

GRANTS NEWS

Good news and inspiration from grants to parishes



SUMMER 2025

WELCOME

At the time of writing there are only two more Grants Committee meetings left in 2025. It has been a busy year, with 56 applications submitted across the funds to date! Understandably the balances are running low for most of the funds but please do not panic, if you have been working on a submission, at this stage in the year, if a project is supported but funds are lacking, the application can be queued for the New Year.

Remaining 2025 deadline: 15th November

Thank you

A massive thank you is due to everyone who has developed projects across the diocese, there is tremendous work going on to repair and improve church buildings, work towards Net Zero and of course plenty of missional activities happening. All projects report to the Grants Committee, here are a few highlights from the reports recently received...

A mustard seed to cover the cost of **iSing Pop sessions** to launch the Christian Union linking the church and school.

*"The project has been very successful! iSingPop a Christian Pop group spent a week with all of key stage 2, teaching them Christian songs and dance moves. A concert was held in the church and was well attended. Word of mouth was brilliant! Off the back of this we launched JAM (Jesus and Me) Club in the school with over 20 children attending each week. Basically, JAM Club is a cool Christian Union aimed at KS2. More recently we have launched Prayer and Popcorn on Thursday evenings at Church this and our Wednesday evening Youth Groups have benefited hugely from the **higher profile** that iSingPop brought us. Its been brilliant!"*



Mustard Seed grant for **You, Me and a Cup of Tea**

*"Following on from a community day held at the end of 2023, we started this group in order to **reach out to the community**. There has been a growth in numbers since starting due to the publicity used to reach out beyond the church building. There have been a couple of encouraging things which have happened. The first is that a bereaved relative of a church member now regularly comes with a friend to each monthly meeting & the second was seeing several people from the community come when we had a speaker about fire safety in the home."*

Mission Fund

Up to £30k



Mustard Seed

Up to £500



Offa House Spirituality Capital Fund

Up to £30k

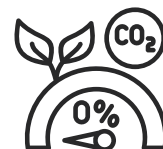
Buildings Fund

Up to £10k



Net Zero Fund

Up to £25k



Quick Win

Up to £1,500



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Chocolate Church

"Chocolate Church has been a truly joyful and transformative project, exceeding our expectations in both reach and impact. It was designed as a free, accessible, all-age expression of church rooted in fun, creativity, hospitality, and gentle Christian reflection – and it has absolutely delivered on that aim. Thanks to the £2,500 grant, we were able to run a number of free, fully-resourced events welcoming up to 100 people (around 65 children plus their adults). The funding covered high-quality craft supplies, food for all attendees, professional branding, and equipment including an iPad for creating social media content, posters, and photo montages to promote our events. Following an engaging and often interactive Christian talk led by our Children's and Families Leader, Chocolate Church offers children and their adults time to then engage independently in a range of crafts and chocolate-themed activities (each with a Christian theme or reflection point). We then gather together for a hot meal – usually cooked by Joy from Stratford's Stepping Stones homeless charity. Our sessions – especially those at Christmas, Easter, and Valentine's – were full to capacity."



"Activities included chocolate slime, friendship bracelets, Oreo lollipops, and scavenger hunts for Bible verses. Meals included jacket potatoes with various toppings (some ingredients donated by Morrisons, others from the DMF grant). Feedback has been outstanding. At Valentine's, 77% of attendees were returnees. 100% of those surveyed said the activities were appropriate, interesting, and engaging. 90% felt the level of Christianity was "just right," and 80% said they would consider attending a regular church service if it were child-friendly."

"The legacy is already visible: - Regular events continue to draw new and returning families. - Chocolate Drop and Hot Chocolate & Toast have grown from its success. - Volunteers feel part of something meaningful and joyful. - Families facing social and financial hardship now know the church as a place of warmth and care. Chocolate Church has brought life and the younger generation into church, created opportunities for faith exploration, and opened the door to gentle pastoral care for families who need it most."



"Chocolate Church has revitalised engagement with our church community, welcoming hundreds of people – many previously disconnected from church – into our space in a way that is non-judgmental, inclusive, and meaningful."

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Refounding the Junior Choir

"The Junior Choir of All Saints' Leamington Spa has now been up and running again for over a year, having been re-founded with the generous support of the DMF. Over this time, we have grown membership to 14 children between the ages of 5 and 13. This project has **brought 11 new families to church**, welcoming them into our community and giving the children an opportunity to explore faith through our Children's Church activities. Through learning & singing liturgical music we have unpacked some of the key aspects of the Christian faith. Many of the children have started to take an active interest in participating with the wider liturgy. We have reached families from a diverse range of racial and socio-economic backgrounds, many of whom have limited access to other music education. **Over 70% of our children are from GMH backgrounds** and, in a tradition that is still often skewed towards boy choristers, over 80% of our Junior Choir choristers are girls. The engagement of university students as helpers for this project has been hugely beneficial to both the children in the choir, and the university students themselves. The children have a role model to look up to and learn from, whilst the university students develop their pastoral care skills. By working with the Director of Music they also learn how to musically engage and educate the children, and how to balance making sessions both fun and educational for the children. This project has brought choral church music to a new generation of singers, who will help maintain the tradition in the years to come. In addition, it has given university students the opportunity to develop their musical leadership skills, nurturing the Church Music Directors of the future."

Mustard Seed grant for Community Green Growthers

"We grew amazing tomato plants that produced abundantly, plus we had great success with courgettes and squash. A tomato seed went awol and self-set between 2 Paving slabs and produced the most glorious crop ever! This was a real parable of **survival against all odds**, and fruitfulness in great adversity which **spoke to our congregation**."

Mustard seed grant for Messy Christmas

"Our monthly Messy Church events, including special celebrations for Messy Christmas and Messy Easter, have become important community gatherings. We have **reached 72 children**, not counting parents and babies, thanks to our structured approach of crafts, songs, teaching and shared meals. Messy Church offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with families and children. We have seen some families return consistently to participate in other activities, such as holiday clubs, light parties, and family Bible clubs during the school holidays. However, serving a community that is very diverse in terms of culture, language, and religion has presented unique challenges. Many families openly expressed that their main interest was the activities and food, stating that they were not interested in Bible teaching or worship due to their Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu faith. Reflecting on these experiences, I am reminded of Jesus teaching diverse crowds, encountering a wide variety of audiences, from admirers to sceptics. Just as Jesus instructed his disciples to feed the 5,000, we recognise the importance of serving the community we have, even if it is more complex than leading homogeneous groups. Our primary goal was to ensure that all families and children felt God's love, felt safe, seen, celebrated, and supported, and to share the story of Christmas. We believe these goals were met, and **we trust that God has truly 'captivated some hearts'**."



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"We replaced our ancient **AV system** screens and sound system to have HDMI instead of AVG connections.

This also provided a hearing loop too to be compliant with Disability Discrimination legislation for people in our congregation who are hard of hearing. We have been able to hold band gigs and Messy Church, Crib, Carol Service and Christingle, Summer Brunch Club and our weekly Sunday services using a reliable AV. People have commented that the new screens are so much clearer they can see at the back of church. They also feel us they can hear properly. People who are partially sighted or with hearing loss find they **can take part in services more easily**.

Top tip: **take early advice from DAC** and a reputable AV company – we obtained 3 quotes."

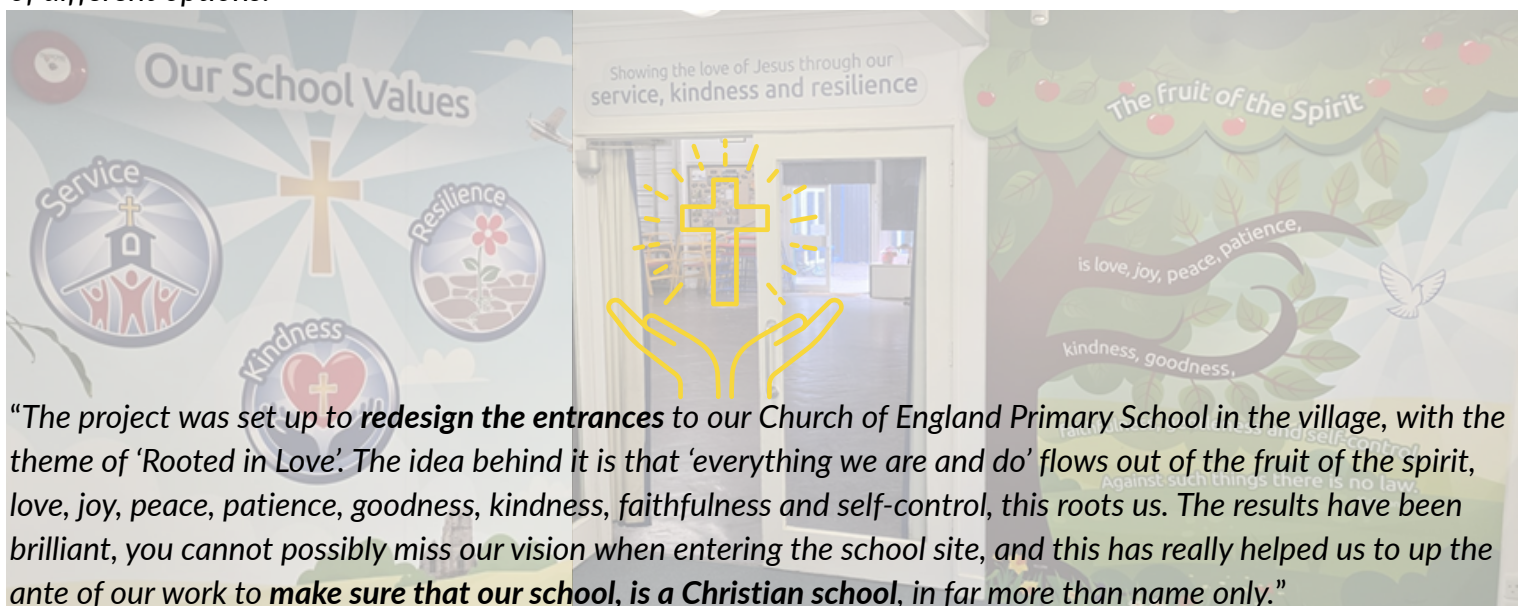
Removing the wall between the small meeting room and choir vestry to make a **large meeting room**.

"The church has always been proactive in organising community events; the larger room has enabled us to extend these events and also allowed the room to be hired. The Knit and Natter Group started by the church out grew the old space, this has now **returned to church** and some members have become actively involved in other church activities and events."

Installation of a **projector, a screen and a monitor**

"The screen has enabled us to **develop our family service**, and also to start a new, less traditional service once a month. This has helped the church to not just grow numerically, but also to **see our age demographic fall quite noticeable**.

Top tip: Visit other churches and speak to people about strengths /weaknesses of different options."



"The project was set up to **redesign the entrances** to our Church of England Primary School in the village, with the theme of 'Rooted in Love'. The idea behind it is that 'everything we are and do' flows out of the fruit of the spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness and self-control, this roots us. The results have been brilliant, you cannot possibly miss our vision when entering the school site, and this has really helped us to up the ante of our work to **make sure that our school, is a Christian school, in far more than name only**."

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AUTUMN 2025

Net Zero Grant for Solar Panels

*"The solar installation will **reduce the annual energy footprint by 5 tonnes of CO₂**. In addition, so far this year it has provided 62% of the electricity used by the church. March and April bills were much reduced, May and June have been negative (that is, we are earning more than we spend).*

Top tips:

Be mindful of appearances, it will matter to the Planning department. Better a modest array that you can have, than the super-size array you can't get permission for.

Investigate import and export tariffs ahead of time, so when it matters you're already where you want to be. Export payments vary, make sure you have the Business rate, not Domestic. And with a battery you may want to charge from the Grid overnight in winter to use in the daytime. Battery makes vary in their flexibility.

Learn what you can, where you can. Facebook has Solar & battery UK and others. So you can learn to sift the good suppliers from the rogues. Join me in 'Churches Seeking Net Zero.'"



Net Zero Quick Win for upgrading to LED Lighting

*"The energy efficient lighting has had a huge impact on the progression towards net zero by 2030 as the recent improvement in lighting technology means that this new installation of LED's to replace the old fluorescent lights reduces a significant proportion of the energy usage in the church as a whole. The cheap cost compared to the large impact also highlights the effectiveness of this project and its result. The overall carbon footprint of the church will be reduced by an estimated 590kg CO₂ annually and an estimated **£542.17 is saved annually from the reduced electrical consumption by converting all our lights to LED.**"*

Apply now...

1. Head to www.coventry.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/finance/grant-funding
2. Read the Grants Guidance document
3. Download and complete an application form and Area Dean Support form (where applicable)
4. Submit you completed application to Jo Hands at the email address below.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or need any help please contact Jo -

jo.hands@coventry.anglican.org

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