

Diocesan Mission Fund – Application Guide

Funding Priorities

The Diocesan Mission Fund was created by the Diocesan Synod to provide resources to parishes and deaneries for new projects which aim “to make new Christians and Disciples”. The priorities here have been developed to encourage mission projects in a way which stewards well the money which the Diocese has been given.

1. Missional

Funds will be given towards projects and initiatives which aim “to make new Christians and Disciples”. These initiatives are expected to introduce Christ in such a way that people may have the opportunity to consider following him.

2. New/Pioneering

The fund was created with the hope of expanding the range of mission activity in the diocese, rather than to fund existing work. It is also hoped that areas and people in the diocese who are not currently in contact with the wider church will be reached. Potential applicants are asked prayerfully to consider imaginative ways of building bridges with local communities, which will make Jesus more accessible to those outside church circles. When thinking about pioneering projects, an awareness of the context of the communities to be reached and any work which is being done there is encouraged.

3. Sustainable

Deaneries and Benefices are encouraged to submit applications which fund soundly based short-term initiatives. The allocation of funds does not commit any further support, and for longer term projects, a condition of grant approval will be that applicants demonstrate where else they will look for continuation funding. Applicants should also be able to show that the project is supported by both their benefice and their deanery.

Mission fund applications are welcome which help growth across all demographics. Applications which will enable new worshipping communities, target new disciples from UKME/GMH backgrounds and/or target work developing children and young people are particularly encouraged. All applications need to support at least one of the key pillars of *Our Shared Vision* – Restored Health, New Growth and Renewed Relationships. See [Our Strategies](#) on the diocesan website for more information.

How to apply

Projects costing £2,500 or less

If you would like to apply for less than £2,500, please download an application form from the website. Please note, there is a short application for grants under £500 to the mustard seed fund. On submitting your application you will be contacted by the Governance and Grants Officer who will confirm receipt.

Projects costing more than £2,500

If your project's total costs will be more than £2,500 please start the application process by sending a brief description of the project to Jo Hands, Governance and Grants Officer at jo.hands@coventry.anglican.org

Help & advice

Members of the Diocesan Mission Fund Committee are available to help develop possible proposals. If you are not sure whether your idea would qualify, please get in touch for advice. Please contact Jo Hands, Governance and Grants Officer in the first instance.

Applicants

Applications will only be accepted from parishes, benefices and deaneries. Where a parish is part of a multi-parish benefice, the application must come from the benefice as a whole, rather than the parish alone. Payment will only be made to a PCC bank account.

Approval

Grants will be given at the discretion of the Diocesan Mission Fund Committee and/or Bishop's Council. The minimum grant which can be applied for is £100. Grants can be used to meet any cost associated with a new project, which satisfies the criteria and the project must be within the Diocese of Coventry.

Grants will not be given for building work.

The process for considering applications will vary depending on the size of the application:

- **Grants under £500.** The 'Mustard seed' Grants can be applied for at any time and will be approved via email by the Chairs of the Committee and the Archdeacon Missioner. Applications for this level of grant will normally be dealt with within one month.
- **Grants between £501 and £9,999.** Applications will be considered by a meeting of the DMFC. These will be held four times a year. Please refer to the grant funding page of the Diocesan website for the application deadline dates.
- **Grants larger than £10,000 (up to £30,000 limit)** will be considered by the DMFC, as per the process above. The committee will make a recommendation to the Bishop's Council to approve or decline the application. If recommended the application will need approval from the Bishop's Council, who meet 4 times a year.

For grants over £500, please consider the timing of the approval process and factor that into your project schedule. Further details of Committee and Council meeting dates can be discussed with the Governance and Grants Officer.

Reporting back

A condition of any grant will be that each initiative is expected to identify clear outcomes and to monitor, assess and report to the DMFC how these have been met on the Diocesan report form. These reports will assist the committee in future deliberations and can help other churches as they pray and plan. The risk with new initiatives means that some are bound to fail - which is completely acceptable, as long as we learn from them. Once funds are drawn, if there is no report then the committee will contact you. If no report can be provided the committee may ask for the grant to be returned. For larger grants, tapered over time, various reports will be requested as an update on the process and continuation of the project for which the grant has been paid.

Payment

- Grants will only be paid into PCC bank accounts. No grants will be made to an individual, supplier or para-church organisation.
- No monies are paid until needed and surplus funds are to be paid back.
- If funds have not been drawn within a year after approval funds will be withdrawn and an application will have to be resubmitted.
- In the case of 'matching funding' applications, where this grant is a part of the finance needed, grants allocated will not be released until other funds have been committed.