a wide range of charities engaged in promoting Christian faith and values and in the relief of poverty. Although there are four Trusts they are administered centrally, and any application will be directed to whichever is most appropriate. They won't fund 'church restoration or repair' but will fund new or redevelopment projects. Full details of how to apply can be found on their website

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Laing Family Trusts, 35 Bunns Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7 2DX  
Tel: 020 8238 8890  
Website: [www.laingfamilytrusts.org.uk](http://www.laingfamilytrusts.org.uk)

#### **National Churches Trust**

The National Churches Trust is a not-for profit organisation which is independent from the government and church authorities. They promote and support church buildings of historic, architectural and community value and accept grant applications from listed and unlisted Christian places of worship throughout the UK.

The grants that the Trust currently offer are listed below.

The [Cornerstone Grants](#) programme offers grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 towards the cost of urgent structural repair projects costed at more than £100,000 including VAT. The Trust will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use, costed at more than £30,000 including VAT. Their grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost.

The [Gateway Grants](#) programme offers grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 towards project development and investigative work up to RIBA planning stage 1, to support churches preparing for a major project, and in developing their project to the point at which they can approach a major grant funder. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project costs for this phase.



The [Foundation Grants](#) Programme offers grants of between £500 and £3,000 towards urgent maintenance works and small repairs identified as high priority within a recent Quinquennial Inspection or Survey Report. Also, small investigative works and surveys. Project costs should not exceed £10,000.

**Contact details:**

Address The Grants Team, The National Churches Trust, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB  
Tel 0207 222 0605  
Email [grants@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:grants@nationalchurchestrust.org) Website [www.nationalchurchestrust.org](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org)

**Joseph Rank Trust**

This Trust is specifically for promoting the Christian faith as it was originally set up by Joseph Rank as a practical expression of his strong Christian beliefs and his desire to advance the Christian faith and to help the less fortunate members of society.

The current Trustees have identified two main areas of interest, as follows:

- Projects that demonstrate a Christian approach to the practical, educational and spiritual needs of people of all ages.
- The adaptation of Church properties with a view to providing improved facilities for use by the church and its work in the community in which it is based.

Although their website does say that they only accept applications from registered charities, we have had confirmation from the Trust that they will accept applications for churches currently excepted from registration if they belong to BUGB. Any BUGB church that is not registered with the Charity Commission who wants to apply to this fund should explain that they are in membership with BUGB and are currently excepted from Charity Registration.

**Contact details:**

Address The Joseph Rank Trust, Worth Corner, Turners Hill Road, Crawley RH10 7SL  
Tel 01293 873947  
Email [secretary@ranktrust.org](mailto:secretary@ranktrust.org) Website [www.ranktrust.org](http://www.ranktrust.org)

**Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)**

There are a number of organisations which distribute money from this fund. The LCF has five main areas of work that qualify for funding and these include "The repair, maintenance or restoration of a place of worship". (Project type E). Some funders will also include churches under the aim of "The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or another public amenity" (Project type D) – but you will need to demonstrate that your facilities are (or will be) available for use/booking by the general public for a minimum of 104 days per year

The [Entrust website](#) gives details of all Environmental Bodies (EBs) who fund projects through the LCF in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. You can use the search facility to see which funders give grants in your area and then use the links to find out more about what they support.

Below we list some current funders who could support churches, but you will need to check their websites carefully to see if your project will qualify. There are others which have very specific location criteria just as just one county.

**Enovert Community Trust** <http://www.enovertct.org/> Tel: 01753 582513

Projects must be within 10 miles of an Enovert Landfill Site or within 10 miles of Enovert's waste management facility in Weston Super Mare. Their normal maximum grant is £50,000 and they state that it is important to demonstrate how your proposal will benefit your community.

**Norwood and Newton Settlements** <https://norwoodandnewton.co.uk/> Grants of up to £30,000 considered for: Demolition and rebuilding of churches, church extensions and upgrades, building purchase to convert to churches from schools, pubs, industrial / commercial units etc, capital projects from local charities.

**Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (Biffa)** <https://www.biffa-award.org/> Tel: 01636 670000

Projects must be within 5 miles of a Biffa operation or within 10 miles of a Biffa Landfill Site. They provide grants of between £10,000 and £75,000 for projects of up to £200,000.

**Suez Communities Trust** <https://www.suezcommunitiestrust.org.uk/> Tel: 01934 524013

Projects must be within a 2.5 mile radius of a qualifying SUEZ recycling and recovery UK waste processing site. Grants of up to £50,000 are available for projects up to £250,000 and you will need to demonstrate that your facilities are genuinely used by the community on a regular basis.

**The Veolia Environmental Trust** [www.veoliatrust.org](http://www.veoliatrust.org) Tel: 0203 567 6820

Projects must be "in the vicinity of a qualifying Veolia site" (postcode checker on their website). Grants of between £10,000 and £75,000 are available for projects up to £250,000

**Viridor Credits Environmental Company** [www.viridor-credits.co.uk](http://www.viridor-credits.co.uk) Tel: 01823 476 476

Projects must be in an "eligible area" which you can check on their website. They have three different level of grants – up to £20,000, £20,000-£50,000 and £50,000-£100,000.

**Waste Recycling Environment Ltd (WREN)** <http://www.wren.org.uk/> Tel: 01953 717 165

Projects must be situated within 10 miles of an FCC environmental landfill site. Grants of between £2000 and £100,000 are available for projects up to £500,000.

## WEBSITES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

[www.fundingcentral.org.uk](http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk) - is a website for **charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises.**

It includes information about applying for grants as well as having a search facility for relevant grant-making bodies. If your church has annual income under £100,000 then you can register for free. Others will need to pay £100+VAT

[www.fundsonline.org.uk](http://www.fundsonline.org.uk) is run by the Directory of Social Change (DSC) and, for a fee, you can search their comprehensive database of 4500 grant-making trusts. The annual fee is £350 + VAT for registered charities (for 1 user). Unregistered churches wanting you use this may want to ring DSC to explain that they are a charity but currently excepted from registration. They may then let you register at the charity rate. There is also an option for a week's subscription but their website doesn't say how much this is so you would need to contact them to find out more.

<http://www.buildingconservation.com/directory/prodlist.php?category=Grant+sources> - Sources of grants for the conservation, restoration and repair of historic buildings and places. Not all of these will be relevant.

Association Trust Company	Contact
<b>Baptist Union Corporation Ltd East Midland Baptist Trust Company Ltd</b>	Baptist Union Corporation Ltd Baptist House PO Box 44 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8RT Telephone: 01235 517700
<b>Heart of England Baptist Association</b>	Heart of England Baptist Association 480 Chester Road Sutton Coldfield B73 5BP Office Mobile: 0730 505 1770
<b>London Baptist Property Board</b>	London Baptist Association Unit C2 15 Dock Street London E1 8JN Telephone: 020 7692 5592
<b>Yorkshire Baptist Association</b>	17-19 York Place Leeds LS1 2EZ Telephone: 0113 278 4954
<b>West of England Baptist Trust Company Ltd</b>	West of England Baptist Trust Company Ltd Little Stoke Baptist Church Kingsway Little Stoke Bristol BS34 6JW Telephone: 0117 965 8828

This is one of a series of *Guidelines* that are offered as a resource for Baptist ministers and churches. They have been prepared by the Legal and Operations Team and are, of necessity, intended only to give very general advice in relation to the topics covered. These guidelines should not be relied upon as a substitute for obtaining specific and more detailed advice in relation to a particular matter.

The staff in the Legal and Operations Team at Baptist House (or your regional Trust Company) will be very pleased to answer your queries and help in any way possible. It helps us to respond as efficiently as possible to the many churches in trust with us if you write to us and set out your enquiry as simply as possible.

The Legal and Operations Team also support churches that are in trust with the East Midland Baptist Trust Company Limited.

**If your holding trustees are one of the other Baptist Trust Corporations you must contact your own Trust Corporation for further advice. A list of contact details is provided above. If you have private trustees they too should be consulted as appropriate.**

**Contact Address and Registered Office:**

Support Services Team, Baptist Union of Great Britain, Baptist House, PO Box 44,  
129 Broadway, Didcot OX11 8RT

Tel: 01235 517700 Fax: 01235 517715 Email: [legal.ops@baptist.org.uk](mailto:legal.ops@baptist.org.uk)

Website: [www.baptist.org.uk](http://www.baptist.org.uk) Registered CIO with Charity Number: 1181392

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