The Methodist Church

Newcastle upon Tyne District

District Grants Leaflet

INTRODUCTION
APPLYING FOR A GRANT

When applying for **any** grant funding your application will need to be persuasive and show how the financial support will make a difference. Follow the five key principles below to create a strong application to the District and other funders.

1. Prepare well

Before you start applying for any type of grant, it's important to be prepared and ensure the basics of your project are covered. Make sure your church/circuit has considered the fundamentals, before you sit down to write any applications. You need a strong vision, which clearly expresses what your church/circuit would like to achieve with the funds raised.

2. Well-thought-through proposals

You need to make a compelling and clear case for support which conveys the **need** for your project, what your solution to the need is and what outcomes your solution will provide. (Consider expected impact and measures of success, both quantitive and qualitative (hard and soft).

- **Data -** use data to support your application and be clear on its source.

- **Partnerships and consultation -** appropriate partnerships may increase the chances of an application being successful as will consultation with community and subject experts. This is great evidence when applying for a grant as to why your project is needed.

3. Well written applications

Make the application easy to read and set out in a succinct and logical format. Be careful to avoid jargon – it can be extremely helpful to get someone unrelated to the project to proofread.

External funders are unlikely to know your church/circuit and will make a judgment based on what is written, so first impressions are important. Your application will need to persuade the panel of the value of your project and its chances of success in meeting its objectives.

4. Well-rounded applications that include all the key information

Make sure your proposal has covered the key points including the need for the project, the solution your church/circuit is offering and what the outcomes will be. How will you evaluate success?

Ensure all paperwork is correctly completed and include a full breakdown of all costs involved. Make sure that you attach/include any specific documentation that is requested, eg audited accounts.

5. Remain positive

The outcome of applications for district funds will be notified to you by the District Grants Officer. If your application is declined, you will be given the reason and feedback on further actions you might take.

Applications to external funders may also be declined. Even if you receive a 'no' to your application, it may not mean 'no' forever. It's normal to get several 'nos' before you get a 'yes', so remain positive. An application to a well-researched grant funder is never wasted, especially if you receive feedback from the funder.

Application forms for district grants can be obtained from the District Grants Officer, Mrs Margaret Graham. Email: newcastledistrictgrants@gmail.com

WHAT DISTRICT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE?

District grants are allocated from two main sources:

District Advance Fund – available to support church, circuit and district 'mission and community' projects. Most of the money available is typically allocated to personnel rather than property. However, applications can be made for help with new buildings or alterations which enable a church to be used in a more mission oriented way.

District Capital Fund – this was established in 1992 from Circuit contributions. By using it to support posts with a District-wide remit, we are keeping to the spirit of the original funding.

In addition, there are currently two other funds available:

Purley Gardens Fund – specifically for innovative missional projects

District Aid Association Fund – loans can be obtained at a low rate of interest, repaying regularly for up to five years.

District Funds should be regarded as supporting a scheme which has been strongly supported locally and by the Circuit, covering up to 33% of the project costs, although this can be higher depending on various factors. Grant applications can be spread up to five years.

Please note that grant applications for amounts under £1,000 should be made using the Small Grant Application Form which can be obtained from the District Grants Officer, Mrs Margaret Graham. (Contact details as above.)

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES / INFORMATION

Wesley Orphan House Trust – this is part of the Newcastle Central & East Circuit. Please see the website https://newcastlecentralmethodist.org.uk/woht.php for further information, guidelines and an application form. The secretary should be contacted on email address: woht@brunswickmethodist.org.uk or contact the treasurer: david.stabler007@btinternet.com.

Prudhoe Street Mission Foundation – an independent, non-denominational Christian trust which can give financial help and support to those within Newcastle, Gateshead, North and South Tyneside boundaries. Please see the website: https://prudhoestreetmissionfoundation.co.uk for more information.

Joseph Rank Trust – the principal object of the Trust is "to advance the Christian Faith" - to further the Kingdom of God. It is not part of the Methodist Church but does devote a proportion of its income to Methodism. Further details can be obtained from: www.ranktrust.org.

Methodist Grants Programme (Methodist Insurance)

The Benefact Trust's Methodist Grants programme provides grants to Methodist churches to run building development projects that focus on church growth (both numerically and spiritually), community engagement and improving accessibility, with applicants encouraged to demonstrate a focus on energy efficiency.

Funding is now also available for repair and maintenance projects that are essential for the ongoing mission and ministry of a Methodist church. https://benefacttrust.co.uk/which-grant-is-for-me/methodist-grants/

Fundraising support for churches (Methodist Insurance)

Their church fundraising hub has easy-to-use support, guidance and tools to help you and your church with fundraising. In addition, the monthly e-news updates include topical risk management guidance, fundraising materials, details of competitions and other useful tips for your church.
https://methodist-insurance.co.uk/

Further information about the Methodist Grants Programme and fundraising support for churches can be found on the Methodist Insurance website:
www.methodistinsurance.co.uk/church-fundraising/

There may be grants available from The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes from endowments (discretionary grants) that they hold, please see https://www.tmcp.org.uk/money/grants

The Newcastle District subscribes to VONNE (Voluntary Organisations' Network North East) and has access to the FINE (Funding in the North East) grant search

engine, see below. The membership is actually in the name of 'The Wesley Orphan House Trust'

To access the VONNE website go to:
Welcome | Voluntary Organisations' Network North East (vonne.org.uk) or www.vonne.org.uk

Click on "log in".
Username and password are available by contacting the District Administrator (see below)

USEFUL DISTRICT CONTACTS

District Grants Officer
MRS MARGARET GRAHAM
Email: newcastledistrictgrants@gmail.com

District Treasurer
MR CHRIS HORTON
Email: c.horton@btinternet.com

Chair of Property & Finance Executive
MR ALAN IRVIN
Email: alan.irvin@tiscali.co.uk

PA to Chair and District Administrator:
MS DIANE WHITFIELD
St Andrew's Church, Station Road
Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8AW
Office: 0191 490 1626
Email: admin@newcastlemethodistdistrict.org

District website - www.newcastlemethodistdistrict.org
Registered Charity Number 1127637