

Funds for Mission Guidance

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. And in this way be both fruitful and sustainable.

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 Virginistow.

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, and in this mission being fruitful and sustainable.

This funding is particularly aimed at projects that fit with the vision of the Diocese of Truro as expressed in The Saints Way [available [here](#)].

At the heart of The Saints Way is the call to be '*the most Christ-like church we can be, expressing most faithfully the presence, mind and heart of Christ in all we say, do and are*' and '*to make Christ known in our particular Cornish context*'. These two fundamental calls are unpacked in 5 priorities, detailed below.

With that in mind, your application will need to show how your project enables your church to be 'Christ-like' and to 'make Christ known in your context'. Applications will also need to show that the project can meet at least one of the five 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 increasingly confident in its calling
4. A Church that rejoices in its international links
5. A Church that rejoices in the generosity of God (which includes our commitment to serving those in poverty)

What grants are available?

Grants up to £5,000

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. Applications will be more likely to succeed if you can demonstrate your own contribution. 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. Show how it will enable their church (or group) to be 'Christ-like' and to 'make Christ known'
2. Meet at least one of the five strategic Diocesan priorities. Applications are more likely to be successful if they can meet more than one.
3. Be included or aligned with your deanery plan.
4. Have support of your vicar (or if not possible, the Rural Dean).
5. 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 funding@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
- activities that are not missional

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

Having a plan

Applicants need to be able to explain what the overall goal of the project is and what the objectives are.

A goal is the end result, for example it might be to ‘increase the presence of the church in the community’ or ‘to grow the discipleship of the congregation’ or to ‘give local young people a chance to explore their faith’.

An objective is a statement that describes what you plan to achieve with your project, breaking down the goal into manageable steps. It is wise not to have more than 3-4 objectives. Examples might be ‘to establish a regular youth night’ or ‘to set up a community garden as a place to share faith with the community’ or to ‘train people in XXX so that they are equipped to grow discipleship’.

Objectives ideally should be SMART = Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant and Time Bound (i.e. in a defined period of time).

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

Grants are considered monthly by the Funds for Mission Panel.

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](#) to help you chose the right grant for you.

Please note that grant recipients will receive 75% of the funding in advance, with 25% being paid on completion or at six months (whichever comes first) and upon receipt of progress report.

Filling in the form

You can do it electronically or on paper.

Please answer the questions fully, making sure where we have specified exactly what kind of information we want, that you provide it.

Getting help

If you can any questions about applying please contact the Funds for Mission advisor you have been allocated, and they can help you with the form and with the thinking about your project.