

# National Lottery funding for historic places of worship

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has changed the way it funds historic places of worship.

This briefing is designed to outline the changes and help the custodians of the UK's historic places of worship access National Lottery funding.

## What's changed?

Groups looking to secure National Lottery funding for projects that undertake repairs to places of worship should now apply through HLF's Our Heritage or Heritage Grants programmes rather than its old Grants for Places of Worship (GPOW) programme.

## How much money is available?

While the process of securing National Lottery funding has changed, over the next two years HLF has guaranteed to maintain its proportional investment in historic places of worship. This means allocating at least £20million in 2017-18 and the same proportion of HLF's overall grants budget in 2018-19.\*

In addition to the GPOW programme, HLF has always funded places of worship projects with a wider focus on exploring heritage through our open programmes. Therefore, if HLF sees the same level of good applications across all our programmes as in recent years, National Lottery investment in places of worship should exceed these guaranteed figures.

## What are the opportunities?

Applying for grants through HLF's open programmes will give time-stretched applicants greater flexibility to secure the funding they need for their place of worship.

The open programmes:

- **Our Heritage** (grants £10,000 - £100,000) is a simple, faster (applications assessed within eight weeks), one stage application process and is ideal for smaller projects looking to undertake more straight-forward repairs.
- **Heritage Grants** (grants £100,000 - £5million) is a two stage application process but gives applicants the opportunity to secure funding for more ambitious projects and allows them to undertake a development phase to help shape their proposals.

The changes provide opportunities to make these much loved buildings, both large and small, sustainable for the future. In addition to tackling vital fabric repairs, the new approach will encourage congregations to think about how, where appropriate, their building can be used and enjoyed by more people. New facilities like kitchens, loos and upgraded heating systems will provide greater comfort for the congregations whilst also enabling places of worship to offer themselves for use by their local communities. Engaging more people with the history of their places of worship has the potential increase local involvement and generate income.

## Key Facts:

- The Grants for Places of Worship programme is closing to new applications.
- All historic places of worship will **now** apply for funding through HLF's existing Our Heritage (grants £10,000 - £100,000) and Heritage Grants (grants £100,000 - £5million).
- HLF has confirmed two years of committed funding to places of worship projects including vital repairs – at least £20million in 2017-18 and the same proportion of HLF's budget in 2018-19.
- **Our Heritage** (grants £10,000 - £100,000) is a simple, faster, one stage application process and is ideal for smaller projects looking to undertake more straight-forward repairs. With this programme, 100% of works and activities can be funded by HLF with no requirement for partnership funding; and with 50% of the grant paid up front, congregations can get on with their work immediately, helping with cash flow.
- **Heritage Grants** (grants £100,000 - £5million) is a two stage application process, as was GPOW. However, Heritage Grants gives applicants the opportunity to secure more funding, up to £5million, whereas GPOW was limited to £250,000. In addition, the development stage of this programme gives groups the opportunity to receive help to develop their final project between the first and second rounds.
- In Scotland, HLF will continue to work in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland to deliver funding for places of worship through a single application process to access funding from both organisations.
- Places of worship no longer need to be listed / designated to access funding, as was the case under the previous targeted programme.
- HLF requires National Lottery-funded projects to deliver benefits for both heritage and people. This was the case under the previous places of worship programme and will continue under the new approach.

## Successfully funded projects:

Places of worship include some of the oldest and most precious buildings in the UK. 45% of Grade I listed buildings are Anglican places of worship. That's why, since 1994 HLF has invested more than £850million of National Lottery money, across a number of our grant programmes, to secure the future of these much loved buildings.

### ***Restoration and repair of chancel ceiling of Christ Church, Great Ayton - £19,200***

Christ Church was built in 1877 to serve the growing needs of the village of Great Ayton in North Yorkshire. Now Grade II listed, it continues to hold a position of significance within the life of the village.

Affected by water ingress and an accumulation of dirt, the church's highly decorative chancel ceiling was in danger of being lost forever. A £19,200 National Lottery grant restored and preserved key features of the church and also helped share the heritage of the building with the wider public through a programme of activities including workshops with local schools, talks with the conservator and a small exhibition.

### ***All Saint's Church, Silkstone, Barnsley - £183,400***

Harnessing local enthusiasm, All Saint's Church in Silkstone has been conserved and rejuvenated to provide a heritage learning hub.

All Saint's Church is set in a rich landscape of industrial and environmental heritage and provides an obvious centre for its passionate volunteers. Thanks to National Lottery funding, restoration work has been undertaken to significant monuments and windows in the church to protect them for future generations, while also exploring and telling the stories behind them with the local community.

**St Martin-in-the-Fields, London - £15.3million**

St-Martin-in-the-Fields, an internationally renowned church in central London, was restored to its former glory through this inspiring regeneration project.

Consecrated in 1762, the church has a strong history of social care. The idea of Amnesty International was started at the church and the charity Shelter also began at the site.

Today, this tradition of working with disadvantaged and vulnerable people is continuing in the renovated church basements. The regeneration scheme helped to replace the failing 19th-century vaults, which were originally built as burial vaults, with a double-storey basement. This has provided improved areas for social work as well as accommodation for the Chinese community and a new church hall.

**From our Chair, Sir Peter Luff:**

“The importance of our historic places of worship is beyond question. They are a treasure trove of stunning art and architecture, bound together with the rich heritage of their local communities. Following the changes, we are now working hard with those that care for places of worship to ensure they thrive under the new, more flexible, arrangements we have introduced. We will, of course, continue to monitor success and to provide additional support where needed during this transition period.”

***Further information***

For further information or advice about applying please visit our [online community](#) or visit our dedicated [website](#).

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\*HLF's overall grants budget for 2018/19 is yet to be set and so a specific figure for that financial year cannot be confirmed yet.