Fundraising help sheet

What is the project? What is the need? What change will it make?

Is it capital focused to **maintain** or **repair** the building for use, if so how vital are they and how could things get worse if not attended to. Can improvements or additions be incorporated (do you have the capacity best to consider a realistic approach).

Is the repair or maintenance going to protect or conserve **heritage** assets is this the main focus?

Is the project **mixed** with capital elements but with community or mission focus such as removing the pews but then fitting out the space for new **missional** and **community** use.

Is the project proposing new buildings or enhancement to current buildings and if so for what aim or purpose. *Once you know what you are aiming to achieve you can then consider what resources you have on the ground to get there.*

Create your team

It could be simply one member but the more the better, you will need to either have a project lead who can tackle all aspects but this is very stretching and not ideal or a team who can collaborate but focus on dedicated task.

Minimum you need someone who can deal with the financial elements so may need to be or work with the treasurer in the preparation of winning funding.

What other supports are available such as the parishes **QI architect**, potential partner organisations such as **local authority and schools,** diocesan support such as the **Church Building support officer** and other local supports either professionally or volunteers.

Now you have a spark of a proposal and a potential idea of what capacity is there to see it through next we need to consider how to give the aim scope

What is the scope of the project

Do you want to achieve multiple outcomes all at once such as a large scale re-ordering and refurbishment of the entire church and grounds? Or can this be broken down or have a priority on one or two key goals? Could it be phased, do you have the time/capacity?

This will allow you to understand the essential core focus of what is looking to be achieved

What are the costs

This is essential data for a funder to understand why you are asking for the amounts applied for. Perhaps a project will be for £100,000 and it is purely capital focussed and has been well itemised, then there is a consideration of adding at least 5% better 10% for contingency so it remains realistic and funders will expect this especially the heritage fund.

Start close to home on the fundraising and then look outwards

Starting local is a great way to begin it helps you gauge interest with the community or to begin a relationship with them. If you can raise any funds through community events or outreach this is useful for external funds to see there is community buy in. Then depending on the funding goal its best to prioritise at least three funders who could potentially in collaboration get all the funding you need. Three is a useful number as it spreads the liability and gives contingency if any one funder does not award on the first occasion (you can even use unsuccessful applications as a starting point to eventually achieving a grant if time allows.

Look to funds within the parish and diocese

These will be dedicated to parishes who are the only eligible entities that can apply, the grants will have varying amounts with various focus points but will generally exist to see positive changes in a parish that might match or could be included to projects.

Is there a list of funders out there?

Yes, the diocese has a list and the CBSO would be more than happy to share recommendations or create quick lists after a conversation on the project. Additionally other fundraising databases are here:

- https://givingisgreat.org/database/donors/
- https://grantnav.threesixtygiving.org/#

A quick fundraising tip

Cookson Trust is a great quick fund to apply for. I have had seven out of seven successful applications so far, each time they have only given £1000 but it is useful seed funding to move projects forward. It's one page with who you are, what your project is and what you need and then bank details. Successful applications get an email, money sent to the bank, then a request to acknowledge receipt with a click button. The turnaround time is generally quick perhaps two to three weeks.

https://catherinecookson.com/application-form/

Turnaround time

Try and look into the processing time for an application to factor your fundraising phase against expected build or implementation estimations. Cookson is quick lots of others have rolling windows of application based on a approx. quarterly cycle. Some take up to three months at point of applying such as Beatrice Laing.

Tailor you application to the funders eligibility

What funder focuses on **secular communities**, **heritage** and **religious** and/or a **mix**

This is the crux of the task of tailoring applications to various funders.

All funders will have an eligibility criteria and the main task is tailoring the story of your project to fit. It's a game of emphasis either from conserving heritage assets, increased or important engagement with communities, new opportunities to bring in new groups based on the project. Missional objectives. Stress the same ones as they highlight, research the funder and try and make contact when ready to promote the positives. This can be email, phone or in person.

A new way to be supported is through AI

Many AI tools from Chatgtp, Claude and others offer free accounts. You can sometimes upload relevant information on the project and then ask it to either output a response in so many words or review what you have written and suggest improvements. **Never rely on it solely be the editor/curator**. It will make mistakes or assumptions and requires editing but can save time.

Examples of funders based on theme

Good examples based on a project would be:

- **Building project –** Consider diocesan funds. Then for anything over 25k consider the heritage fund but think on their criteria, governance, environment, heritage and community. Northumbria Historic Churches trust is a good option with a process that takes a fair amount of time. John Priestman is very straightforward a letter to the administrators Mckenzie Bell.
- **Heritage project –** National Churches Trust is a good option. Additionally, Beaverbrook is a good considerations
- **Community engagement improvement –** religious Beatrice Laing and Joseph Rank (be prepared to do a video) non-religious Clothmakers guild.