

St Peter's Saltley Trust Talents Fund - Information for Applicants

About the Talents Fund

The purpose of the Talents Fund is to support local churches in their work to support the **deepening of Christian discipleship** with people in Church of England parishes within the dioceses of Birmingham, Coventry, Hereford, Lichfield and Worcester (UK). This includes...

- Deepening learning about Christian faith and practice in a way which makes sense in your neighbourhood
- Developing new approaches, activities or resources for exploring Christian discipleship within or beyond your worshipping community or in the places where 'church' and 'community' meet
- Supporting the deepening of Christian discipleship amongst any age group (children, youth, adults) and/or intergenerationally
- Doing something to deepen understanding/practice of Christian discipleship which you wouldn't otherwise be able to do.

Who can Apply?

The fund will be open to parishes in areas experiencing multiple deprivation within the dioceses of Birmingham, Coventry, Hereford, Lichfield and Worcester. In this round, we are focusing particularly on the 20% 'most deprived' parishes within each diocese, according to the most recent IMD data prepared by the Church of England. **Normally, only one application per parish/benefice is possible.**¹ You can find a list of these parishes in the separate spreadsheet on our 'Talents Fund' page. Please check before applying - Talents Fund applications from parishes not on this list will be unsuccessful. (If not on this list, but you have a good project idea, you can still apply for a grant via one of the Trust's other funding streams. The next application deadline for these is 1st April 2026).

The fund's focus is on **learning, growing and developing in discipleship**. There are obvious overlaps with worship, mission and pastoral care here. However, as a Christian educational charity, our focus here is on learning, growing and deepening in Christian faith. We'd encourage you to **think about the full range of ways in which people can be helped to grow/go deeper in understanding/living out their Christian faith day by day**. There's scope here to be imaginative about the different ways people learn and grow!

The Trust is particularly keen to fund projects which **plant the seed of something new or deeper than what you already do** as a church to nurture people in Christian discipleship - just as in the Parable of the Talents. These are small grants, so we don't expect revolutionary change. But creativity is encouraged!

What Can/Can't be Funded

Any **reasonable costs** associated with your project can be included. Our instinct is to trust YOU to know what you need to do next to grow and deepen discipleship in your parish.

The grant should **NOT** be used for:

- Building renovations or fabric repairs
- Buying time or help to work up other fundraising bids
- Charitable donations to other agencies supporting Christian discipleship elsewhere (the fund is about supporting work which *you* want to do with people in *your own* local church and community)
- Paying parish share or other ongoing core costs
- Anything which promotes hatred, prejudice or violent extremism or any illegal activity

¹ An exception may be made where the majority of the 20% 'most deprived' parishes within a diocese fall within a comparatively small number of benefices. In such a case, two distinctively different applications from different parishes within the benefice may be considered.

- Anything you had already budgeted to do anyway

Before applying you will need to have:

- Approval for the project from your priest/vicar and PCC (although the person or group proposing or leading the project could be anyone in your church - it doesn't need to be someone who's ordained).
- Satisfactory safeguarding policies and procedures (we will ask to see a copy of this before a final grant offer is made).
- A church bank account into which a grant can be paid (we will only ask for bank details once a grant has been agreed).

Learning from your Project

If you accept a grant from St Peter's Saltley Trust we won't burden you with lots of paperwork and reporting requirements. However we do ask (as a **condition of funding**) you share the learning and results from your project with St Peter's Saltley Trust and with other parishes receiving a Talents Fund grant. This is likely to include:

- An informal visit to your parish from a member of Saltley Trust staff/trustees to hear more about your project/see it in action.
- An end of project celebration/news-sharing day for churches receiving talents funding (9-12 months after receiving funding).

Travel expenses to take part in meetings will be paid.

How to Apply?

First of all, get in touch with Ian Jones (St Peter's Saltley Trust director - email address below) to discuss your project idea, to check it fits within the objectives of the fund.

If it does, there are then three possible ways of applying. You can then EITHER:

- Fill in the simple online application form available [here](#). OR you can:
- Download a copy of the same application form [here](#), and post it to the Trust at: St Peter's Saltley Trust, Grays Court, 3 Nursery Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3JX. OR you can:
- Make a short video (max. 5 minutes long), answering the same questions as on the online form.

The application form is submitted online. Video applications can be sent to: director@saltleytrust.org.uk. If technology is a barrier and you would prefer a paper copy of the form, please ask. Equally, if you'd like to discuss any of the questions on the application form, please get in touch.

Deadline for Applications

The fund will remain open until all grants have been allocated (up to a maximum of £500 per parish), on a first-come, first served basis. You can check the number of grants available on the Talents Fund page.

What Happens Then?

- Your application will be considered by the Trust. You will receive a decision within 3 weeks of sending us your application.
- Our instinct is to trust YOU to know what you need to do next to deepen discipleship in your parish. As a result, we will tend to treat applications favourably unless there's a good reason to say no.
- If funding is agreed, we'll ask you to complete a simple project agreement form. Once signed, the funding can be released to your nominated church bank account.