



FUNDING SOURCES FOR CHURCHES

The main directory for locating funding bodies in Scotland is SCVO - <https://funding.scot> this however included many funds which are not available to churches. Although not exhaustive, the list below indicates the main sources of funds available to churches. There may be funds distributed by individual Local Authorities such as Common Good Funds and funds set up by many wind farms which have a very local catchment.

Whilst every effort is made to keep this document up to date, please contact the General Trustees with any comment or for further assistance: gentrustees@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church of Scotland Consolidated Fabric Fund & Central Fabric Fund

Loans, advances and grants are available from this Fund which is operated by the Church of Scotland General Trustees for the purchase, building, repair and improvement of Churches, Halls and Manses and in certain other special cases as determined by the General Trustees. All applications must be submitted via the local Presbytery Office.

Application Forms and Guidelines are available. To obtain an application form please contact the General Trustees by email: gentrustees@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Church of Scotland Presbyteries

Some local Presbyteries hold funds from which grants can be made for fabric repair and improvement. Apply to the relevant Presbytery Clerk.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The NHLF support a broad range of heritage projects throughout the UK. Their vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. They fund heritage projects from £10,000 to £10million. Comprehensive information is available on their website: [What we fund | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#).

There are currently two programmes available for Scotland. Each programme has a different application process and must take all four investment principles into account, namely saving heritage, protecting the environment, inclusion, access and participation and organisational sustainability.

- Grants from £10,000 to £250,000: [National Lottery Heritage Grants £10,000 to £250,000 | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)
- Grants from £250,000 to £10million: [National Lottery Heritage Grants £250,000 to £10million | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

Historic Environment Scotland (HES)

Under the Historic Environment Repair Grant programme HES offer funding for projects and activities relating to Scotland's historic environment. They offer grants from £1,000 to £500,000 under three grant schemes: Express (£1,000 to £25,000), small grants (£25,001 to £100,000) and large grants (£100,001 to £500,000).

Comprehensive guidance is available on the HES website. If awarded there are specific conditions and reporting requirements that need to be fulfilled:

[Historic Environment Grants Programme](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PRIOR TO MAKING AN APPLICATION WITH HES AND NLHF:

Funding from both organisations is awarded on the condition of a monitoring period of up to 15 years (depending on the size of the grant) which means that if a building is disposed of during the period, grants awarded are required to be paid back on a pro-rata basis. Given the disparity between the monitoring periods and the 5-year Presbytery Plan, it is essential that both Presbytery and the General Trustees are consulted PRIOR to making an application. An assessment will be made as to whether the application will be supported based on the overall robustness of the relevant buildings' place in the current mission plan and its long-term future.

The General Trustees will then provide a letter of support for submission with the application. Your application is unlikely to be approved without the necessary letter of support.

National Churches Trust

Grant programmes are available to places of worship to allow them to continue to serve people, communities and visitors in all sorts of ways. There are a number of different programmes and information is available on their website along with advice on choosing the right grant: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants>

Benefact Trust

The Trust funds Christian charities and churches who are making a positive impact on their communities. Grants are awarded to repair, restore and improve church buildings. There are different grants available, the main grant relating to building maintenance is their building improvement grant which seeks to protect and enhance Christian buildings by supporting direct capital costs for specific works. Regular maintenance is not grant funded. Match funding of at least 30% of the total project costs are required prior to making an application: <https://benefacttrust.co.uk/which-grant-is-for-me/>

The Arthur Rank Centre

This provides practical resources for rural Christians and churches to use in their own homes, churches and communities: <https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/>

Astor of Hever Trust

This Trust may consider small one-off grants for the preservation of religious historic buildings in the Grampian area: astorofhevertrust@btinternet.com

Baird Trust

The Baird Trust is a Scottish Charity assisting the funds and schemes of the church in Scotland. It was originally for Presbyterian denominations – Church of Scotland, United Free Kirk, etc. However, today they offer grants to all denominations and churches (including synagogues). The majority of grants (up to £10,000) are for purposes relating to fabric and building improvements, but we also offer funding for mission and outreach, including staffing costs:

<https://bairdtrust.org.uk/>

Bellahouston Bequest Fund

This fund gives grants to Evangelical Denominations in the Greater Glasgow area to assist with the building and repairing of Churches and Halls and the promotion of religion.

Apply to Messrs Mitchells Robertson, Solicitors, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow, G1 2AD; telephone 0141 552 3422; email info@mitchells-roberton.co.uk

Dundee Historic Environment Trust

Set up in 2004 to promote and encourage the conservation, protection and improvement of the historic architectural and physical environment of Dundee. It does this by the provision of two grant schemes and by giving advice, producing publications, organising events, exhibitions, activities, etc. for people interested in the history of buildings and architecture in Dundee: <https://dhet.org/grants/>

A Sinclair Henderson Trust

The Trust will give grants towards religion; medicine; education; youth; and historic building maintenance. The Trust has a preference for the Dundee and Tayside areas of Scotland: dundee@thorntons.co.uk

Dalrymple Donaldson Fund

The income on this fund is used for the purpose of making grants of up to £5K for the restoration and repair of buildings of historical and antiquarian interest in Scotland, including churches: <https://www.socantscot.org/grants-awards/the-dalrymple-donaldson-fund/>

Ferguson Bequest

Fund projects related to church maintenance and repair. Education and support of retired ministers- Has a West coast bias www.fergusonbequestfund.org.uk

The Fife Environment Trust

was formed in 1997 as an independent non-profit making company to distribute landfill tax funds under the 1996 Landfill Tax Act which was the first 'green tax' introduced in the UK. Now an Approved Body, FET is permitted to receive Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF) money from landfill operators and distribute this to eligible projects. Fife Council, in its capacity as a landfill operator, is the primary contributor to the fund. FET is one of the key Funding Bodies in Fife awarding grants for community, environmental and heritage projects across Scotland to benefit the lives of those living in the vicinity of landfill sites and/or waste transfer stations: <https://www.fifeenvironmenttrust.org.uk/>

Garfield Weston Foundation

Applicants must be registered charities promoting education, medicine and religion: <https://garfieldweston.org/>

Gannochy Trust

The Gannochy Trust was founded in 1937 and provides donations only to organisations in Scotland with a preference for charities in the Perth area. However the Trust does welcome applications from elsewhere in Scotland from registered charities only. Focus is on improving quality of life, inspiring young people and improving quality of built and natural environment: <https://www.gannochytrust.org.uk/our-grant-making/applying-for-funding/>

Clothworkers Foundation

Applications welcome for capital costs. The size of grant awarded will depend on a number of factors including the size of the organisation and the cost and scale of the capital project. Must be able to demonstrate that the work carried out from the building fits within one or more of their programme areas (see categories on the above link), and that at least 50% of service users benefiting from the capital project are from one or more of those groups: <https://www.clothworkersfoundation.org.uk/what-we-fund/#open>

Miss E C Hendry Charitable Trust

Funding is available for the maintenance and expansion of Christian Churches of up to £15K. No website but apply in writing to ajc@mitchells-roberton.co.uk or Mitchells Robertson, George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow, G1 2AD; telephone 0141 552 3422; email info@mitchells-roberton.co.uk

FUNDING FOR MORE SPECIALIST WORKS

War Memorials Trust

Funds repairs and conservation to best conservation practice assessed on the basis of need. Currently offer up to 50% of eligible costs and up to £5,000 for non-freestanding and up to £20,000 for free standing memorials: <http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>

Society of Antiquaries Morris Fund

The Morris Fund was formed in 1939 using a bequest to the Society from May Morris, the younger daughter of William and Jane Morris. Only supports work carried out under the principles of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), which was founded by her father. Funds smaller programmes of work concerned with the conservation of decorative or non-structural features inside the building. This might include, for example: stained glass windows, sculpture, furniture, internal monuments and tombs and wall paintings. The objects must have been made no later than 1896 (the year of William Morris's death), even if it is in a building which is older: https://www.sal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2016_11_Morris_grants.pdf

Worshipful Company of Glaziers

Grants are available up to £6,000 to ecclesiastic and other public buildings exclusively for the conservation of historic and/or artistically significant stained and architectural glass. Decisions are based on the significance, conservation urgency and quality/appropriateness of the methodology. A condition report is required: <http://glazierscompany.org.uk/conservation-grants/>

Harrison & Harrison Organ Builders

The website has some links to assist with fundraising for organs:

<https://www.harrisonorgans.com/links-2/>

<https://www.harrisonorgans.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/IBO-Fund-Raising-Leaflet.pdf>

COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL

Communities and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES)

CARES support the transition to net zero emissions including the installation of renewable technologies. Funding is now closed until March 31st 2026, but is anticipated to reopen on the 1st of April 2026 (to be confirmed by the Scottish Government). CARES can support a wide range of projects including installing renewable technologies in community buildings, community benefits and shared ownership. CARES offer a number of funding options and detailed information can be found on their website. <https://www.localenergy.scot/funding/>

Groundwork UK

A federation of charities mobilising community action on poverty and the environment. Their grant management team can support applications to a number of funders and grant schemes <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/national-grants/>

Plunkett Foundation

Provides support for community run businesses which could be located within a church building:

<https://plunkett.co.uk/how-we-help/>

Ecclesiastical Insurance fundraising hub

This is a new one-stop box of practical fundraising resources specially designed to help church customers grow their fundraising activity during a time when financial pressures are at their highest.

(Some relevant to Scotland too): <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/church/fundraising/>