

## Summary

The Province has made available a short-term funding scheme for charges that have needed to respond in unplanned ways to the COVID pandemic or have projects in mind as we move out of pandemic restrictions.

The full description provided by the Province is attached, here are key points for guidance.

## Recovery and Renewal Grants.

**Amount:** The total funds available to be allocated is £250,000. There is no specific limit on grants to individual diocese or charges – but it is considered unlikely that grants to individual charges will exceed £5,000.

**Timing for Applications:** The Provincial Standing Committee will consider applications to the Fund at its meeting on 16 September. Dioceses should submit applications to the Provincial Treasurer no later than 19 August 2021. **To achieve this, we ask that applications are submitted to the Diocese as soon as ready, and no later than 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

**Applications:** There is no specific application form. The detailed information for each grant will vary depending on the nature of the project and size of grant requested but it is suggested a short business case be provided comprising:

- Nature of project
- Category of project (*Recovery & Renewal of 'pre-pandemic' ministry; Online presence post pandemic; Social Action & Community Development in Post Pandemic; Care for clergy and other church leaders*)
- Anticipated total cost (with evidence of cost)
- Other anticipated sources of funding
- Details of any other provincial grant funding requested / awarded for project
- Sustainability of project – if seed corn funding requested how ongoing funding be provided.

The document from the Province provides more detailed guidance on the types of project that may be considered.

## What is **not** covered by the fund.

The Fund is not to be used to subsidise ministry costs for charges, routine operational costs e.g., utilities, insurance etc, or for contributing to the funding of new or continuing permanent posts.

## Funding Operational Shortfall

It is recognised that most charges have suffered an income shortfall over the past year, where the Recovery and Renewal Fund will not provide financial support. The average shortfall for the majority is £2,500 less than would be expected based on their previous 4-year average. There are only a handful of charges with shortfall more than £5,000. Of course, this still means that charges may be finding it difficult to maintain a level of operations associated with a healthy mission and healthy Church.

Some charges have already addressed this, for example it is noted that there has been an increase in congregational commitment by Standing Order. There may be other areas you are already considering or implementing, such as:

- Stewardship focus, e.g. the standing order approach.
- Sale of investments. Stock market prices have been surprisingly buoyant recently, and it may be that using some of any invested reserves is appropriate at this time.
- Legacies. We are fast approaching a societal change where the property-owning groups could significantly reduce in favour of property rental. The opportunity for leaving a legacy for one's family is getting more difficult, nevertheless we would ask you to consider leaving a legacy to the charge or Diocese.

If you feel you have exhausted all options and still experience operational financial problems, please get in touch with the Diocesan Office. The Diocesan finances are not substantial, they are provided year on year by contribution from charges, and we already forecast a deficit budget to meet the mission ambitions for 2021. Notwithstanding, we can review the charge's financial position and potentially provide small, one-off grants during this time. I stress this will potentially deplete Diocesan finance which, without any donations or legacies rely entirely on charge contributions. We are the beneficiaries of each other's contributions; we all share with each other through things like the quota scheme. The Diocese will look at any individual cases and see if, and how best assistance may be provided, sharing the contributions from charges and, if necessary, digging into reserves.

*Brendan Grimley  
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