Applying to the Heritage Fund: Places of Worship Leeds Diocese May 2025

What is happening?

- repair needs
- falling congregations
- lack of volunteers
- finance
- use



Image credit: Cheadle Moon, St Giles the Abbot


Heritage
Fund
Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future.

National Lottery Heritage Grants

£10,000 – £250,000

- project enquiry form service available
- Single round application
- no deadlines to apply
- 8 week assessment
- maximum 5 years
- no mandatory match funding
- respond to Investment Principles

National Lottery Heritage Grants

£250,000 – £10million

- mandatory expression of interest form
- two round application: development and delivery
- 3 month assessment for each application
- quarterly deadlines to apply
- minimum 5% match funding for grant up to £1m and 10% for over £1m
- respond to investment principles

Who do we fund?

- not-for-profit organisations
- private owners of a heritage asset up to £250k
- partnerships

For example,

- community and parish councils
- faith based or church organisations

Image credit:



Heritage Fund

What do we fund?

- projects that **connect** people and communities to the UK's heritage

- projects that take into account our **four investment principles**



Image credit: Birmingham Cathedral – Divine beauty

Investment principles



Saving heritage

Protecting the environment

Inclusion, access and participation

Organisational sustainability

Heritage Fund

Saving heritage

Conserving and valuing heritage for now and the future.

Why? To ensure heritage remains accessible, relevant, sustainable and valued.

How? Commit funding to protect, conserve and revitalise heritage.



Image credit: Townsend St exterior, Ulster Orchestra

Saving heritage



Title: Marks Tey: Stories and Spires
Award: £156,214
Organisation: The PCC of Marks Tey
Area/Country: East Midlands

Vision: This project will carry out essential repairs to the historic fabric including spire shingles, tower frame, repointing and stonework. Archive digitisation, community activities and volunteer skills development also undertaken.

Achievements:

- full repair enables future use
- archive digitised
- oak planting, bird and bat boxes
- accessible tours and exhibition
- maintenance plans
- volunteer skills



Image credit: tbc

Protecting the environment

Supporting nature recovery and environmental sustainability.

Why? To help the UK meet its nature recovery target and mitigate the impact of climate change.

How? Support environmentally sustainable projects and caring for nature.



Image credit: Buttercup identification at Whitton Church Shropshire

Protecting the environment

Title: Bats in Churches
Award: 3,802,700
Organisation: Natural England
Area/Country: England

Vision: This 5-year project aimed to help bats thrive and minimise their impact on human activity.

Achievements:

- 100 ancient churches in England
- Surveys of 750 churches
- Strong partnerships
- Volunteer training
- Best practice solutions







Inclusion, access and participation

Support greater inclusion, diversity, access and participation in heritage.

Why?

To ensure everyone has opportunities to learn, develop new skills and explore heritage.

How?

Investing in volunteering, heritage careers, co-creating projects, leadership, governance and heritage skills.



Image credit: tbc

Inclusion, access and participation

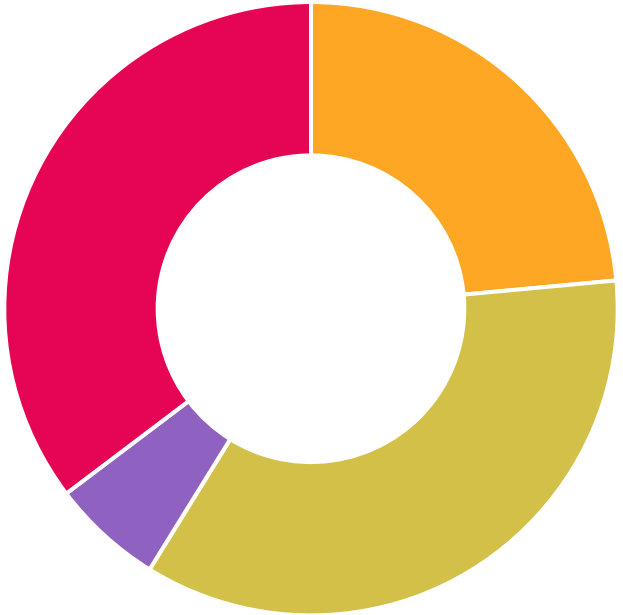


Title: A brighter future
Award: £906,000
Organisation: St Conan's Kirk
Area/Country: Scotland

Vision: to engage many more people with this exceptional building through responding to identified need and addressing the wellbeing and loneliness in this rural community

Achievements:

- address wellbeing and loneliness in rural
- communities.
- conservation of fabric and access and
- energy improvements





Organisational sustainability

Strengthening heritage to be adaptive and financially resilient, contributing to communities and economies.

Why?

To develop skills and capacity leading to a sound long term future that benefits communities and economies.

How?

Providing organisations with capacity and expertise to develop their long-term organisational governance and leadership plans.

Image credit: tbc



Organisational sustainability

Title: Building a future for St James over Darwen
Award: £93,400
Organisation: PCC of St James Over Darwen
Area/Country: North



Vision: to safeguard the future of this grade II church trough organisational resilience and prepare for future capital works and public engagement

Achievements:

- Addressed skills gaps
- Expert advice
- 10 new volunteers
- Volunteer handbook
- Training
- Community activities



A joined-up approach

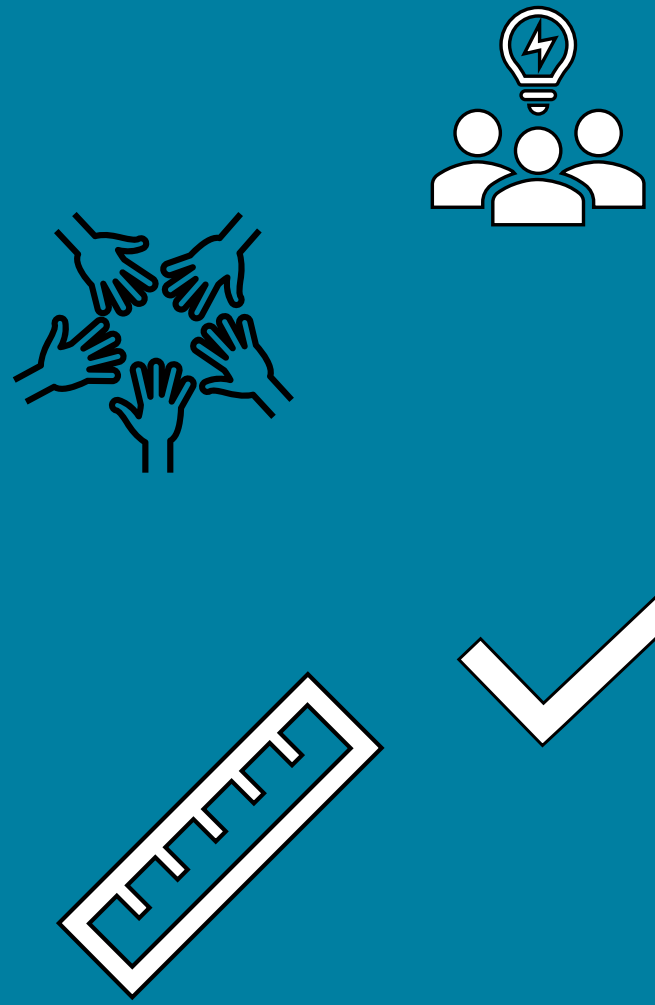
Cohort/thematic groupings

- groupings with similar needs
- a coordinated approach
- address gaps

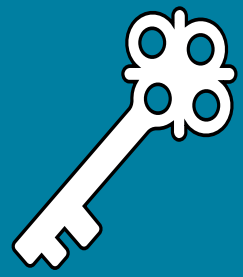


Key considerations

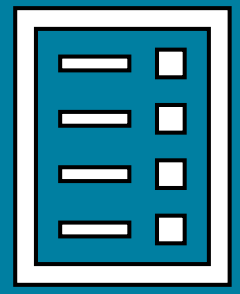
- vision
- team
- need for the project
- advice



Capital works







Consider:
ownership and permissions
any legal requirements
condition surveys
procurement

Consider: digital assets



Examples of reasons for application not being successful

- does not take into account all four Investment Principles
- Mandatory budget requirements for evaluation and contingency not included.
- appointments predetermined and competitive process not been carried out
- only lists capital works and does not include any activities
- Inclusion and participation proposals appear passive rather than targeted
- insufficient detail for a project of this value
- absence of a risk register and costed breakdown of capital works
- lack of any permissions
- High level of unsecured funding
- Evaluation doesn’t reference how overall project impact, investment principles or community response will be measured

Top tips…

- vision
- team
- expert advice
- consultation – talk and listen
- need and demand
- all four investment principles
- partnership funding
- talk to us



Next steps

- talk
- project enquiry/ expression of interest
- webinar under £250k
- online resources



Image credit: ST Hilda’s Hartlepool