HENRY SMITH FOUNDATION

Christian Projects Funding Guidelines

2026 edition

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Introduction

The Henry Smith Foundation is one of the largest independent grant making trusts in the UK, distributing over £40m each year.

The majority of our funding is distributed through programmes launched in 2025, alongside which we have three heritage programmes, Kindred, Holiday Grants and Christian Projects. Guidelines outlining what we fund under each of these programmes and how to apply can be found in the Grants section of our website.

These funding guidelines are for our Christian Projects grant programme only. They outline the type of organisations and services we are looking to fund, and aim to help you decide whether you are eligible to apply for a grant.

When our founder Henry Smith died in 1628 he left a detailed Will. It established our charity and expressed a range of charitable objectives. These included funds set aside for "the relief and maintenance of Godly Preachers". The Christian Projects grant programme addresses this objective.

If you have any queries about the guidelines or are unsure whether or not your project fits within them, please call us on 020 7264 4970 and speak to a member of the Clergy Grants Team.

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1. Who can apply for a grant

Please read these Guidelines in full before completing your application.

Under our Christian Projects grant programme we accept applications from churches, charities and not-for-profit organisations. We only support work that is with the Anglican Communion or is fully ecumenical. The Anglican Communion in the UK consists of the Church of England, the Church in Wales, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of Ireland. If your organisation is not formally part of any of these churches you must demonstrate that your project has the full support of whichever church is geographically applicable.

We fund established organisations (by this we mean at least 18 months old and have published their first set of annual accounts) that have a track record. We are looking for applicants that have the necessary expertise and experience and are well placed to deliver the work for which funding is sought.

We prioritise smaller organisations. If your organisation has an income over £1 million please contact us for an initial discussion.

Applications can be made for funding of up to three years. The minimum grant you can ask for is £10,000 per annum. There is no maximum but grants of more than a total of £100,000 are likely to be awarded only on a very exceptional basis.

There are no deadlines, and applications can be submitted at any time during the year provided that:

- You do not have an active grant from us, unless you are in the last 6 months of your current grant and wish to apply for continuation funding
- We are not already assessing an application from your organisation under one of our other programmes
- All reporting requirements on previous grants have been met, and
- If you applied previously and were unsuccessful, that more than 12 months have passed since you received your declination letter.

Applications for this programme are submitted online using our application form.

We make decisions three times a year to consider grant applications so it may take up to five months to hear the outcome of your application.

If your organisation applies and is unsuccessful you must wait at least 12 months from the date on the notification letter we send you, before making another application.

2. What you can apply for

The Christian Projects Grant Programme focusses on Anglican Clergy Wellbeing. This means we fund projects that provide a means for Anglican Clergy to be supported or take preventative measures to ensure they remain health and effective in their ministry. The project or activity must provide benefit directly to the clergy; we will not fund work that may have indirect benefit (eg funding paid posts in a parish to carry out work that the incumbent might otherwise pick up).

Grants from this programme are made to churches or charities, not to individual members of the clergy.

Examples of the type of project that is likely to fit are:

- A programme of peer support, for a group of local clergy
- Retreat houses providing restorative time specifically for clergy
- One-to-one mentoring
- Online or in person pastoral care

3. What we do not fund

It is important to read this section carefully before applying to us.

We do not make grants to applicant organisations which have:

- Reserves (net current assets plus investments) covering more than 12 months' expenditure
- An annual income above £1 million unless you have had a discussion with a member of staff who has agreed that exceptional circumstances prevail and has agreed you are eligible to apply
- Applied to us unsuccessfully within the previous 12 months
- Another application under consideration in any of our grant programmes
- An active grant from us under any of our grant programmes

We will not support:

- Applications for less than £10,000 per annum
- Proposals for grants of more than 50% of the annual running costs of an organisation
- Work that will take place overseas
- Grants to individuals, or to other causes, that will benefit only one person, including student grants or bursaries
- Capital grants of any sort
- Sabbaticals or holidays

4. Application process

Applications must be submitted via our online application process. To submit your application, please follow the steps below:

1. Read the Guidelines and take the Eligibility Checker
   The Checker is designed to help you determine if you meet the requirements for the grant programme. Please answer all the questions and submit your response. If the Checker indicates that you are not eligible, you cannot apply. If you are eligible, you will be able to access the application form.
2. Create an account
   When opening the link through the Eligibility Checker you will be asked to set up a new account or to sign in to your existing account.
3. Complete and submit the Application Form
   Answer all the questions in the Application Form. To help you prepare, you can view a sample Application Form on our website here Christian-Projects-Sample-Application.docx. This is for guidance only; you must submit your application through the application portal. Applications do not need to be completed all in one go; the application is saved as you edit, and you can return to it later. When you are happy with the application, click "Sign and Submit". We will confirm submission in an email. An email containing a tracking number and a copy of your answers to date will be emailed to you automatically. To return to your application you can use the personalised link in your welcome email.
4. Assessment
   All applications are reviewed by our Clergy Grants Team. Once we have done an initial assessment, normally within 7 days of submission of the application, we will send you another email to let you know it is being processed. That will include a Request ID which you should use in all future correspondence with us about the application. You may be contacted for some additional information.
5. Decision
   We make decisions three times a year. We will send you a letter notifying you of the outcome within three weeks.

We reserve the right to share with other grant makers information received from applicants requesting funding, and from those in receipt of funding from us, unless an organisation expressly requests otherwise. All personal data will be dealt with in line with current Data Protection Policies.

Knowingly providing false information will invalidate any application or grant.

5. Accessibility support

We want this process to be accessible to everyone. If you, or someone in your organisation, needs support to complete the application because of disability, neurodivergence, language or communication barriers or other access needs we can help.

We offer an accessibility support grant to help cover the cost of things like BSL interpreters, scribes, translation services, assistive technology, or support workers.

You can request: Up to £500

How to request accessibility support

1. **Get in touch and tell us what you need**

Using one of the options below:

- Email: hello@henrysmith.foundation
- Phone: 020 7264 4970
- Enquiry form: On our website

When you get in touch, tell us:

- Your name and organisation
- What kind of support you need
- Who will provide the support (they must be UK-based)
- How much it will cost
- Your preferred contact time and method

No personal data concerning third party individuals should be included within your email without their explicit knowledge, and informed consent, that this information will be shared with the Henry Smith Foundation.

We process all personal data provided to us in your email for the purposes of assessing your application, managing or monitoring any grant awarded and any related administration or research purposes in accordance with our privacy policy, a copy of which can be viewed here.

We reserve the right to share personal information to detect and prevent fraud and do not require your consent.

2. We'll get back to you

We'll aim to respond within five working days to confirm if the request has been approved. We will then make the grant to you.

If you're not sure what kind of support you need or want to talk it through, we're happy to have a chat. Please get in touch.