

**NATIONAL
CHURCHES**

TRUST

25 April 2024

A red circular logo with the text "NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST" in white, stacked vertically. The word "TRUST" is smaller and positioned below "CHURCHES".

NATIONAL
CHURCHES
TRUST

WELCOME

A photograph of a church interior featuring a long, vaulted nave with a series of stone arches supported by columns. The lighting is warm and focused on the architectural details.

We want to keep
wonderful churches
open and in use

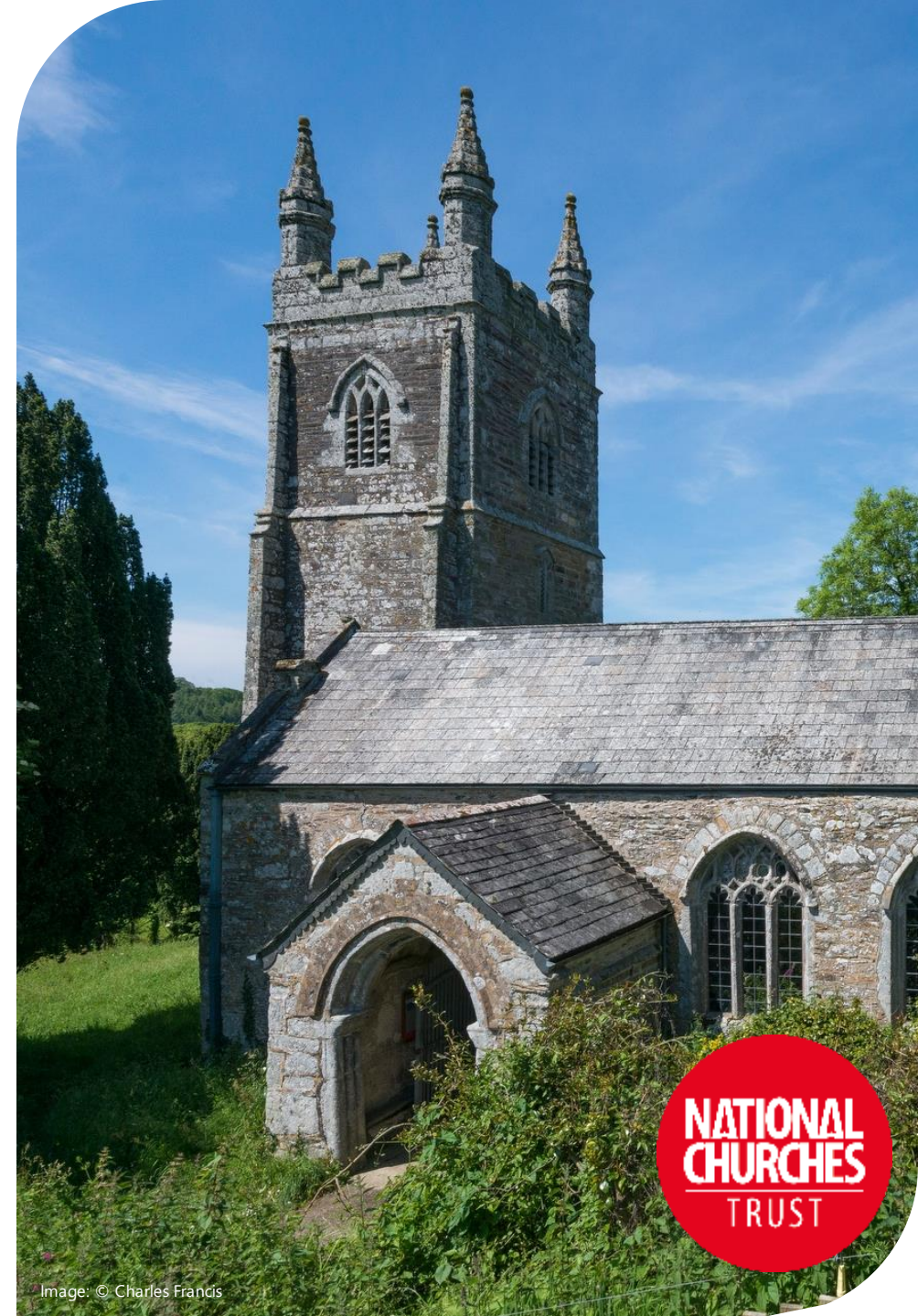
Yours for
good.

WHO ARE WE?

The national charity that helps keep the UK's wonderful collection of church buildings well maintained, valued and used.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Every Church Counts – a six point plan to save the UK's church buildings
- House of Good – social and economic value of church buildings is worth around £55 billion
- HSF Funding - £3.6 million for 32 churches
- NLHF Projects
- Awards made in 2023 – 251 grants totalling £2.26m



A photograph showing three construction workers on a roof. They are wearing safety gear: orange high-visibility jackets, dark helmets, and safety harnesses. They are working on a complex structure of silver metal scaffolding that is being erected over a roof. The roof has a grey shingle pattern. In the background, there are green trees and a stone wall. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

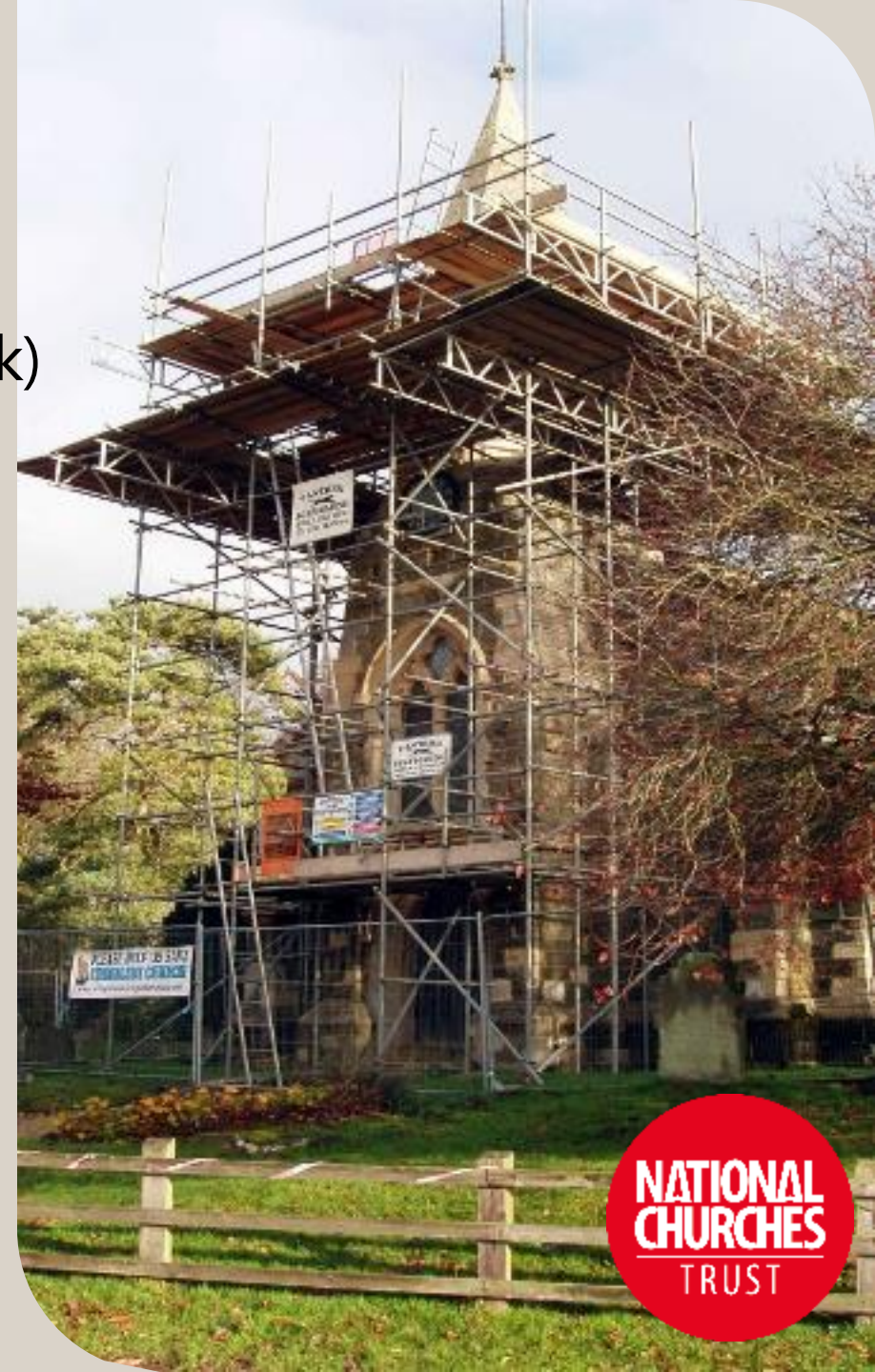
**NATIONAL
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GRANTS

OUR GRANTS

- **Small** Grants: £500 - £5k (exceptionally up to £10k)
 - maintenance/repair projects up to £20k
- **Medium** Grants: Up to £10k
 - project development up to RIBA Stage 1
 - essential repairs costing £20k to £80k
- **Large** Grants: Up to £50k
 - urgent structural repairs costing over £80k
 - new facilities (kitchens/toilets) over £30k

nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants



WHAT WE DON'T FUND

- 30% of applications are ineligible at the outset
- We cannot fund:
 - Heating, lighting, electricity or audio-visual equipment
 - Work to fixtures and fittings e.g. clocks, organs, bells, monuments
 - Restoration of decorative features, e.g. wall paintings, stained glass
 - Work to churchyards, boundary walls, car parks, paths, etc
 - New builds or separate structures





Amazing churches
are important
year round

- [Our impact](#) ▾
- [Get support](#) ▾
- [Explore churches](#) ▾
- [Support us](#) ▾
- [Become a Friend](#)
- [Donate](#)



Grants
Which grant is right for your project?
Grants FAQs
Churches we have helped

Buildings and maintenance
Building projects
Maintenance advice
Looking after your building

Resources
Training
Support organisations
Grant funders

By nation
England
Northern Ireland
Scotland
Wales/Cymru





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- Grants**
 - [Which grant is right for your project?](#)
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 - [Wales/Cymru](#)



Repairs



National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly the Heritage Lottery Fund) [↗](#)

The Heritage Fund has a variety of programmes which might suit your project if it has a heritage and community angle. Contact your local fund office for a chat : www.heritagefund.org.uk/in-your-area [↗](#)

Garfield Weston Foundation [↗](#)

This foundation gives grants for reordering church buildings in order to give greater flexibility of use, including assistance with disabled access. It also helps fund creating kitchen and toilet facilities. Applications are considered on an individual basis monthly. It normally takes three or four months for an application to be processed.

Benefact Trust [↗](#) (Formerly Allchurches Trust)

This funder responds to requests for financial assistance from Anglican churches, churches of other denominations and the wider Christian community. The Trust supports appeals from churches for building and restoration projects, repair of church fabric, church community initiatives, religious charities, charities preserving the UK heritage and other charitable causes.

Landfill Communities Fund [↗](#)

Since 1996 Landfill Operators can choose to re-direct part of their tax bill to local communities near landfill sites rather than paying it to the Treasury. The funds are distributed through Environmental Bodies (such as WREN, Veolia Trust, Suez Communities Trust, Biffa, Viridor Credits, Cory Environmental etc) which are able to support the repair and wider community use of historic places of worship. Check postcode eligibility on each individual own website, or search funds available at [ENTRUST](#) [↗](#).

Churches Trusts

churches [v](#)

Support us [v](#)

Become a Friend

Donate



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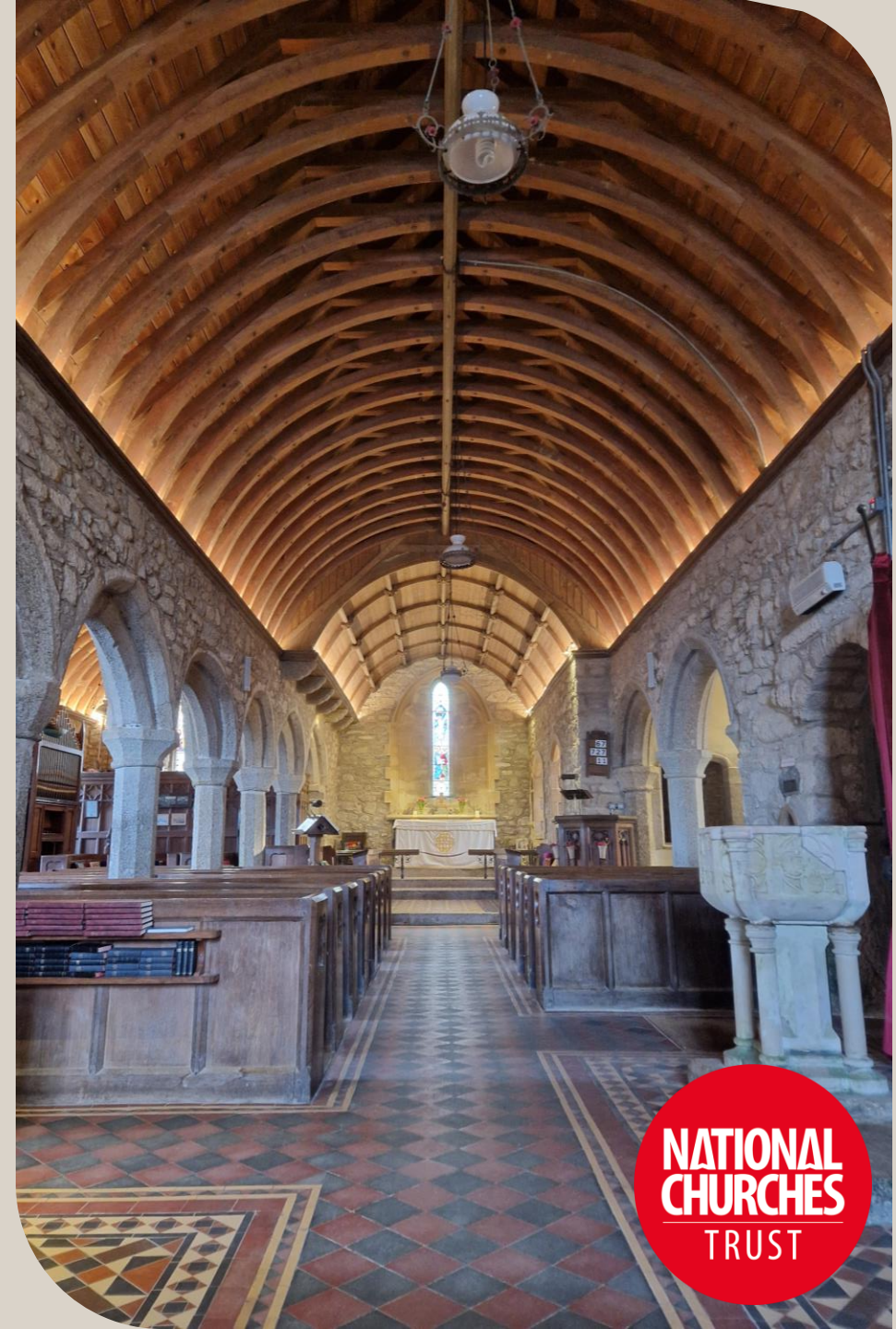


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ELIGIBILITY

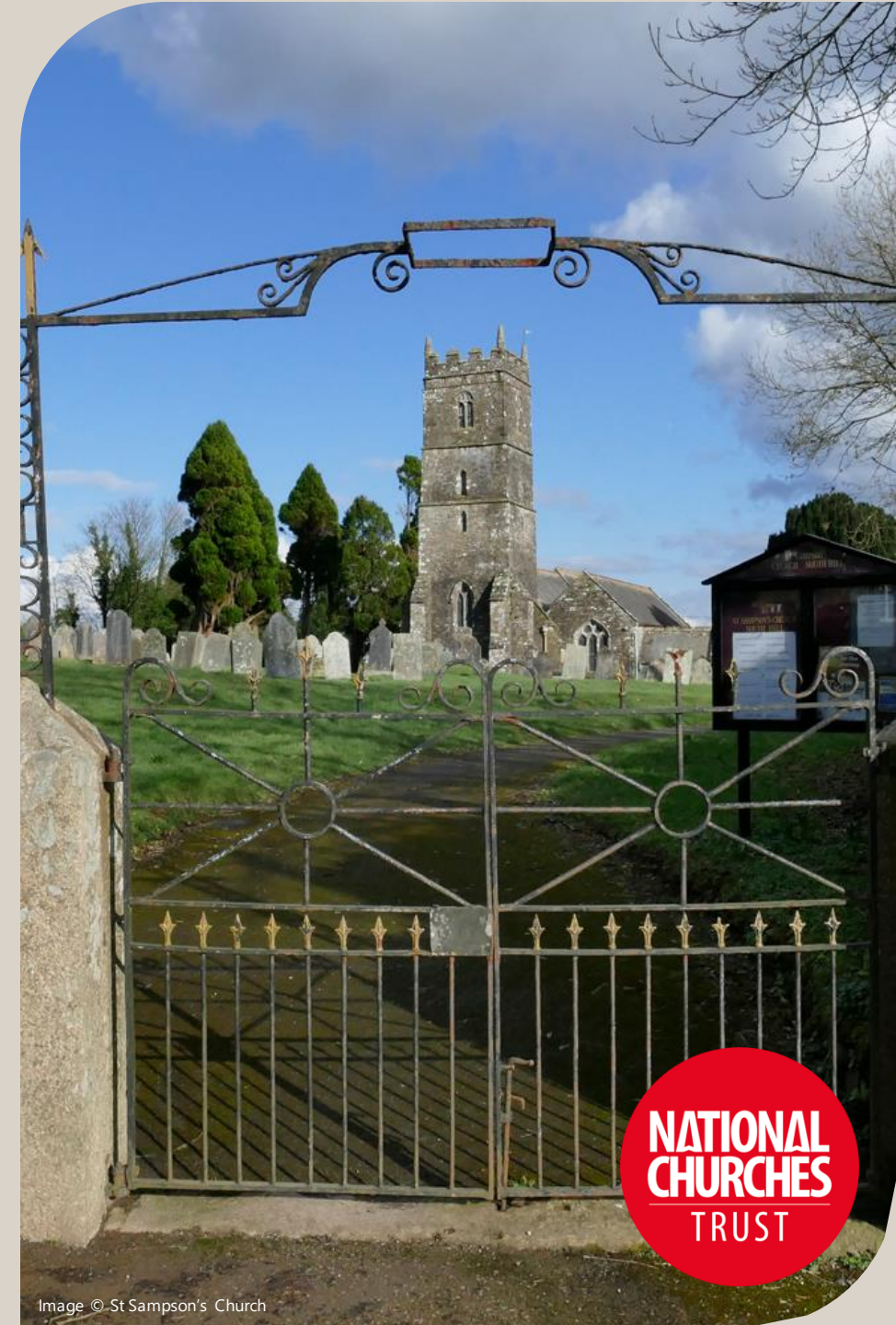
Every application starts with an eligibility quiz

- ✓ Located in the UK
- ✓ Originally built as a place of worship (over 30 years ago) and open for regular public worship
- ✓ Open at least 100 days per year – or within 1 year of completion
- ✓ Work not yet started
- ✓ At least 50% funds raised
- ✓ Leading qualified professional with conservation accreditation if listed
- ✓ Necessary permissions and multiple quotes in place



SMALL GRANTS

- Awards of £500 to £5,000 (exceptionally up to £10,000)
- Maintenance and repair projects up to £20,000
- E.g. small roof repairs, repointing, repairs to rainwater goods
- Work identified in recent Five Year Inspection Report/survey report
- 2 quotes
- Permissions
- Support from lead professional (CA)
- Maintenance plan
- Deadline every 2 months



MEDIUM GRANTS (Project Development)

- Awards up to £10,000
- Project development up to RIBA Stage 1
- E.g. feasibility studies, option appraisals, detailed reports to better understand an issue
- 2 quotes and 50% funds for this element
- Support from lead professional (CA)
- 3 decision rounds

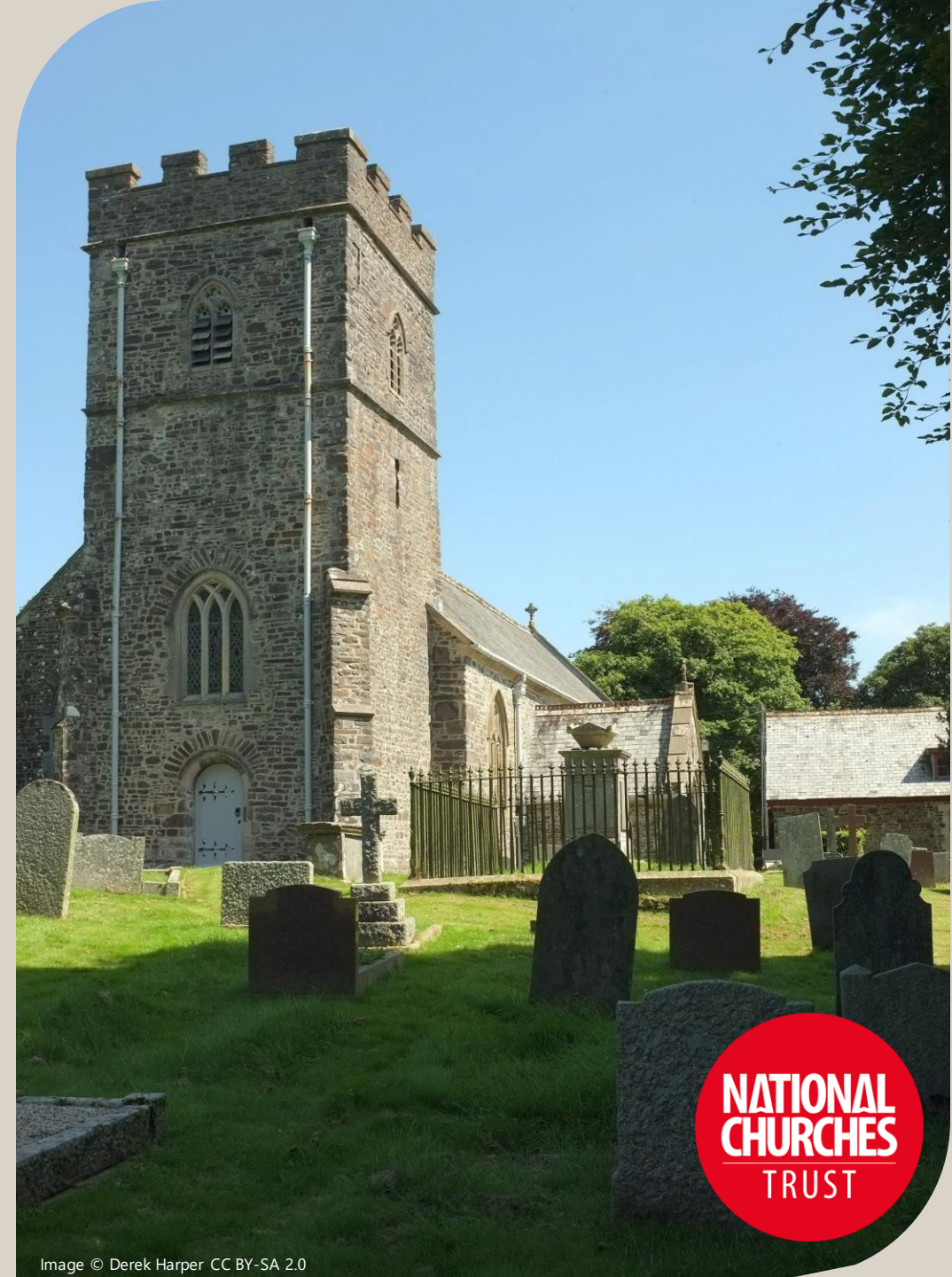


MEDIUM GRANTS (Repair)

- Awards up to £10,000
- Essential repairs costing £20,000 to £80,000
- E.g. roof repairs, masonry repairs, rainwater goods – ideally identified in a recent Five Year Inspection

Report/survey

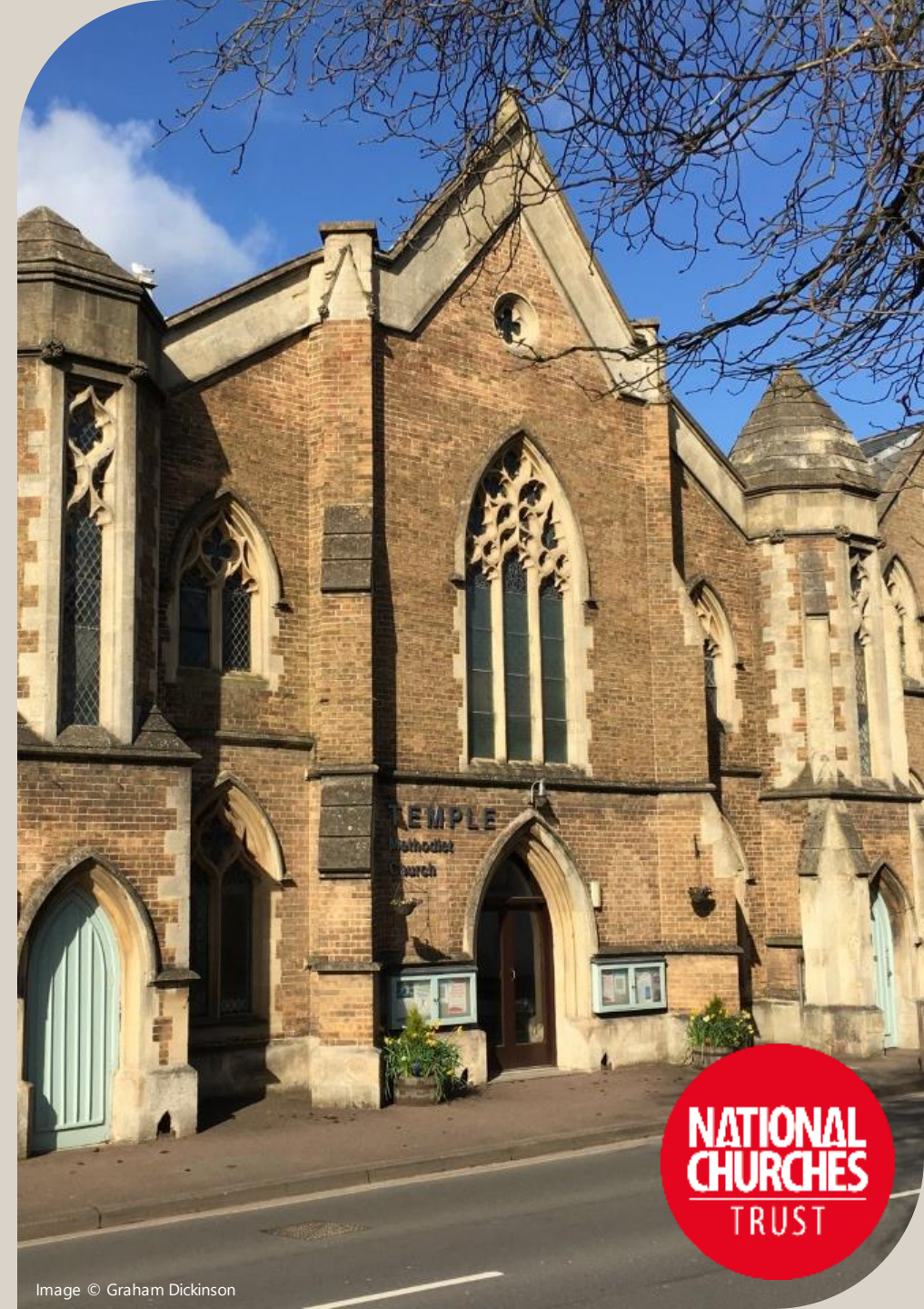
- Permissions, 2 quotes and 50% funds in place
- Conservation accredited lead professional
- 3 decision rounds per year



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LARGE GRANTS

- Awards up to £50,000
- Urgent structural repairs costing over £80,000
- New facilities (kitchens & accessible toilets) over £30,000
- Two stage Process
- Tendered or QS Costs and 50% funding in place
- Permissions
- Conservation Accredited Professional if church is listed
- 3 decision rounds per year



WOLFSON FOUNDATION AND OTHER FUNDERS

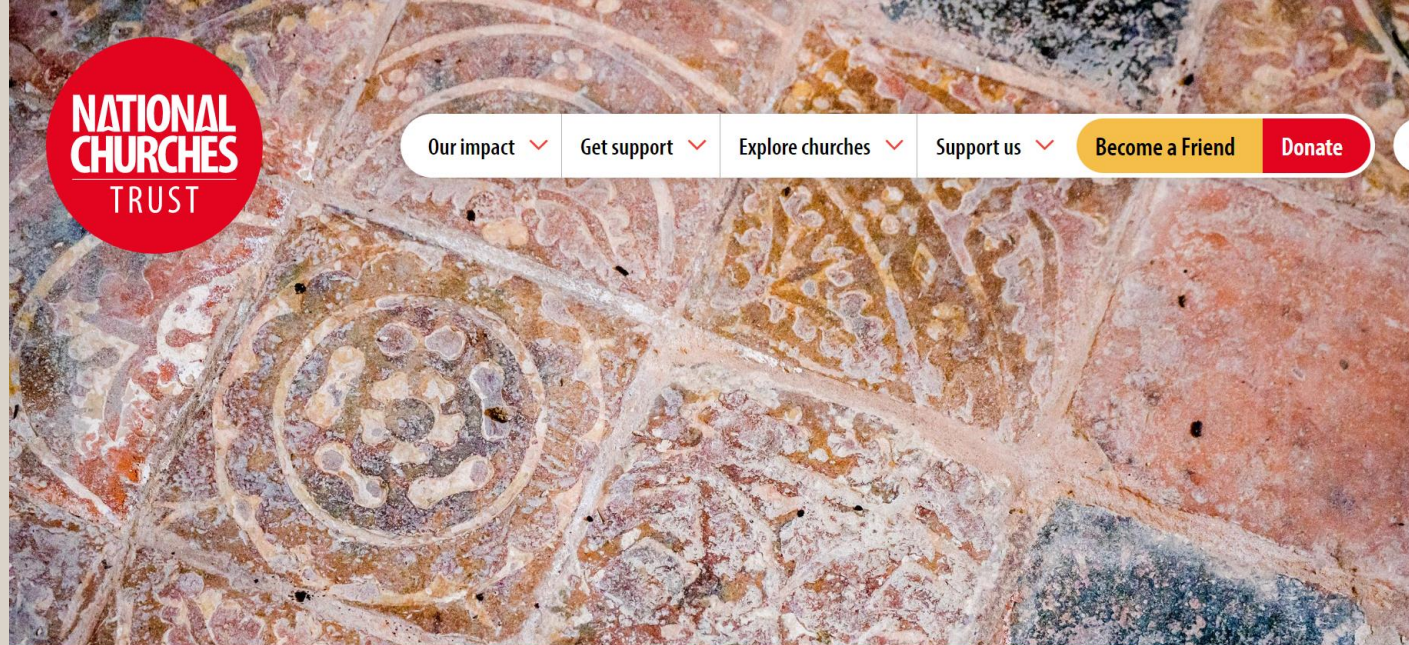
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- Essential fabric repairs for Grade I or II* listed buildings
- Up to £10,000 additional grant – via Medium or Large Programmes
- We recommend to several other funders too
- Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

The Wolfson 
Foundation



nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/grants/



Our grants

Get support > Grants

We support a variety of churches, chapels and meeting houses across the United Kingdom with our grants programmes.

Our grants are available to any Christian place of worship in the UK that is open for regular worship. They help keep church buildings in good repair, open for worship and community activities, and allow them to continue to serve people, communities and visitors in all sorts of ways.

Whether you are looking to repair your roof, install a kitchen or accessible toilets, clear asbestos or simply need help undertaking regular essential maintenance to your building, we offer a range of grants to suit the size and needs of your project.



Large grants

Large grants for urgent structural repair projects and for projects to install kitchens and toilets.



Medium grants

Medium grants to support urgent repair and maintenance issues as well as project development work.



Small grants

Small grants to support small but urgent maintenance and repair issues or to carry out small investigative works.



Treasure Ireland grants

Small to medium grants to support church projects in Northern Ireland.



Wolfson Fabric Repair Grants

Since 2020, we have managed grants made to churches by the Wolfson Foundation. You can apply for a Wolfson grant via our Large or Medium grants programmes.



Cherish grants

Cherish grants for churches in Scotland, Wales/Cymru and North West England to carry out maintenance, urgent repair work or project development.



Large grants

Home > Grants > Cornerstone (large) grants

Status : Open

Next Stage 1 deadline: 7 November (midnight)

Next Stage 2 deadline: you will be notified of this if you pass Stage 1

Grant size : Up to £50,000*

Works cost : Over £80,000 for urgent repairs; over £30,000 for facilities

This programme offers our largest grants of up to £50,000 towards the cost of major urgent structural repair projects costing at more than £80,000 including VAT.

*grants of £40,000 to £50,000 are extremely limited and reserved for cases which demonstrate a very high case for investment.

We will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use, costing at more than £50,000 including VAT. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost.

More information for applicants

Eligibility criteria

How to apply

Decisions

Guidance notes



Large grant guidance note

Introduction

We highly recommend reading this document before starting the online form.

On the following pages you will find the eligibility criteria, programme outcomes, details of how to apply and what supporting documents you will need, some top tips, as well as the terms and conditions of any successful grant application.

The National Churches Trust supports Christian places of worship throughout the United Kingdom that can demonstrate strong community engagement and sound plans for economic viability. Priority is given to projects that demonstrate well-developed plans for the building, that are supported beyond the congregation, and into the future.

If you are still looking for the answer to something when you get to the end, you could also try our [FAQ page](#).

Large grant programme

This programme supports the conservation and sustainable use of church buildings, focusing on larger and more complex projects. Our priority is for funding **urgent structural repairs** costing more than £80,000 including VAT. The **installation of kitchens and accessible toilets** costing more than £30,000 including VAT is also eligible.

The maximum grant under this programme is £50,000. The current average is about £15,000. The current success rate is roughly 1 in 4 applicants.

Grants will only apply to eligible work, but please include the whole phase project costs. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost. Offers are valid for two years. Those applying for £50,000 will need to demonstrate a very strong case for investment. We cannot guarantee that if an award is made that your full request will be met.

Find out more and apply [here](#).

Correct as of 1 March 2023

Please ensure you check our website regularly. Grant programme information may be tweaked over time, please check [our website](#) for latest information.



Yours for good.

Home

Programmes

Privacy

Register

Login

Welcome to the National Churches Trust's Grant Application Site

Our grants are available to support work to church buildings throughout the UK that fulfill the eligibility criteria. We can fund maintenance work, repair work, installation of kitchens and accessible toilets, and some project development work. You must have 50% of funds in place, permissions secured and valid (unless yours is a project development scheme), and a qualified professional leading the project (conservation accredited if the building is listed). Our grants will never exceed 50% of the project costs.

As demand regularly exceeds the funds we have available, we have to limit the sorts of projects we can consider. If your project is not eligible we hope that the information on our website with alternative sources of funding, as well as other resources and buildings advice pages, will be helpful to you.

Please note that we place a strong emphasis on maintenance and being open. We encourage all applicants and grantees to have a maintenance plan and require grantees to be open more than 100 days a year and to feature on our [Explore map](#). Further guidance and help on these can be found on our website [National Churches Trust - regular maintenance](#) and [National Churches Trust - your church](#)

Please read the guidance note available on the relevant programme page of [our website](#) before commencing and if you still have questions please refer to our [FAQs](#). For additional help, please email us: grants@nationalchurchestrust.org

Ready to apply?

Before starting your application, please make sure you have read the guidance notes for your grant and that you meet the eligibility criteria for churches.

Apply

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Guidance note
- Application is submitted through our online portal
- Application is assessed internally by NCT staff
- Applications go to grants committee for final decisions
- Formal decision letter by email



Image: © Charles Francis

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DEADLINES

- Large (Stage 1) : 2nd July
- Medium : 13th August
- Small : 30th April (rolling every 2 months)



RESOURCES & SUPPORT

- Maintenance Advice
 - Maintenance plan templates
 - Maintenance videos
- Training
- Funding and support organisations database
- A Five Point Guide to developing your project
- Specialist Skills Directory

nationalchurchestrust.org/

[get-support/buildings-maintenance/maintenance-advice](https://nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/buildings-maintenance/maintenance-advice)



CONTACT DETAILS

Me – Anna Elliss:

anna.elliss@nationalchurchestrust.org

Heather Townsend:

heather.townsend@nationalchurchestrust.org

General enquires:

hello@nationalchurchestrust.org

Grant enquiries:

grants@nationalchurchestrust.org

Training, tourism and awards enquiries:

sarah.crossland@nationalchurchestrust.org

