



## Partnership Grants from the National Churches Trust



HHCT is able to recommend applications to the National Churches Trust for repair projects over £100,000 including VAT and fees – as long as the place of worship is aware they will not also be eligible for the NCT [Repair Grant Programme](#).

We can also recommend projects that would usually be considered under the ‘Community’ Grants Programme – i.e. for installation of toilets and kitchens. These should generally be under £25,000 including VAT and fees, and must have all their necessary permissions in place.

Applications can be made using the HHCT forms on the website.

### Grant Offers and Conditions

If the Trust’s recommendation is agreed by the NCT the parish contact will receive an offer of a grant (occasionally with conditions) which will be **valid for two years** from the HHCT committee decision date. Although the place of worship does not need to wait for the grant offer to start the work, they cannot guarantee a successful grant award. The contact at the place of worship will be asked to sign and return an **acceptance form** to the National Churches Trust within 30 days of an offer.

Grant offers are made subject to terms and conditions of the National Churches Trust including the following (these may be subject to change):

- **Project led by a qualified professional** - Usually an architect or chartered building surveyor or engineer and member of the RIBA, AABC, ARB or RICS.
- **Grant acknowledgement** - The NCT want people to know that it has supported your project. If you are awarded a grant, you must acknowledge the funding using a grantees’ acknowledgement logo during the delivery of your project. Guidance will be given on this and they will provide some acknowledgement materials to you free of charge.
- **Project reporting** - You will be required to complete a brief project report with your payment claim, and a completed project evaluation survey via SurveyMonkey a year after your project completion. Failure to complete the



forms will be breach of contract.



- **Opening times** - Your place of worship should open to the public, beyond worship, for a minimum of 40 days a year, in line with other grant-giving bodies.
- **Closure** – The National Churches Trust must be notified immediately of any plans to end public worship in a building funded by the grant. If a building closes within five years of receiving a grant they can request the return of the grant.
- **Photographs** - Encouragement is given to all grantee churches to take photographs throughout their project to record the works **undertaken**. It is assumed that these images can be used on either the NCT or HHCT website or in publicity. Therefore please gain any necessary permissions before sending these and please provide credits where necessary.
- **Maintenance** - Efforts will be made to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the building. Churches are encouraged to develop a maintenance plan if one does not already exist. Guidance on developing maintenance plans is available via the NCT website [here](#).
- **Sharing information** – Sometimes contact will be made with your lead professional, and/or your denominational body to check details of a recommendation or to notify them of an award. The press will also be contacted if you are successful.
- **Annual donation** - After payment of a grant, the NCT ask that the managing body of the building (e.g. PCC, DCC, Elders or Trustees) makes an annual donation to them for a period of **a minimum of 5 years** . A Direct Debit form will be provided after the grant has been paid. Payment can also be made by cheque if that is preferable. The donation does not need to start until a year after you receive the grant and can be of any amount that you feel is affordable. Many churches give between £50 and £100 a year. NCT is an independent organisation and receives no government funding. The ability to support and continue to provide grants and other assistance for places of worship depends entirely on donated income.



· **Friends** - The NCT also ask that at least 3 members of the congregation join the [Friends of the National Churches Trust](#) for a minimum of 3 years. The annual membership fee is currently £30 per person per year by Direct Debit. The NCT are building a strong membership base and creating a national voice for Christian places of worship, and also offer a range of Friends benefits and special events.

