

# FUNDING FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS: WHERE TO START

FUNDING SHEET **1**

In Gloucester diocese we have nearly 400 churches, all of which will from time to time need medium or heavy repair works, or perhaps improvements to make them more versatile or comfortable. Usually these works will be beyond the immediate resources of the parish, and you may need help tackling the job of raising the money required.

There is now a wealth of advice available from a number of national websites. These are listed, together with other resources which will help you, on our advice sheet 'Funding for Church Buildings 2– Resources'.

Your need may range from launching a major public appeal, down to a simple application for a few grants to top up money which your PCC already has in hand. Between these two extremes there are all sorts of variations – every church has different needs and opportunities.

The internet has revolutionised the job of the appeal treasurer, but the sheer amount of advice available can seem overwhelming. You will need to review what is available, and pick out the advice that best answers your needs. Be ready for a lot of overlapping information, and some inconsistencies. Information is changing all the time, and even the best national websites may not be fully up to date. Before relying on any information, check and recheck.

For many years we have produced our own freestanding booklet '*Funding Church Repairs*'. Given the huge range of advice elsewhere, and the power of the internet to enable parishes to access what they need, we have now replaced *Funding Church Repairs* and its supplements with a series of web based papers each dealing with a different aspect. They will help you exploit local resources and opportunities which may be difficult to find through national websites. Our emphasis has shifted towards pointing you in the direction of helpful sources of advice, rather than presenting our own distillation of what is available elsewhere.

Good luck with your efforts !

If you need further advice in relation to this guidance sheet, please contact us at Church House on 01452 410022 or by email at [dac@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:dac@glosdioc.org.uk)