

Grants Available to Parishes

Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance have several grants that parishes can apply for as outlined in the table below. These grants are available to parishes who have paid Parish Share in full for the previous two years and commit to paying in full in the future. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Jo Hands, our Governance and Grants officer at jo.hands@coventry.anglican.org.

<i>Name</i>	Diocesan Mission Fund Mustard Seed	Diocesan Mission Fund (DMF)	Offa House Spirituality Capital Fund (OHSCF)	Church Improvement Fund (CIF)	Church Improvement Fund Net Zero (CIFNZ)	Church Fabric Fund (CFF)
<i>What is it for?</i>	To encourage parishes to start mission focused activities.		To provide capital grants to parishes and deaneries to support the development of sustainable resources for retreat, reflection, reconciliation and enabling closer encounters with God and his creation.	To improve the facilities of church buildings, making church buildings fit for 21st century mission and ministry.	To help fund improvements to church building to reduce carbon footprint and move towards Net Zero.	Grants towards work on church buildings to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help meet the cost of repairs to the fabric of each church in the Diocese. • help meet the cost of necessary works (including preliminary surveys for such works) required to comply with Health & Safety regulations in church buildings.
<i>How much can we apply for?</i>	Up to £500.	Up to £30,000, a project plan must be submitted for applications over £2.5k.		Up to 75% of the total project cost (maximum grant £5,000, minimum £100).	Up to 50% of the total project cost (maximum £25,000, minimum £100).	Up to 50% of the total project cost, max £5,000 if the work was listed in the QI inspection, max £2,500 if not.
<i>How do we apply?</i>	<p>Application forms can be downloaded from our website: www.coventry.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/finance/grant-funding/grant-funding</p> <p>Completed forms should be emailed to our Governance and Grants Officer who will send a confirmation of receipt email including a reference number that must be used on all future communications regarding the grant.</p>					

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<i>When are the deadlines?</i>	Anytime	31st March, 30th June, 31st August or 31st December		31st March or 31st August	Stage 1 = Anytime Stage 2 = 28 th February or 31 st July	Anytime
<i>Do we need Area Dean support?</i>	This does not need to be demonstrated on the application form.	The Area Dean or Lay Chair must have seen the application and they provide their signature or an email confirmation, indicating that they approve of the proposed work, and that it is in line with the Deanery plans.		A comment is required on the application form.		
<i>Who decides if we get the grant?</i>	The Archdeacon Missioner and the Clergy and Lay Chairs of the Diocesan Mission Fund.	The Diocesan Mission Fund Committee at their January, April, July or September meeting. For applications over £9,999 approval is needed from Bishop's Council, this is done at the following meeting in February, June or October.		The Diocesan Mission Fund Committee at their April or September meeting.	The Diocesan Mission Fund Committee at their April or September meeting. For applications over £9,999 approval is needed from Bishop's Council, this is done at the following meeting in June or October.	The Diocesan Finance Group via an email protocol.
<i>When do we find out if we have been successful?</i>	Timescales for the review of applications varies depending on the fund. Before an application is decided upon it is checked by the Governance and Grants Officer who may request more information or have questions. If applicable, the application is run past a member of the DAC. LiNCs eligibility and Parish Share status is checked with the finance team. The application is then presented to the relevant committee as outlined above. Committees can decide to seek input from another body such as the Digital Steering Group. You will be kept up to date with any developments and emailed as soon as possible after a decision is made. You should not spend any money until you have a written approval letter signed by the Diocesan Secretary & CEO.					
<i>Do we need to send in reports?</i>	Yes, or funding can be recalled. The number of reports and their deadlines will be outlined in the approval letter and reflect the scale of the project.					No
<i>When do we get the money?</i>	No money is paid until needed and all applicants must complete an account details form to confirm the PCC BACs details as grants will only be paid into PCC accounts. Any surplus is to be declared and returned/discounted if deemed appropriate. Any match funding or funding from other sources must be confirmed before funds are released. If applicable, employee contracts, invoices, proof of planning permission/faculty and/or architect certificates must be shared before payment is made. This is all outlined in the approval letter which is sent to the applicant once the grant is fully confirmed.					

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<i>Is there a limit to the number of times we can apply?</i>	No, but the DMFC may request Bishop's Council to approve if there are multiple applications that generate a combined sum over £9,999.		If an applicant for an OHSCF grant also makes an application for a grant from another DBF-managed fund for other elements of the project (either at the same time or within three years of receipt of a grant) and the combined sum of the grants exceeds £9,999, approval from Bishop's Council is required.	There is no limit to the number of times a parish can apply for different projects. Priority will be given to churches who have not received a CIF grant in the previous three years.		A maximum of £5,000, made up of one grant or several, may be given to each parish per quinquennium – starting at the Quinquennial Inspection.
<i>How long are grant offers valid for?</i>	1 year <i>After this time the amount approved will be returned to the fund for redistribution. If you are concerned that the grant will not be claimed in time, please contact out Governance and Grants Officer.</i>					3 years
<i>Link to Application Guide for full details...</i>	DMF Application Guide	OHSCF Application Guide		CIF Application Guide		CFF Application Guide