

General tips for making a grant application

- Do your research – make sure the charity is likely to support your cause
 - Check the funders website
 - Look at their Charity Commission entry (their annual reports may give a lot of detail about previous grants)
- Telephone to discuss your project before applying
- Invite the donor to visit you to see the need and meet beneficiaries
- Always address your letter to a named person
- Always sign your application with a real signature
- Always check your postage is sufficient for the size and weight of your application
- If you get a grant say thank you immediately, invite the sponsor to events, thank them again at the end.

- This is a competition, make your application stand out

- Good up to date website
- Clear, good quality literature with a big “wow factor”
- Create some YouTube clips about your project or church
- Keep website up to date with project details and sponsor information
- Displays in the church including details of funders
- Use testimonials or letters of support from local community groups, councillors, MP
- Be clear and concise about the project – who you are, what you want to do, why you want it, how much it will cost

- Focus on your beneficiaries, these are not the same as your congregation or bell ringers
- Use volunteers with social need throughout the project (unemployed, disadvantaged youngsters, ex-offenders)
- Demonstrate the impact your project will have
- Predict and evaluate your project with numbers
 - How many people will benefit from the project
 - How many new ringers will you find
 - How many additional visitors will you get – both short term and long term
 - How many school children, disadvantaged, disabled might visit

- Consider running other environmental or social projects alongside the main project
 - Re-wild the churchyard
 - Cut your carbon footprint
 - Run drop-in sessions, coffee mornings etc for people or groups in need

- Don't hoard rainy day funds – why should the funder give you money if you already hold your own? The Charity Commission can help you challenge restrictions on protected funds. If you have to keep a pot of money tell the funder why.