

Funds for Mission

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." Matthew 13.32-32

Funds for Mission are to help us buy more mustard seeds. We need to plant many more seeds so that we can have more shrubs to the glory of God. We need the glorious trees and shrubs because God's creatures need more places fit for their nests.

To mix up our parables a little, we know that some of the seeds will fall on stony ground, or be choked by weeds, or be carried off by the birds that we were trying to help. We want to help you to think about what sort of soil you are planting, and what sort of trees and shrubs and grain you are trying to grow, hence the questions in the form and the support that will be available via Church House.

We are stewards of these funds, it is all God's money, not ours. To mix in one last parable, the Lord may well ask us what we did with the talents and gifts that we are given, so we should be prayerful and wise, but also courageous and seek to join in God's mission, where the blessings are abundant for God is generous and faithful.

A message from the Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen

Dear Friends,

I rejoice because if you are reading this then you are thinking about God's mission, and there are few things more likely to warm my heart than that.

These few lines from me are to encourage you to respond prayerfully and with generosity to God's call: the wind of the Spirit is moving among us and leading us beyond ourselves to seek fresh and innovative opportunities to love and serve and share.

"Funds for Mission" are blessings to help us join in with God's mission, and that mission is to reflect in heart and hand the passions and priorities of Jesus. The "five priorities" of The Saints Way help us to do that, so I encourage you to read that again if you haven't read it recently and pray with me that God's will be done in Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, St Giles on the Heath and in Virginstow.

With my prayers that God will prosper your endeavour,

+Philip Truro

The Vision

Discovering God's Kingdom; Growing the Church.

Purpose

The Diocese of Truro offers two levels of grant funding to encourage and support parishes in their mission.

This funding is particularly aimed at projects that fit with the vision of the Diocese of Truro and can meet at least one of the five strategic Diocesan priorities:

1. A Church that celebrates children and young people at its heart:
2. A Church that embraces an innovative and pioneering culture:
3. A Church that is being transformed from the inside out:
4. A Church that rejoices in its international links
5. A Church that rejoices in the generosity of God

What grants are available?

Small grant up to £5,000

Large grant £5,000 or above

It is hoped that you will be able to offer match funding for any application, we recognise that this may not always be possible, and sometimes this will be 'in kind', not in cash. Large grants will require a proportion of match funding, please see the application guidance for more information. We do understand that sometimes this funding will be a catalyst for you being able to obtain grants from other funders, and this is ok, just talk to us about it!

Key criteria

The project must

1. Meet at least one of the five strategic Diocesan priorities. Applications are more likely to be successful if they can meet more than one.
2. Be included or aligned with your deanery plan.
3. Have support of your vicar (or if not possible, the Rural Dean).
4. Not negatively impact upon the MMF contributions made by a parish.

The applicant must

1. Be willing to share learning from their project with others.
2. Be willing and able to provide regular progress reports.

Who can apply?

Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) are expected to be the applicant in most cases, with confirmation of support from their vicar (or Rural Dean if without a vicar).

Please note that MMF contributions, PCC accounts and any previous grants awarded will be considered as part of the process.

Applications will be considered for ecumenical applicants in partnership with a Church of England organisation or group.

Do not start an application before you have spoken to our team. Please contact them on fundsformission@truro.anglican.org

What you can spend the money on

We can fund a wide range of items, and below are some examples of these. This isn't exhaustive, so you should contact us if you're unsure.

We can fund:

- equipment
- one-off events
- small capital projects
- staff costs
- training costs
- transport
- utilities/running costs
- volunteer expenses.

We can't fund:

- alcohol
- contingency costs, loans*, endowments or interest
- electricity generation and feed-in tariff payments.
- paying someone else to write your application
- political activities
- recoverable VAT*
- Costs you have already incurred

* Loans are separately available in some circumstances, for cashflow purposes.

Making an impact

Applicants must be able to clearly express what the expected outcomes of the project are. Outcomes are preferred to outputs (outcome is a result such as 20 people who come to faith, output is the process such as 20 people attended a course). Any percentages given need to have a starting point (a baseline) to give

context (i.e. we have increased our child attendance by 100% is great, but we need to know how many attended before too).

Examples of outcomes could include:

- New believers, disciples of Jesus
- Leaders able to support families having completed training
- Number of people freed from debt
- Number of people feeling more confident to enter church

Timetable

Small grants: Considered monthly by the Funds for Mission Panel.

Large grants: Considered monthly by the Senior Leadership Team.

Deadline for applications is the last day of the month but we cannot guarantee that grants will be considered at the next meeting, this will depend on whether there are additional questions before consideration or if there a significant number of applications that month.

Please also read the flow chart called 'How Funds for Mission Works' available here <https://trurodiocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/How-funds-for-mission-works.pdf> to help you chose the right grant for you.