

Frequently Asked Questions

Do we have to be a registered charity to apply?

We are only able to support UK registered charities unless the organisation applying has 'exempt' status - this is restricted to churches and educational establishments. If your organisation is not one of these then unfortunately you are not eligible to apply to us.

Who can apply?

Allchurches Trust makes grants to churches and charities with a Christian foundation to benefit people in their local communities across the UK.

We particularly welcome applications from areas of greater need and for projects which benefit mission and help local communities.

We will normally support any Christian church so long as they are part of Churches Together in England (CTE), Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), Churches Together in Wales (Cytun), or the Irish Council of Churches. The Trustees only support churches who are not members of these networks in exceptional circumstances.

What size of grants do you give?

Most of our grants are between £1,000 and £5,000, but may be larger depending on the size of the project.

The grants we give are linked to the cost of the project. We take into account the amount raised towards a project as well as the project's objectives and the extent of deprivation in the community concerned.

What do you fund?

Projects must be consistent with the charitable objects of Allchurches Trust which are "to promote the Christian faith" and "to carry out any charitable purpose".

Successful applications are focused on projects which help those in need to flourish, and to build communities, especially where they are hurting or broken.

Additionally, we can look at pump priming new initiatives, particularly around training, mission and church growth. Many projects involve improvements to buildings to enable this support for people, including essential repairs to and renewal of historic buildings, and the installation of better facilities, such as improved accessibility, lavatories, kitchens, re-orderings and meeting rooms for community use.

Do you require some funding to have been raised?

In the case of larger projects, we normally require some 30% of funding to be in place before making a grant. It is helpful to show local community commitment, and to demonstrate that other funders may be involved and supportive of your project. We will discuss this with you at the time you make your application.

What don't you fund?

1. Ongoing revenue or running costs such as salaries (except for the purposes of pump-priming or new project development).
2. Grants to individuals or to causes that will benefit only one person, including student grants or bursaries.
3. Healthcare. **However**, hospices can apply for funding towards the provision of chapel and chaplaincy space.
4. Work that is primarily the responsibility of statutory authorities. This includes residential, respite and day care and housing provision.
5. Animal welfare, zoos, captive breeding and animal rescue centres.

How long does the process take?

When you apply online, you will receive an immediate email acknowledgement to let you know that we have received your application.

On average, it takes between **three** and **six months** for an application to be processed, considered by the Trustees and for the decision to be communicated to you. There is no particular deadline and we have a rolling application process. We receive a large number of applications and we take great care in reviewing each one individually.

The Trustees do not normally make retrospective grants, but could be prepared to consider applications for work already done which was urgent, such as essential emergency roof repairs.

How often do the Trustees meet?

The Trustees normally meet five times per year.

Who decides how much money a project receives?

The Board of Trustees (whose members are listed on the [website](#)) consider each application on its own merits, based on your application form and where appropriate, a report from one of our Grant Officers.

If the application meets the Trust's criteria, a grant will be considered based on the overall cost of the project, the amounts raised to date and other factors.

Our project has already finished but we still have a major funding gap – can we still apply?

If you are raising funds for a major Capital project and the work has already started, then it may be possible to apply. If, however, you are running a programme of activity that has already been completed, the Trust will be unable to support this. If in doubt, please [contact us](#) to discuss your potential application.

What happens if we are asked to put our application on hold pending further fundraising?

The application will stay "live" on our system for up to two years. If we have not heard from you within that time, the application will be filed and a new submission will need to be made.

How long before we can make a further application?

If you have received a grant, then you will need to wait two years after that grant has been awarded.

My application was rejected – why?

The Trustees take a range of considerations into account, including such factors as to whether the application meets the charitable objects of the Trust, previous grants, costs, available resources, the sustainability of the project, and the viability of the fundraising plan. These factors are examples and this is not an exhaustive list. While the Trustees aim to support as many good projects and organisations as possible, it is unfortunately not possible to provide funding to all; they may simply have declined to make a grant because of the volume of applications received.

Our previous application was rejected, so can we apply again?

Yes, the Trustees will consider each application on its merits. It might be helpful for you to look at the policy and guidelines on our [website](#).

Where does the Trust's money come from?

The Trust is the charitable owner of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group - a financial services company specialising in insuring churches, charities and historical buildings, as well as providing advisory, insurance broking and investment services. Ecclesiastical passes all available profits to the Trust.

The fact that an applicant may have an insurance agreement with Ecclesiastical or any of its subsidiaries is not known to the Trustees when they make their decisions on grants.

If we are successful in receiving a grant, do you expect an acknowledgment or publicity?

On the application form, it states "In the event of receiving a grant...Allchurches Trust may wish to disclose the recipient of the grant and the nature of the application."

The Trustees are obliged to publish details of the grants that they have awarded in their Annual Report and Accounts. In addition, the Trust seeks to publicise its grant making activities e.g. on the website and through other publicity material. This information is useful, for example, for other potential applicants who may approach the Trust for support.

We send a receipt for you to sign, acknowledging that you have received a grant, which **must** be returned to us. We also send a Grant Certificate to be displayed within the project building.

Your grant should, where possible, be publicised, e.g. on social media, in literature, on noticeboards, in the media, on websites or on a plaque. If needed, appropriate artwork can be supplied to help you with this. There are also a range of resources to support beneficiaries with publicity on our [website](#), including press release templates, social media guidance and advice on who to tell and how.