

# Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

## Further sources of funding

### Self-help

There is much a parish can do to help itself by way of fund-raising, and many grant-making bodies will want to see that this has been done, despite any difficulties. The wider community can be brought in to help in many fund-raising activities.

### Checklist:

The following checklist may help to identify opportunities which are not already generating part of the normal revenue of the church and which can be used to find extra funds. Examples of results achieved by some parishes are shown:

Gift days	Over £1000 after a letter drop
Car boot or 'garage' sales	£400 in one afternoon
Bring and buy stalls	+/- £65 one morning each week
Promises auctions	Over £3000 in one evening
Variety concert	£200 in one evening
Approach to local business	Printer produces brochure free of charge

### Giving schemes:

It is also important to look at the plate collections and other giving within the Church. Stewardship campaigns, envelope and Gift Aid schemes are all to be considered and promoted in appropriate circumstances, and advice about these is available from Diocesan offices and elsewhere. Even if the income from these sources is needed for day-to-day expenses, enhancement of such giving can free up 'one-off' opportunities such as the annual Gift Day, allowing that to be refocused to an appeal fund.

### Routine expenditure:

A hard look at the day-to-day expenditure and at the investment of any funds held by the Church is crucial to ensure the financial well-being of the parish. Insurance, to avoid unexpected demands on cash in the event of mishap or vandalism, is essential.

### Door-to-door calling:

The results in approaching individuals in the wider community cannot be overstated. Many people who do not come to church or chapel are determined to see the character of a village or town preserved and will lend support when least expected. Door-to-door calling may seem daunting, but, with a supporting brochure in hand, it is a highly effective way to generate new ideas, real enthusiasm, interest and support.

### Targeting:

Approaches to wealthy individuals and local charities are similarly best carried out through personal contact. It is sometimes easier to obtain the support of someone who knows someone who might be able to help than to make the contact 'cold'. Likewise, local members of charities like Rotary, Lions, and the Round Table may be able to help. The increasing urbanisation of the area gives opportunities to approach many businesses, and while personal contact is the most successful method of approach, your local Council will be able to provide you with details of their names and addresses compiled in the register for local Business Tax.

### Pledging:

Encouraging individuals to make pledges to donate regularly - particularly if backed by a Banker's Order and Gift Aid - is a most effective way of raising funds.

### Other Grant-Making Bodies

The terms of reference and giving rules of many trusts and grant-making bodies are changing with increasing frequency. An increasing number of charities are no longer considering applications from individual churches and are making block grants to other charitable organisations who administer for them.

*Continued overleaf*

### **Where to look:**

There are many publications and resources in libraries and available from private-sector organisations to help you identify likely sources of funding. It is well worth identifying someone with access to the World Wide Web to help in this task. Numerous search engines will be able to help you find guidance on resources, and some unexpected and up-to-date information about other sources. The following leads may be useful:

**Historic Churches Preservation Trust** [www.historicchurches.org.uk](http://www.historicchurches.org.uk)

The Historic Churches Preservation Trust, 31 Newbury Street, London EC1A 7HU. Tel: 020 7600 6090. The Trust's main purpose is to help churches that are at least one hundred years old and in need of structural repair.

**Directory of Social Change** [www.dsc.org.uk](http://www.dsc.org.uk)

24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP. Tel: 020 7391 4800. DSC produces the Grantseeker CD Rom, *The Guide to the Major Trusts* (an annual directory), and runs a website with over 4000 Trusts listed.

**The Architectural Heritage Fund** [www.ffhb.org.uk](http://www.ffhb.org.uk)

The AHF runs a website with search facility. It has extensive guidance on raising funds for historic buildings including churches, from the mundane to the modern, such as mobile phone transmitters on towers. The organisation does not make grants itself, and no direct contact information is given.

**English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund** [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

Repair Grants for Places of Worship is a scheme funded by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Criteria change annually and funds tend to run out fairly rapidly. Initial applications for grants should be sent to English Heritage South East Region, Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street, Guildford, GU1 3EH. Tel: 01483 252000.

Subsequently applications for help with monuments etc can be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund itself. Heritage Lottery Fund, South East England, 7 Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NR. Tel: 020 7591 6000. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

**The Council for the Care of Churches** [www.churchcare.co.uk](http://www.churchcare.co.uk)

Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ Tel: 020 7898 1885. The Council publishes a wide range of specialist and general booklets on the care of churches and churchyards.

**The Institute of British Organ Building** [www.ibo.co.uk](http://www.ibo.co.uk)

13 Ryefields, Thurston, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 3TD. Tel: 01359 233433.

Their 'Help Fundraising' page provides some useful resources for general fund-raising as well as for organs.

There are opportunities to enlist help and support from a number of other sources which may have particular relevance to your appeal:

#### **Patron**

In the Church of England, the Patron is not always a wealthy individual or an institution but may be in a position to help. Some discreet enquiries and cultivation may be necessary.

#### **Parish Council**

Approaches to your Parish Council (civil) where relevant may prove worth while. Experience shows that Parish Councils may sometimes be prepared to make small grants or low-interest loans to support places of public worship. They may also be able to help with maintenance of churchyards.

#### **Local Authority**

Local Authorities can contribute to the repair of historic buildings. They usually have strict guidelines, approval and inspection processes. Contact should be made with the Building Conservation Officer or Chief Planning Officer of your District Council.

If you need any further help, please contact your OHCT Deanery Representative.

[www.ohct.org.uk](http://www.ohct.org.uk)