

Friends of Somerset Churches & Chapels

Registered Charity No 1055840

**Correspondence and applications to
Angela M W Dudley, Grants Secretary.
Whynot Cottage, Wellow, BATH, Somerset, BA2 8QA.
Tel: 01225 837134**

GRANT POLICY:

The Trust's primary objective is to give help to historic churches and chapels that are in use as places of Christian worship, in the historic county of Somerset. Preference will be given to smaller communities but applications from those with a higher potential for fund raising will, of course, be considered. Grants can be an amount up to £5,000, but in exceptional circumstances may be up to a maximum of £10,000.

Grants are normally restricted to repairs to the main fabric of the church (walls, roofs, towers, drainage, etc) but may also be given for specific items of repair or towards phased repair projects. Grants are not given for basic maintenance, bells, decorations, ornaments, lighting, heating, organs, boundary walls and churchyard maintenance, nor for alterations, extensions or re-ordering schemes. However, if church membership is less than twenty-five, a small grant to cover some routine maintenance repairs may be considered.

Grants will not be considered if work has started before the application has been received and registered with the Grant's Secretary, and normally work should not start on site until a grant offer is made. In the case of major restorations and for buildings of outstanding architectural merit, the Trust will normally be able to consider a grant before the outcome of an application to English Heritage or the Heritage Lottery Fund is known, although the Trust reserve the right to request further information as a condition of their offer. It is presumed that the applicant has also considered applying for aid from other sources - the National Churches Trust, denominational funds, and so on.

GUIDELINES:

The following factors will be considered:

- Historic importance and architectural merit of the building.
- Parish size and church membership.
- Value of proposed work.
- Church funds available and grants obtained.
- Amount spent on repairs, extensions or re-ordering in recent years.
- Future commitments and fund-raising expectations.

The Trust will be the final authority for making grants and it will be guided by the definitions of the Trust Deed, comments from the Trustee's Management Committee and by these guidelines, which are intended to ensure consistency, uniform treatment and the most appropriate use of Trust funds. The Trustees reserve the right to publicise any project and grant offered.

The Trustees can not be held liable for any advice, act or omission of any Trustee or representative of the committee, or for any defective work or the standard of workmanship achieved.

It is also requested that, should a grant be offered and accepted, the church display a 'Trust poster' advertising the grant, and perhaps place a small statement in the parish news letter, to encourage individuals in the area to become Friends of the Trust -for without member's subscriptions, we have no money to give!

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APPLICATIONS:

Applications should be made on the Trust's application form, which can be obtained from the Grant's Secretary or downloaded from the website. When completed, it should be returned to the Grant's Secretary, together with the documents requested. An independent Architect or Surveyor will assess the application for eligibility and quality and for the Trust's Area Representative to visit the church or chapel before reporting to the Trustees. The Trustees meet four times a year (normally in January, April, July & October) and will adjudicate the application presented.

GRANT PROCEDURE:

- The Trust will only make grants for work that is supervised by an architect/surveyor who is 'up-to-date' in conservation and repair techniques for old buildings and who has the appropriate professional qualifications and indemnity insurance.
- A detailed specification and/or drawings drawn up by a registered architect or chartered building surveyor to cover the works must have been approved by the applying church or chapel and the appropriate statutory authority, (in the case of the Church of England, DAC Consent & Faculty). A copy of this authority should accompany any application. Any variations proposed as the work proceeds must be notified to the Trust.
- A fully priced schedule of works, builder's estimate or tender document must be submitted with the application, together with all relevant drawings and/or photographs explaining the works.
- Applicants must declare all funds available for the project, including those held in trust.
- Any further appeal literature, fund-raising information or proposed applications to other grant-aiding authorities should be declared at the time of applying.
- Where major repairs are phased over a period of more than two years, applications for assistance can be made separately for each phase of the repairs at the appropriate time. Documentation to cover each phase will be required.

GRANT PAYMENTS:

Grant payments can be made against the architect/surveyor's interim certificate as work progresses, or at completion, provided that the value of the work done has exceeded the grant by a factor of two. The Trust reserves the right to withdraw grant offers if not accepted within two calendar months, if work has not been completed, or if a certificate of practical completion has not been provided within eighteen months of the date of the grant offer. An extension of time (normally for a 12 month period) can be given upon request.

Successful grant applicants will be required to become Church Members of the FSCC for a period of not less than 3 years (£25.p/a) and encourage members of the parish to become individual members.