



## Information on Main Sources of Grants for Churches

Grant funding may be available to a parish in need of financial support, depending on the nature of their funding requirement, whether the parish is situated in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland and whether the proposed project meets certain eligibility criteria of the awarding body.

The information below refers to both grants administered by the Church of Ireland and those grants administered by other organisations outside the Church but to which Church of Ireland parishes may apply. Some grants are for purposes related to the repair of church buildings and others for the development of mission, community, outreach or heritage initiatives.

### GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY THE CHURCH OF IRELAND:

#### **1. RCB Church Fabric and Development Fund**

Grants from the Church Fabric & Development Fund may be awarded for two different purposes:

- (i) Restoration of the fabric of a church building which is vested in the RCB; or
- (ii) Development of initiatives which support the long term mission of the Church.

More information about these two purposes, the application criteria and application forms can be found on [www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/parish-finances](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/parish-finances).

The provisions of the Church Fabric & Development Fund also allow a parish which has its own fund (an investment resulting from the sale of a church under the provisions of the Church Fabric & Development Fund and held in trust by the RCB) to apply to use part of this investment towards the development of an initiative which supports the long term mission of the Church.

More information can be found at [www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/parish-finances](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/parish-finances).

#### **2. Marshal Beresford's Fund**

The Marshal Beresford's Fund, although administered by the RCB, is an external fund under the control of trustees separate to the RCB. It is for grants for repairs to Church of Ireland churches.

The allocation of the income is made by the Archbishop of Armagh, supported by the RCB Property department. Grants are allocated in conjunction with fabric grants from the Church Fabric and Development Fund.

More information about the criteria, deadlines and application forms can be found on the main Church of Ireland website, [[www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources)].

#### **3. General Synod Priorities Fund**

Since 1980, the General Synod Priorities Fund (generally known as the Priorities Fund) has supported projects within the Church of Ireland. Every parish is asked to contribute to the Priorities Fund and the amount raised is allocated across a number of different areas of need within the Church. Applications must relate to projects which fall into one of the supported categories.

The Priorities Fund Committee recommends allocations to the Standing Committee for approval. More information on the criteria, guidance on applying and application form can be found on [www.priorities.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.priorities.ireland.anglican.org).

## GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY ORGANISATIONS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OF IRELAND:

### **4. Allchurches Trust Limited**

Allchurches Trust Limited is a registered charity which seeks to promote the Christian religion. It provides grants to Christian churches for initiatives with an emphasis on heritage, care and the community. It supports projects for the repair of and improvement to historic buildings, preservation of heritage, and initiatives around training, mission and church growth.

Grants are made from income derived from Allchurches Trust Limited's wholly owned subsidiary, Ecclesiastical Insurance Office Plc. Information, guidance on applying and the application form can be found on [www.allchurches.co.uk](http://www.allchurches.co.uk).

### **5. Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (Northern Ireland)**

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme provides grants towards VAT paid on eligible repairs, maintenance and alterations to listed buildings both that are used principally as places of worship and which are now redundant.

The scheme is administered by the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme office of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in the UK. More information can be found at [www.lpwscheme.org.uk](http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk)

### **6. Heritage Lottery Fund – Grants for Places of Worship (Northern Ireland)**

The Heritage Lottery Fund makes grants from National Lottery funds. It funds projects which make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities, including the preservation and restoration of historic church buildings. The Church of Ireland has benefited considerably from such grants in recent years.

Grants for Places of Worship funds urgent structural repairs to Grade A, B+, B, B1 or B2 listed places of worship in Northern Ireland. As part of a repair project, funds are also given for work to encourage greater community use and engagement. For more information on applying application criteria, see [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) and [www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/grants-places-worship-northern-ireland](http://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/grants-places-worship-northern-ireland).

The application for a Places of Worship grant is a two-round process allowing parishes to apply at an early stage of planning their project to get help in working out the scope of the work before submitting proposals in greater detail. It is recommended that applicants submit an online enquiry via the Heritage Lottery Fund enquiry form before applying in order to get the right support.

Formal approval must be sought from the Diocesan Council and the Representative Church Body before an agreement may be entered into in respect of a grant.

### **7. Big Lottery Fund (Northern Ireland)**

The Big Lottery Fund makes grants from National Lottery funds. It has a number of programmes to which parishes in Northern Ireland may apply, depending on the level of funding required, type of work being carried out and eligibility criteria being met.

The *People and Communities Programme* funds works to buildings such as church halls, if they are used to bring improvements to the lives of people most in need in their communities, bringing them together to enjoy a wide range of charitable, community, educational, environmental and health-related activities. Grants can be between £30,000 and £500,000.

The *Awards For All Programme* makes smaller grants of between £500 and £10,000 to support local people bringing about positive changes in the community. This can include small improvements grants for premises.

For more information about the available funding, criteria and making an application see the Big Lottery Fund website: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/northernireland](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/northernireland)

Formal approval must be sought from the relevant Diocesan Council and the Representative Church Body before an agreement may be entered into in respect of a grant.

## **8. National Churches Trust (Northern Ireland)**

The National Churches Trust Repair Grants Programme offers funds of £10,000 and above towards the cost of urgent and essential structural repair projects. A small number of grants are available at £40,000 and above.

Projects must have a minimum estimated cost of at least £100,000 (including VAT and fees) to qualify. More information can be found at [www.nationalchurchestrust.org](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org).

## **9. LEADER Funding (Republic of Ireland)**

LEADER is a European funding initiative which is managed by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in Ireland. It enables local development by devolving decision-making to many different companies throughout rural areas in the Republic of Ireland. The name of the relevant company will vary depending on region; names commonly used are Integrated Local Development Company, Leader Company, Leader Partnership or a Local Action Group (LAG).

Each LEADER organisation administers a particular rural development fund and will have different priorities based on their local plan and the needs of the area. The Church of Ireland has benefitted from grants for building works which fall into relevant criteria, such as the upgrading of rural heritage and renewal and development works.

Information on the relevant local Leader organisation and advice on making an application can be found on the National Rural Network website

Further information on LEADER 2014-2020 is available on the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government website: [www.ahrrga.gov.ie/rural/rural-development/leader](http://www.ahrrga.gov.ie/rural/rural-development/leader)

For information on how to contact your local LEADER group and how to apply for funding: [www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/LEADER/Pages/LEADER.aspx](http://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/LEADER/Pages/LEADER.aspx)

## **10. Historic Environment Fund (Northern Ireland)**

The Historic Environment Fund (HEF) was launched in September 2016 by the Department for Communities to help support a range of initiatives to conserve and realise the potential of the historic environment. Through the Fund, Listed Buildings in Northern Ireland will benefit from £500,000 in total funding.

Following a public consultation the framework for the Fund has been organised under four themes: Heritage Repair; Heritage Regeneration; Heritage Revival and Heritage Research.

Heritage Repair, which aims to encourage the sustainability and preservation of the historic environment will include:

- Listed Building Repair; and
- Historic Monument Repair

Full details on how to apply and the application form are available from the Department for Communities website: [www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/historic-environment-support](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/historic-environment-support)

QUERIES TO: [property@rcbdub.org](mailto:property@rcbdub.org) or Property Department, Representative Church Body, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6, D06 CF67.