

# SCT

## Sustaining Scotland's Places of Worship



### Newsletter September 2021: **Focus on Fabric Grants**

#### Grant funding from SCT



Over the last several decades SCT in various guises has been pleased to fund projects of many sorts. These not only include building repair but also organ tuition and concerts. There is a severe shortage of organists and financial incentives can serve as an encouragement. In this newsletter however, we will focus on the buildings themselves and give organs a newsletter of their own later.



#### What is the purpose of a grant?

In the course of carrying out a routine maintenance plan or inspection a requirement for repair, has been noted or arisen, for example, after a rainstorm.



Or perhaps some of the internal fittings make it inconvenient or uncomfortable for worshippers. Maybe you have not been able to raise quite enough to fund the project through your existing resources which may include sale of assets, your own fabric fund or congregational appeal. As well as people, unfortunately the pandemic has taken its toll on many buildings. If not fatally wounded some have suffered severe damage as a result of inspection or

maintenance services not being readily available for an extended period. Small drips become big holes and big bills. . . .



#### How to create a successful grant application

SCT wants to give your church repair project money! Helping sustain Scotland's rich heritage of places of worship is why we are here. We may not be the largest funder and thus our pockets are not the deepest but so many have been grateful that every little contribution helps. Over the last three years SCT has assisted 65 churches with £180,000 of funding and a successful grant application from SCT is often viewed favourably by other

funders, a potential list of whom can be emailed to you. Our partner the National Churches Trust are one of the main bodies that you should consider since they have ring fenced a proportion of funds for Scottish churches.



Here are some examples of where fabric grants have gone:

<https://scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/news/fabric-grant-examples-of-projects/>



#### FABRIC GRANT APPLICATION FORM

By completing this form I am confirming that this church is an active place of worship.

1.1 Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

1.2 Have you applied for an SCT Fabric Grant before? \_\_\_\_\_

1.3 Name of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

1.4 Address of the contact with postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

1.5 Position of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

1.6 Telephone number of the applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

1.7 Email address of the applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

1.8 Name of building and any other names by which building is known: \_\_\_\_\_

1.9 Address of building: \_\_\_\_\_

So, let us now assist you in preparing your application.

15 North Bank Street, Edinburgh EH1 2LP [info@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk) 0131 225 8644

***We would love you to forward or circulate this newsletter to members of your congregation. You may print copies as you wish or we can send these by post. Thank you for telling others!***

The first requirement is to be a currently subscribed member.



Grants are one of the main, but not the only, benefit of membership. Others include your own page on our website, for example, <https://scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/church/st-athernase-parish-church-leuchars/>.



As a member, simply go to "Church Login" on our website and the link to the online grant application is on the right of the page.

Since there are many other grant giving bodies, often with differing criteria, we recognise that it can be onerous in terms of time and effort to complete so many

forms. We would suggest creating a Word document with your answers that you need to provide and simply copy and paste the relevant paragraphs into multiple applications! Unfortunately though, there is no real substitute to sitting down at the screen for several days or meticulously gathering photos and reports. To give you an idea of the types of info required, view or print this document: [Fabric Grant Application Word Format](#). Where grant applications are concerned, the more information that you provide the better (especially in Section 4.4 and 4.9). It is also good to consider wider community benefits that receiving a grant will bestow and list these e.g. providing a space for prayer meetings, Guide / Scout groups or coffee mornings. Reports and photos: the more the merrier including quinquennial if available. Should the application form complain that the attachments are too large, simply email them later to [grants@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk](mailto:grants@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk).

Although very few applications are

rejected outright there may be some where we have to revert to the applicant to provide more information, for example, where the architect or project manager is not conservation accredited. We recognise that this is not always possible but is considered essential if a building is Grade A or B listed. We like it if there are as many details as possible on the costs involved – from professionals. In another box, when asked if this is the whole of the Churches Fabric Fund there are some that reply "YES" but we would prefer that perhaps 5 – 10% is retained for contingency.

What sort of things does funding cover: Internal and external - Roofs, walls, steeples, windows, kitchens, bathrooms and heating are generally included, and sometimes an element that is not specifically covered but that affects the fabric is considered. The main sanctuary is always the priority focus and we, for reasons of limited funds, cannot cover church halls, manses or structures that are separate from the

main church. However, there are exceptions such as when services have to be held in a hall when the main building cannot be used. You are always welcome to ask. One question that regularly comes up is whether organ repair can be funded but, as this can be prohibitively expensive, we have to decline.



Not so well known are the Preventative or Micro Maintenance Grants that can be up to £1000. These are available for tasks such as gutter clearance and considered to be very worthwhile and encouraged. Here minor problems can often be sorted before becoming major – such as an overflowing leaf filled rhone pipe that results in internal damp.

Our committee of seven meets approximately every three or four months, and includes conservation accredited architects, surveyors, listed building and stonework specialists.

15 North Bank Street, Edinburgh EH1 2LP [info@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk) 0131 225 8644

***We would love you to forward or circulate this newsletter to members of your congregation. You may print copies as you wish or we can send these by post. Thank you for telling others!***

# SCT

## Sustaining Scotland's Places of Worship



### Newsletter September 2021: **Focus on Fabric Grants**

Not only are they here to adjudicate on the allocation of funds but can offer advice too. Prior to the Committee meeting we email your application to these experts for comment. This results in a greater probability of success. Occasionally though the Committee may not immediately agree to fund the project but it could be contingent on you providing further details. It is a reality that our total monies available for distribution can be limited and so recipient church numbers or amounts may also be limited through no fault of the applicant.



You may have noticed the countdown clock that appears when you login. We set this to reach zero

approximately 14 days prior to the meeting. This allows time for our committee to analyse applications, some of which may be complex and require further research.

Once your application has been approved by the Committee, we shall email you a letter acknowledging the award and from that date you have up to two years to complete the work. After this we shall have great pleasure in giving you the requested funds by bank transfer or cheque. At that time, please provide relevant receipts the exact name of your church's bank account, as banks now demand this, plus account number. Given the times in which we live, the completion time may sometimes be extended.

The final thing that we would request from you is photos of the completed project.

These are very useful for encouraging us and others in forthcoming newsletters!

#### Some testimonials

*Kirkwall Baptist Church*  
"Repairs have also protected the fabric of the premises and updated the property as a whole, ensuring its extended life for many years to come".

*St. Brides at Sanquhar*  
"We realised that the roof was fast becoming an issue and a roof fund established. Application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland, and the application was approved at the third attempt. Various other funders were also approached, and it goes without saying that Scotland's Churches Trust were very quick and decisive in providing us with a grant. The number of "small" awards

granted were hugely important to us, and it is fair to say that without these smaller grants, the project would not have been possible."

*Govan & Linthouse*  
"We now enjoy a more flexible space which we will use to ensure that we employ our building assets over the course of Monday to Saturday as well as for worship on a Sunday. We wanted to share with you the joy we have in our refurbished space, thanks in no small measure to the grant you gave us."



Before and after



15 North Bank Street, Edinburgh EH1 2LP [info@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk) 0131 225 8644

**We would love you to forward or circulate this newsletter to members of your congregation. You may print copies as you wish or we can send these by post. Thank you for telling others!**