



The
United
Reformed
Church

Help and Advice

Northern Synod Office, 4 College Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JJ (0191-232 1168)

Bulletin 52: GRANTS

The Help & Advice Group was set up by Synod in 2009, to support local churches in being informed and effective in their life and mission. The group was disbanded in 2014, as part of a simplification of Synod committees, and its work continues through the Trust Officer, under the oversight of the Trust. We are willing to try to provide specific advice on particular topics. Please get in touch if you have questions or suggestions.

This article is part of a series giving an overview of particular subjects on interest for local churches. We also circulate general updates from time to time. Bulletins will also be posted on the members' area of the website with direct links to other websites.

Where readers are directed to web-based resources, the Synod Office is willing to respond to reasonable requests for printed out information for readers without web access, although they may find it more satisfactory to follow up their interest through their local library's web access.

This bulletin gives advice on some sources of funding for church buildings and community activities.

Listed Places of Worship Scheme

Churches that worship in listed buildings are reminded that they can apply for grants from the Government's LPW scheme: www.lpwscheme.org.uk. These can reimburse some or all of the cost of VAT paid on repairs, maintenance and alterations to the property. Various changes have been made to the scheme over the years, so that more types of work are now eligible. The website gives further details and provides a flow chart to guide you through the process of checking your eligibility and applying.

Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund

The deadline for applying in the second round of LPW roof repair grants of £10,000-£100,000 is 26 February 2016. The scheme is available to churches that worship in listed buildings. Repair work must have been identified by a professional surveyor or architect as necessary within the last 2 years.

Further information is available at: www.lpowroof.org.uk. Application is via an online portal. The form is quite detailed and requires the attachment (by electronic or hard copy of various supporting documents). As the standard terms of grant impose conditions on use of the property for the following 10 years, and in some circumstances may require repayment of the grant, you should consult the trustees of your building and/or Andrew Atkinson in Synod Office before applying.

Memorials

The Memorials Grant Scheme is run on a similar basis to the LPW schemes above, reimbursing some or all of the cost of VAT: www.memorialgrant.org.uk. Because of the public access requirements, only church yard memorials are likely to be eligible.

In addition, grants are available from the War Memorials Trust of up to 75% of eligible costs up to £30,000: www.warmemorials.org/grants.

Landfill Communities Fund

Churches within 10 miles of a landfill site can claim grants under object E of this scheme: www.entrust.org.uk/landfill-community-fund. Funding is provided by a local landfill operator or a distributive environmental body, and contact lists are given on the website.

Heritage Lottery Fund

As with the LPW scheme, the standard terms of grant impose conditions on use and future disposal of the property, and in some circumstances may require repayment of the grant. You should consult the trustees of your building and/or Andrew Atkinson in Synod Office before applying: www.hlf.org.uk.

United Reformed Church

The URC centrally has a Legacy Fund can give grants for imaginative and innovative projects of up to £50,000 over a 3-year period that may not otherwise be financially viable: www.urc.org.uk/the-legacy-fund.html.

There is also a Church Buildings Fund: www.urc.org.uk/the-church-buildings-fund.html, which can give loans of up to 50% on projects costing £30,000-£150,000.

A variety of grants is available from the Synod: <http://urc-northernsynod.org/grants>. These include works to church and manse properties, mission activities, lay and ministerial training, and youth events. Contact Synod Office if you have any questions.

Other Sources of Funding

Your local council for voluntary services can give advice and help you identify and apply to potential funders:

Mid Northumberland www.ca-north.org.uk 01670-517178

Wansbeck www.northumberlandcva.org.uk 01670-858688

Blyth Valley www.cvabv.org.uk 01670-353623

Newcastle upon Tyne www.cvsnewcastle.org.uk 0191-232 7445

North Tyneside www.voda.org.uk 0191-643 2626

Gateshead www.gvoc.org.uk 0191-478 4103

South Tyneside 0191-456 9551

Sunderland www.vcasunderland.org.uk 0191-565 1566

Derwentside www.cvs.derwentside.org.uk 01207-218855, 01207-593440

County Durham www.durhamcommunityaction.org.uk 01388-742040

Hartlepool www.hvda.org.uk 01429-262641

Stockton-on-Tees www.catalyststockton.org 01642-733906

Middlesbrough www.mvda.info 01642-249300

Redcar & Cleveland www.rcvda.org.uk 01642-440 571

Local funders include www.communityfoundation.org.uk (Tyne & Wear/Northumberland), www.cdcf.org.uk (County Durham), and www.teesvalleyfoundation.org (Tees Valley).

andrew.atkinson@urc-northernsynod.org