

Church Building Support

What sort of the support can the Church Building Support Officer (CBSO) offer to churches?

It is difficult to describe all of the possible support that the CBSO may be able to offer a parish, however below is a summary of what the support can and cannot include.

Can include

- Meeting with the PCC
- Liaising with Architect, Contractor etc.
- Meeting with Architect, Contractor etc.
- Searching for relevant grant funders.
- Compiling documents for a faculty, planning or grant application.
- Assisting with the completion of a faculty, planning or grant application.

Cannot include

- Project managing the whole project.
- Making decisions on behalf of the PCC.
- Entering into agreements on behalf of the parish.
- Providing specific technical advice.

How do I request support for my church?

Churches can apply for support for any projects that they are wanting to carry out on their church buildings. This is done via a simple application form which asks you to provide some details of the project that you want support with. This application is then considered by the Church Building Panel who will decide if the CBSO has capacity to support the project.

When do I need to apply?

You can apply at any time and the Church Building Panel will aim to make a decision as soon as possible.

How will I know if my application is successful?

You will receive an email confirming the outcome. If you are unsuccessful, you are welcome to apply again for another project.

When will the support start?

If you are successful with your application, a meeting will be arranged to put together an action plan outlining the specific support required. The timing of this meeting will depend on the workload of the CBSO and their capacity to take on another project.

How much support will we get?

It is envisaged that our CBSO will be working with up to 10 churches at any one time for a period of up to 6 months in total if required. The amount of support will be discussed with successful applicants at the initial meeting when an action plan is produced. Some of the support will be at the church for meetings etc. and some will be putting together documents / applications for you. It is likely that some projects will need more intensive support at certain times.

What happens at the end of the support?

Whilst the focussed support will initially last 3 months (extendable to 6 months if required following a review during the third month). Once this has ended the CBSO will maintain contact until the project is complete.

What is the commitment of the parish?

For the support to be effective the parish need to be committed to moving this project forward and using the resources that they have to support this. This will obviously vary from project to project but the CBSO is only there to support this and it needs to be driven by the parish. The parish will be expected to provide a named contact with whom the CBSO will liaise. It is important that the PCC are fully committed to the project and open to the support of the CBSO.

So what happens next?

If you feel that support is something that your parish would benefit from and you have a project ready to go then complete the support application form and return to the Buildings For Mission Secretary (Martin Howard) via email martin.howard@durham.anglican.org

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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