

NATIONAL CHURCHES

TRUST

Applying for National Churches Trust Grants

A red circular logo with the text "NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST" in white. The word "NATIONAL" is on the top line, "CHURCHES" is on the second line, and "TRUST" is on the third line, separated by a thin horizontal line.

NATIONAL
CHURCHES
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WELCOME

We want to keep wonderful
churches open and in use

Yours for good.

STRATEGY

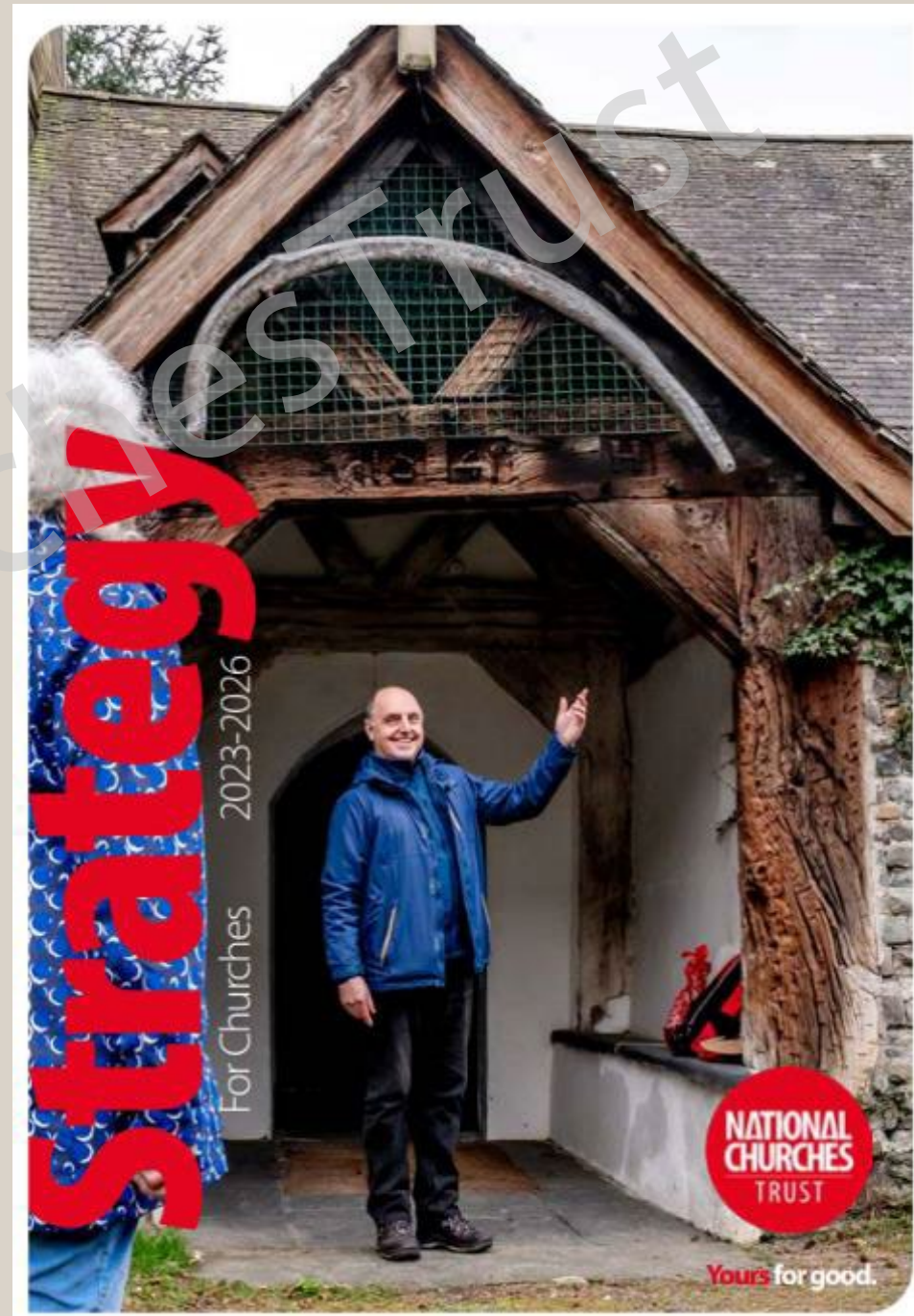
For Churches 2023-2026

Our **vision** is that church buildings across the UK are well maintained, open for everyone, sustainable and valued

Our **mission** is to help keep the UK's wonderful collection of church buildings well maintained, valued and used

We will:

- Be straightforward
- Provide Support
- Join forces
- Drive change



HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

Build Up:

- Grants for repairs, maintenance, facilities
- Advice, guidance and training

Open Up:

- Church Membership
- Help churches meet community needs
- Support church tourism

Speak Up:

- Communicate the value of churches
- Research and evidence-based data

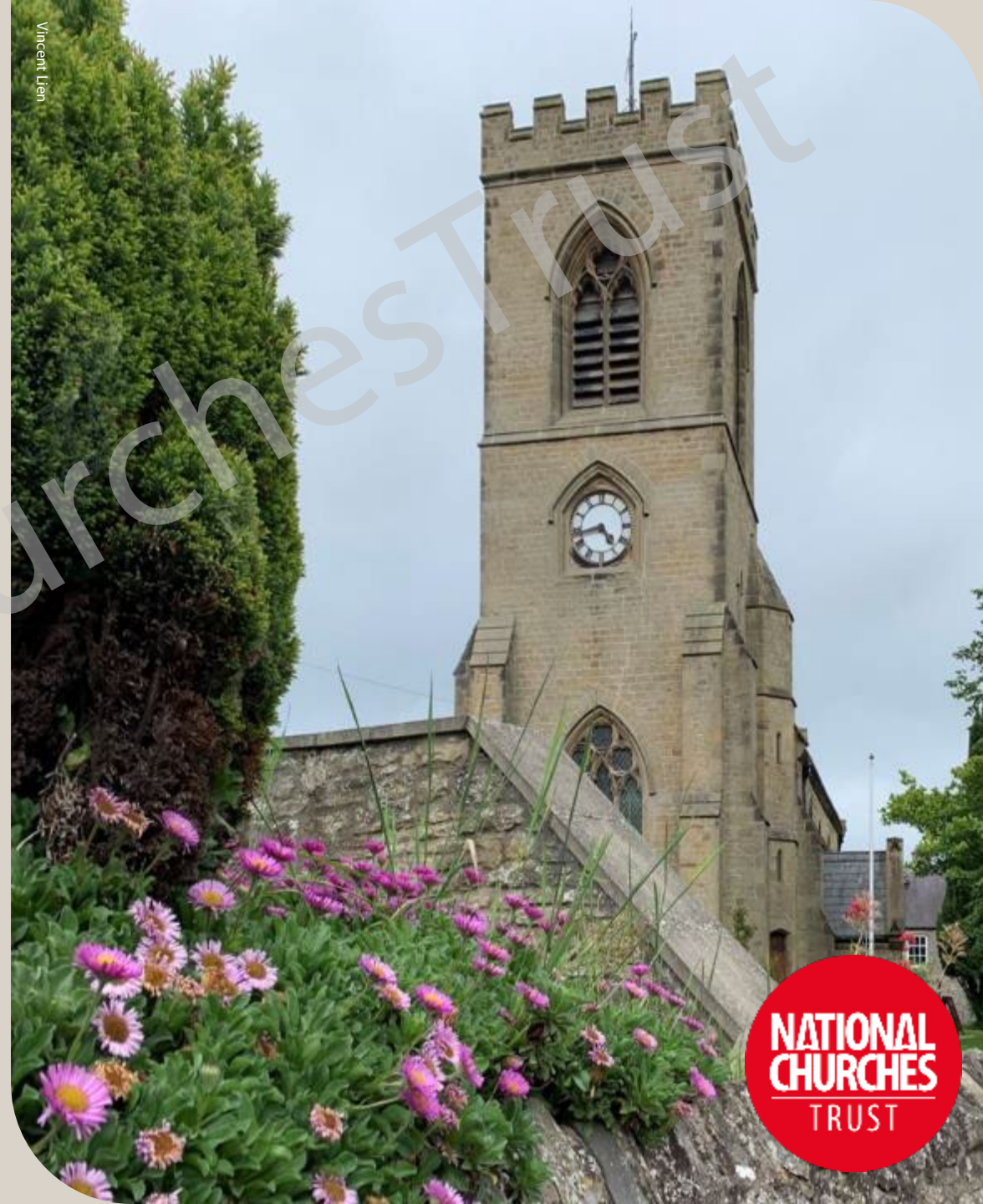
nationalchurchestrust.org/about-us



2024 IN NUMBERS

- 713 applications received
- 312 grants made or recommended
- Over £2.8 million awarded or recommended

Vincent Lien



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OUR CORE GRANTS

- 3 decision rounds per year
- **Medium** Grants: Up to £10k
 - project development up to RIBA Stage 1
 - essential repairs costing upto £80k
- **Large** Grants: Up to £50k
 - urgent structural repairs costing over £80k
 - new facilities (kitchens/toilets) over £30k

nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants



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Eligibility

The application begins with an eligibility quiz.

- ✓ A Christian place of worship within in the UK
- ✓ Originally built as a place of worship (over 30 years ago) and open for regular public worship
- ✓ At least 50% funds raised
- ✓ Open at least 100 days per year – or within 1 year of completion
- ✓ Leading qualified professional with conservation accreditation if listed
- ✓ Necessary permissions and multiple quotes in place
- ✓ Work not yet started



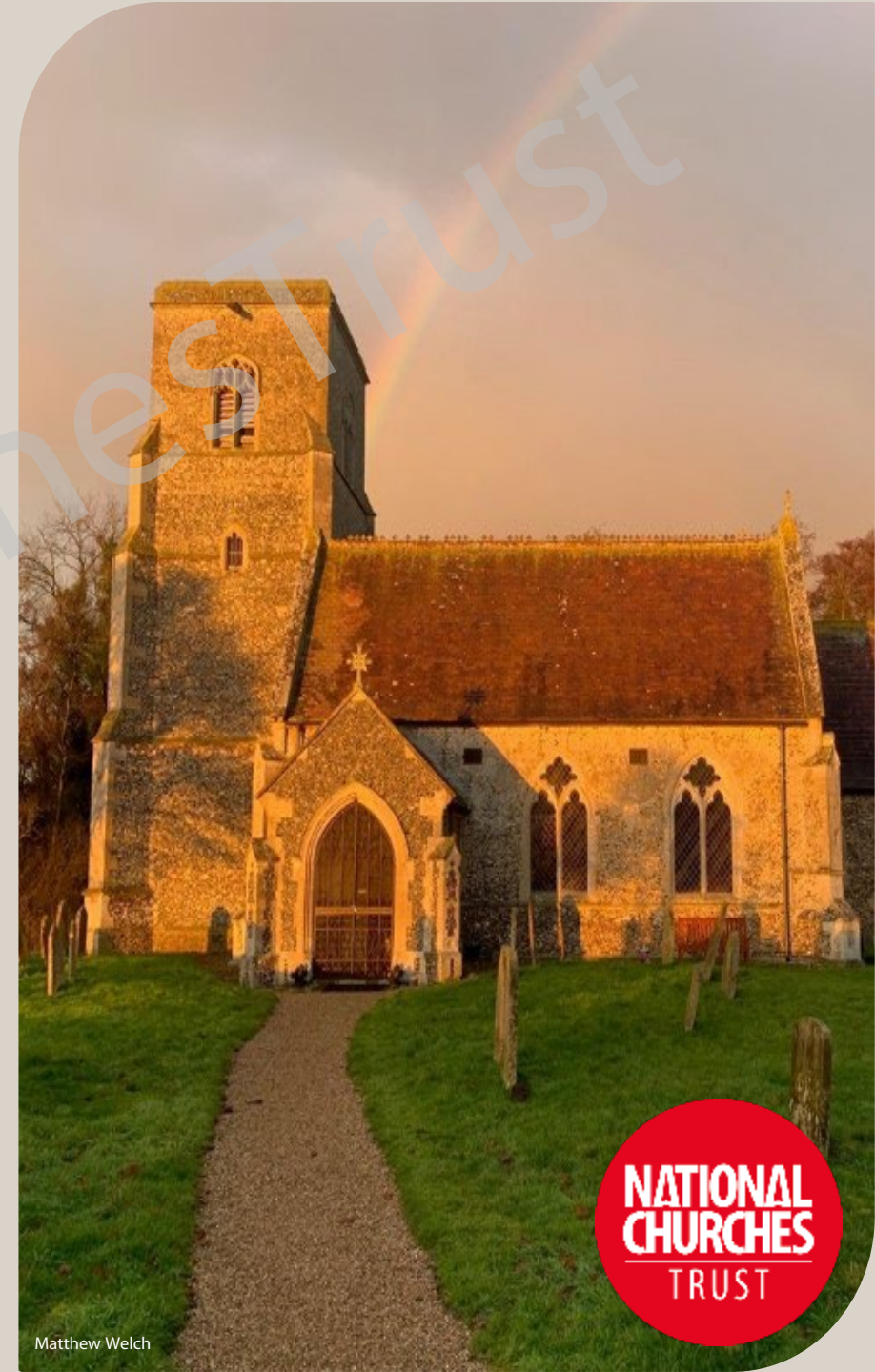
What we don't fund

- Approximately 30% applications are ineligible at the outset
- We don't fund:
 - Works to the churchyard, boundary walls, car parks, paths
 - Repairs to heating and boilers
 - Reordering, lighting, electricity, audio-visual equipment
 - Repairs or maintenance for clocks, organs, bells, monuments
 - Restoration of wall paintings, stained glass (unless urgent repairs to window structure)
 - New builds



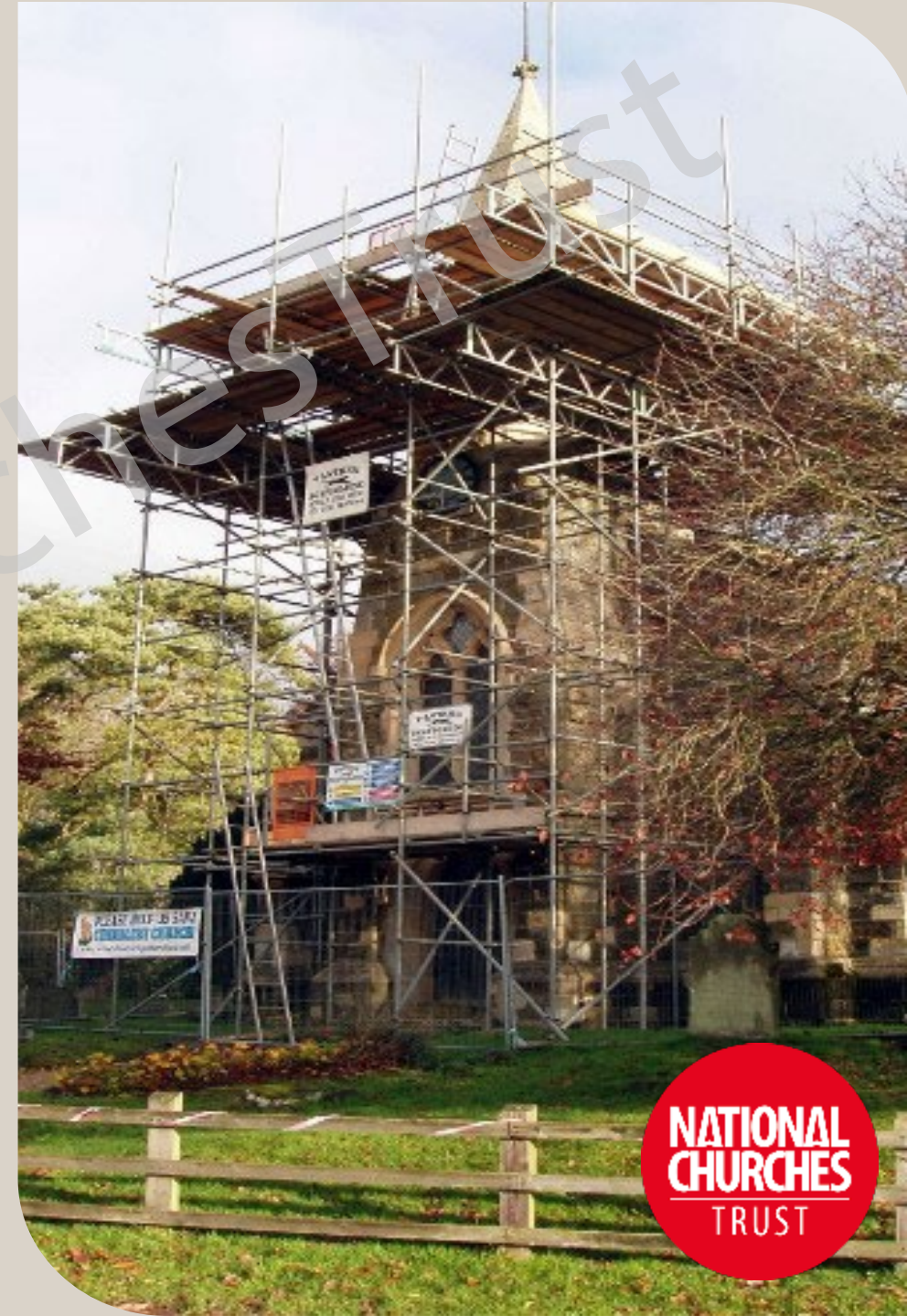
Medium Grants (Project Development)

- Awards of upto £10,000
- Project development up to RIBA Stage 1
- E.g. feasibility studies, option appraisals, detailed reports to better understand an issue
- 2 quotes and 50% funds for this element
- Support from lead professional (CA)



Medium Grants (Maintenance and Repair)

- Awards upto £10,000
- Essential repairs costing upto £80,000
- E.g. roof repairs, masonry repairs, rainwater goods – ideally identified in a recent Five Year Inspection Report/survey
- 2 quotes and 50% funds in place
- Permissions
- Conservation accredited lead professional (or support for small projects)



Large Grants

- Awards of between £10,000 and £50,000
- Urgent structural repairs costing over £80,000
- New facilities (kitchens & toilets) over £30,000
- Two stage Process
- Tendered or QS Costs and 50% funding in place
- Permissions
- Conservation Accredited Professional if church is listed



Bryan Martin



Cherish



Mike Swift

Scotland

Support for places of worship in Scotland



National Churches Trust

Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria

Support for places of worship in North West England



Gareth Simpson

Wales / Cymru

Support for places of worship in Wales

- £1.9 million National Lottery Heritage Fund grant
- To run until 2026
- 4 dedicated support officers based in Scotland, North West England and Wales/Cymru,
- A range of training, resources and mentoring
- Grants between £500 and £10,000 for maintenance and repairs

nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/cherish



Wolfson Foundation & other funders

- Essential fabric repairs for Grade I or II* listed buildings
- Up to £10,000 additional grant – via Medium or Large Programmes
- We recommend to several other funders too
- Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

The Wolfson
Foundation



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CASE STUDY:

Tidenham: St Mary and St Peter

£10,000 towards installing an accessible toilet and servery

- Currently had to turn away some potential users
- Demonstrated several community groups would be interested in using the building
- Local Fundraising
- Developing a maintenance plan
- Conservation Accredited lead professional



nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants

Our grants

Get support > Grants

We support a variety of churches, chapels and meeting houses across the United Kingdom with our grants programmes.

Our grants are available to any Christian place of worship in the UK that is open for regular worship.

They help keep church buildings in good repair, open for worship and community activities, and allow them to continue to serve people, communities and visitors in all sorts of ways.

Whether you are looking to repair your roof, install a kitchen or accessible toilets, clear asbestos or simply need help undertaking regular essential maintenance to your building, we offer a range of grants to suit the size and needs of your project.



David Priddis

Large grants

Large grants for urgent structural repair projects and for projects to install kitchens and toilets.



Medium grants

Medium grants to support urgent repair and maintenance issues as well as project development work.



Small grants

Small grants to support small but urgent maintenance and repair issues or to carry out small investigative works.



Nina McNeary

Treasure Ireland grants

Small to medium grants to support church projects in Northern Ireland.



Wolfson Fabric Repair Grants

Since 2020, we have managed grants made to churches by the Wolfson Foundation. You can apply for a Wolfson grant via our Large or Medium grants programmes.



Peter Moore

Cherish grants

Cherish grants for churches in Scotland, Wales/Cymru and North West England to carry out maintenance, urgent repair work or project development.



Large grants

Get support > Grants > Cornerstone (large) grants

Status : Open

Next Stage 1 deadline: 7 November (midnight)

Next Stage 2 deadline: you will be notified of this if you pass Stage 1

Grant size : Up to £50,000*

Works cost : Over £80,000 for urgent repairs; over £30,000 for facilities

This programme offers our largest grants of up to £50,000 towards the cost of major urgent structural repair projects costing at more than £80,000 including VAT.

*grants of £40,000 to £50,000 are extremely limited and reserved for cases which demonstrate a very high case for investment.

We will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use, costing at more than £30,000 including VAT. Grants will never exceed 80% of the project cost.

More information for applicants

Eligibility criteria

How to apply

Decisions

Ready to apply?

Before starting your application, please make sure you have read the guidance notes for your grant and that you meet the eligibility criteria for churches.

Apply

Guidance notes



Introduction

We hope you are reading this document before starting the application.

On the following pages we will find the eligibility criteria, programme support levels, how to apply and what supporting documents you will need to complete your application and the criteria of the successful applicant.

The National Churches Trust supports Church Maintenance of a church building and its contents, including the building, its contents, its grounds and its surroundings. We also support the repair and maintenance of the building and its contents, including the building and its contents, including the building and its contents.

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Large grant programme

This programme supports the conservation and repair of church buildings, including the building and its contents, including the building and its contents, including the building and its contents.

The maximum grant under this programme is £50,000. The maximum grant is £50,000. The maximum grant is £50,000.

Grants will never exceed 80% of the project cost. Grants will never exceed 80% of the project cost. Grants will never exceed 80% of the project cost.

The cut-off date is 31st March 2023.

Grants will never exceed 80% of the project cost.

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Yours for good.

Home

Programmes

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Register

Login

Welcome to the National Churches Trust's Grant Application Site

Our grants are available to support work to church buildings throughout the UK that fulfil the eligibility criteria. We can fund maintenance work, repair work, installation of kitchens and accessible toilets, and some project development work. You must have 40% of funds in place, permissions secured and valid (unless yours is a project development scheme), and a qualified professional leading the project (conservation accredited if the building is listed). Our grants will never exceed 50% of the project costs.

As demand regularly exceeds the funds we have available, we have to limit the sorts of projects we can consider. If your project is not eligible we hope that the information on our website with alternative sources of funding, as well as other resources and buildings advice pages, will be helpful to you.

Please note that we place a strong emphasis on maintenance and being open. We encourage all applicants and grantees to have a maintenance plan and require grantees to be open more than 100 days a year and to feature on our Explore map. Further guidance and help on these can be found on our website: National Churches Trust - regular maintenance and National Churches Trust - your church

Please read the guidance note available on the relevant programme page of our website before commencing and if you still have questions please refer to our FAQs. For additional help, please email us: grants@nationalchurchestrust.org



Yours for good.

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Registration

Register below with your current email address and a 8+ character password that must contain a mix of upper/lower case letters, numbers and at least one symbol.

When you submit these details you are expressly consenting to your personal data being held by us in accordance with our [Privacy and Data Protection Policy](#)

All data entered in the application will be held under the same policy in accordance with the current General Data Protection Regulation.

Use an email address to which you have access, as you must confirm your email to complete registration.

When you have registered successfully you will be sent an email that will have a link on for you to complete your registration.

Register a new account

Email

Enter your email address

Password

Enter a strong password

Minimum 8 characters.
Must include upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols.

Confirm password

Repeat the password

[Register](#)

Already have an account? [Login here](#)

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Dashboard

To start a new application click on Apply in the menu button. If you want to continue with an application at one you have submitted you can view them or check on their progress by clicking on Applications.

If you have any reviews or messages to address then click on the Reviews or Messages buttons.

If you need any help with the application form or experience any issues that are not answered in the help section please email us: grants@nationalchurchestrust.org

Applications

11 applications

[View your applications](#)

[Start a new application](#)

Messages

11 * unread messages

[View your messages](#)

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Small Grant Eligibility Quiz

1. Have you read the guidance note before starting? You can find this on the relevant grant programme page of our website <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants>
☒ Yes
2. Is the building a Christian place of worship (but not a cathedral) in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands?
☒ Yes
3. Was the building originally built as a place of worship, no less than 30 years ago? We cannot fund buildings that were not originally places of worship
☒ Yes
4. Is the building open for a minimum of 6 services a year? This is the minimum though our preference is for more regular use
☐ No
5. Is the place of worship open to the public beyond worship at least 100 days per year? Or will it be following project completion? We expect buildings that we and our donors support to be open
☐ No
6. Is the project for urgent maintenance work, small repairs or small investigative works costing less than £20,000 incl. VAT and fees?
☐ No

Application Form

Opening a panel will save any
Click on this panel to expand.
Opening a panel will save any
changes you have made.

WELCOME

FIRST TELL US ABOUT YOU

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PLACE OF WORSHIP

HERITAGE

HERITAGE: Tell us the historic and architectural significance...

In this section we would like more information about the history and significance of your building. If possible, please provide the link to the listed building description.

3a Select the relevant listing designation of the Place of Worship, or select 'unlisted' if not, or 'Not known'

Listing designation ★

Please select



3b Was the building originally built as a Place of Worship? ⓘ

Built as a Place of Worship

Please select



3c Briefly tell us what is important and/or interesting architecturally and historically about the building. This could include social history, monuments, works of art etc.

Building history ★



3d Please upload a recent general EXTERIOR view of the building. Please send a jpeg if possible.

Allowed filetypes: .pdf, .png, .jpeg, .jpg Max. filesize: 10 Mb. One file can be uploaded. ★

Select file

or Drop file here



No files uploaded

Confirm we have permission to use the image

Permission granted ★

Please select



Provide details of who we should credit for the image ★

NEED

CASE FOR INVESTMENT

RISK MANAGEMENT & PROJECT PLANNING

OUTCOMES

AND FINALLY

REVIEW AND SUBMIT

Scoring Criteria

- **Heritage** – architectural significance
- **Need** – problem that needs addressing/urgency
- **Case for investment** – case for funding now
- **Risk management & project planning** – level of project planning undertaken
- **Heritage & community impact/outcome**



Catherine Townsend

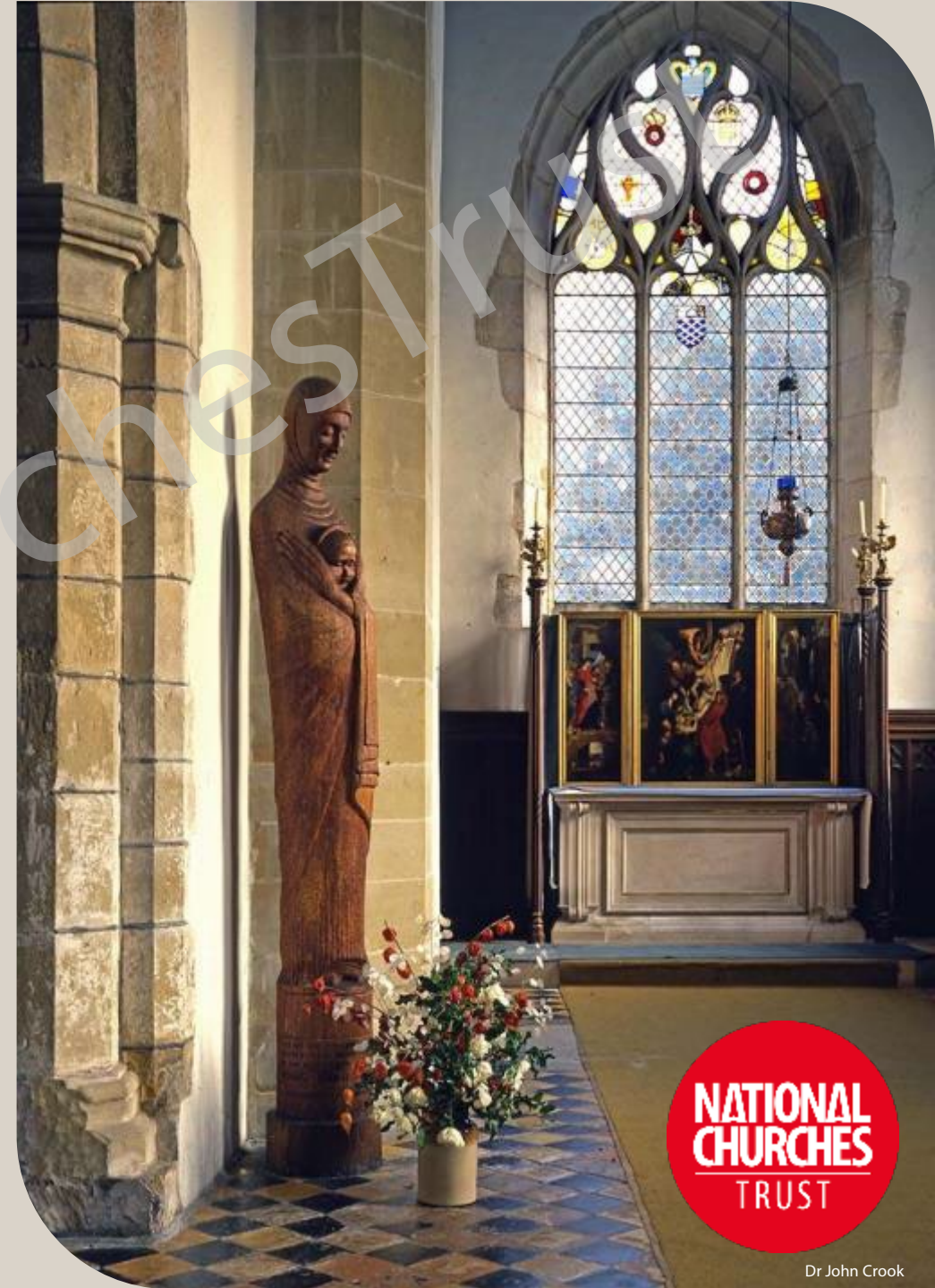
Programme Outcomes

- Well maintained, adaptable and in good repair
- Sustainable, open and welcoming
- Environmental sustainability
- Community and social outcomes

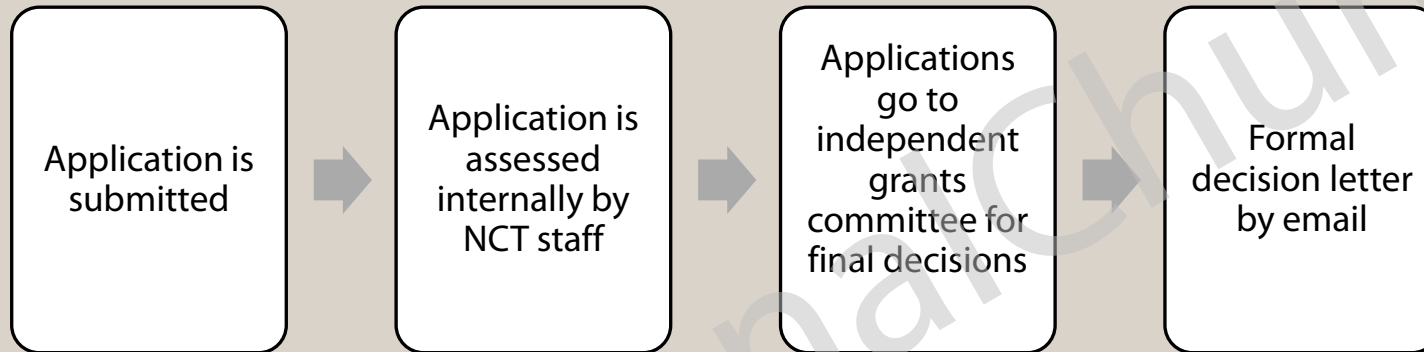


Top Tips

- **Apply on time**
- Ask **someone else** to look at the application
- Ask your **professional** to help, especially with problem, impact, solution
- Make sure your **figures are clear**
- Submit all **required documentation**
- **Lead** with the **need**
- Celebrate your **successes**
- Go into **detail**



Application Process



Upcoming deadlines

- Large – 1 July
- Medium – 12 August
- Cherish – 12 August



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CHURCHES



RESOURCES & SUPPORT TO HELP YOU

- Specialist Skills Directory
- A Five Point Guide to developing your project
- Discover Churches: church tourism toolkit
- Funding and support organisations database
- Maintenance Advice

[nationalchurchestrust.org/
get-support/buildings-maintenance/building-
projects](https://nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/buildings-maintenance/building-projects)



CHURCH TOURISM

We can help you promote your church to visitors enabling it to become more sustainable through:

- Partnerships with regional and national organisations
- Promotional campaigns
- UK's largest church tourism hub : 4,000 pages
- Inclusion in themed stories and church trails
- Help with planning bookable group visits
- Inclusion in projects and research

nationalchurchestrust.org/explore



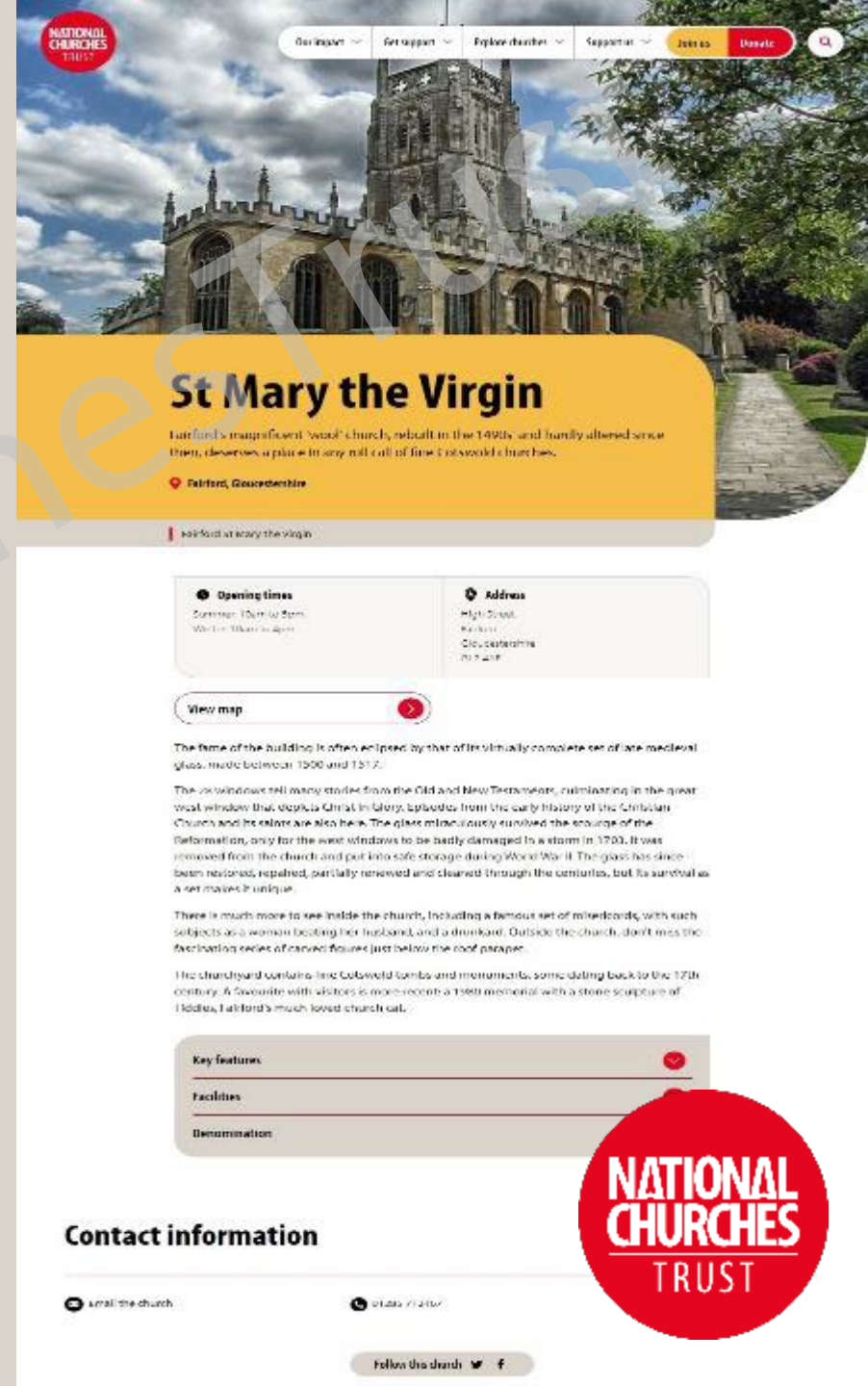
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CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Grantee churches will receive one year free Church Membership worth £60 a year

- Member welcome pack
- Regular emails from us to help you make the most of your membership
- Early access to events and activities
- Discounts on equipment

nationalchurchestrust.org/support-us/church-membership



THE NATIONAL CHURCH AWARDS

- Church & Community Volunteers Awards
- Friends Vote Award
- Church Architecture Awards
- Church of the Year

Our awards are now open for nominations.

This year we are celebrating the dedication, care and impact of the people who care for church buildings and share them with others.

Find out about previous winners here:
nationalchurchestrust.org/impact/awards



TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

We run a selection of training courses and workshops to help you look after your church:

nationalchurchestrust.org/training

Free online training on our website:

- Take great photos: nationalchurchestrust.org/explore/your-church/welcome-visitors/take-great-photos
- Make great films: nationalchurchestrust.org/explore/your-church/welcome-visitors/make-great-films
- Maintenance videos, created with SPAB
- Short 'how to' films, funded by Cadw



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ENGAGE



**NATIONAL
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The National Churches Survey

Giving every church **a voice**



Take part now at nationalchurchestrust.org/survey

SPEAKING ON YOUR BEHALF

Our Communications Team ensures the right information gets to the right people at the right time

- Creates topical campaigns to Lobby MPs and influential organisations on church issues
- Active PR in national and specialist media
- Surveys and reports
- Engaging daily content and updates on social media
- Monthly e-newsletters
- News postings on website

nationalchurchestrust.org/impact



OUR FRIENDS

Becoming a Friend is one way individuals can support us in the work that we do.

- Annual membership from £40
- Two newsletters per year plus e-bulletins
- Annual Review detailing our work
- Participation in Friends Vote Grant
- Joining gift '*A History of English Churches in 100 Objects*'
- Invitation to select events, Carol Concert and tours

nationalchurchestrust.org/friends



KEEP CONNECTED

We want to hear about what you are doing so please register for our monthly e-news and share your news with us on social media.



@nationalchurchestrust



nationalchurchestrust

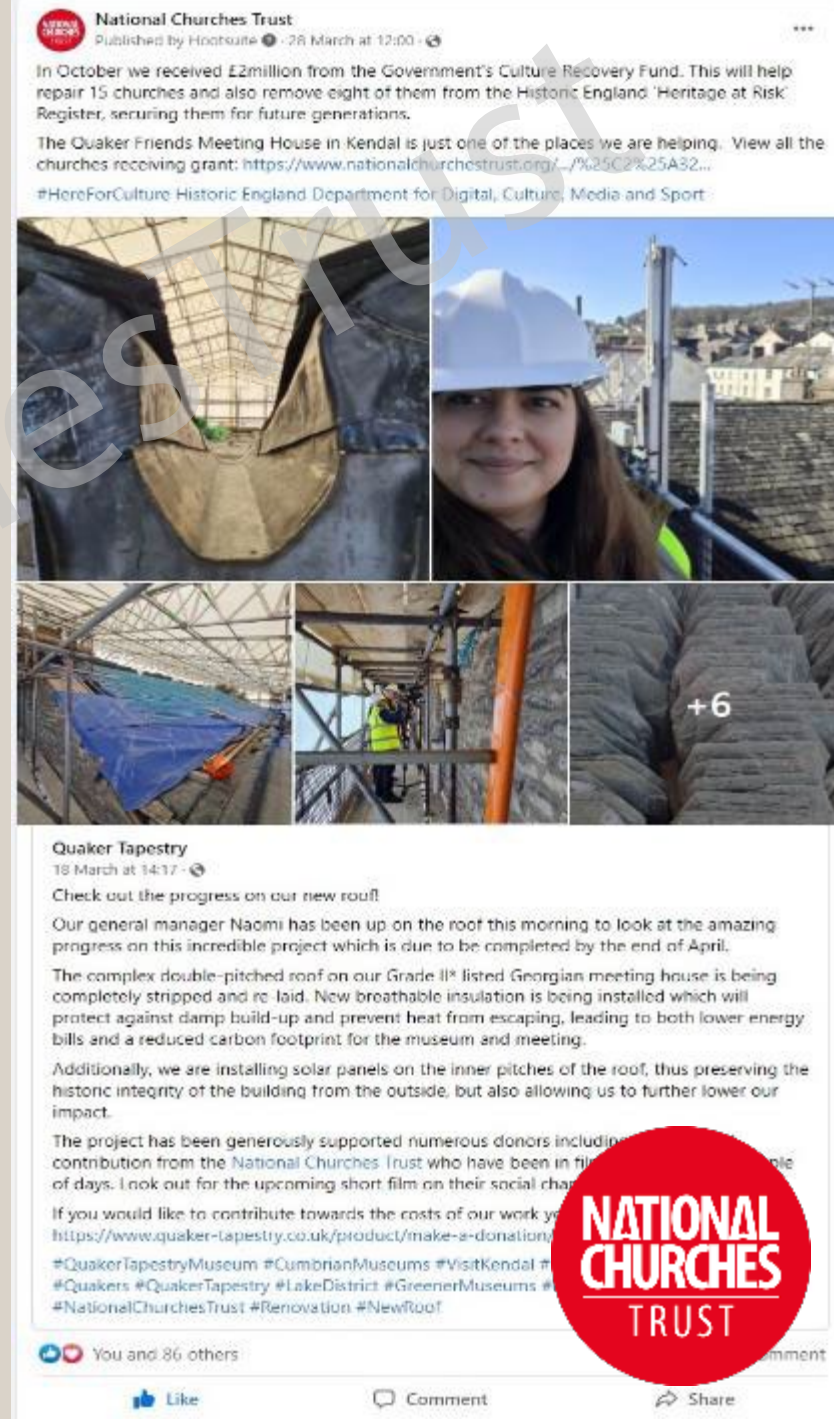


NatChurchTrust



National Churches Trust

[Sign up for our e-newsletter](#)



CONTACT DETAILS



Anna Elliss:

anna.elliss@nationalchurchestrust.org

Heather Townsend:

heather.townsend@nationalchurchestrust.org

Grant enquiries:

grants@nationalchurchestrust.org