

# Laslett's Charities

Laslett's Almshouse Charity RCN: 233695 Laslett's Hinton Charity RCN: 233696

Stephen Inman  
Clerk to the Trustees



Kateryn Heywood House  
Berkeley Court  
The Foregate  
Worcester WR1 3QG

admin@lasletts.org.uk  
01905 317117

## GRANT POLICY & GUIDANCE – CHURCHES

### Introduction

Laslett's Charities comprise the two independent but related charities known as Lasletts (Almshouse) Charity and Laslett's (Hinton) Charity both of which are registered with the Charity Commission and numbered 233695 and 233696 respectively. Laslett's (Hinton) Charity has the capacity to make available grant funding in accordance with its original objects set by the Founder, William Laslett.

The aim of this policy is:

- to provide clear information to those who seek grant funding;
- to provide guidance as to how applications should be submitted and how they are determined;
- to assist the Trustees in making decisions as to grant funding .

Grants are awarded and determined by the Trustees of Laslett's (Hinton) Charity following recommendations from its Grants Committee.

### The Objects of Laslett's Charities

Under the terms of the Laslett's Trust Deed dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 1879, the Trustees shall from time to time apply the net rents and profits of the trust properties in or towards all or any one or more exclusively of the others or other of the following objects:

- A. Restoring, rebuilding, repairing, or fitting up or assisting in the restoration, rebuilding, repair or fitting up of the Parish Church of Abberton in the County of Worcester. Provided that the Trustees shall not expend on the said Church more than the sum of £1,500 in all;
- B. Contributing towards the repair restoration rebuilding or refitting of the Parish Church of Flyford Flavell in the County of Worcester;
- C. Increasing the annual income of the living of the Rectory of the said Parish of Hinton-on-the-Green by an amount not exceeding altogether the sum of £100 per annum And the Trustees may at any time or times if they think fit effect such increase by permanently making over to the said Rectory an amount or amounts not exceeding altogether the said sum of one hundred pounds per annum out of the said rent charges hereby granted and conveyed;

- D. Assisting in the repair restoration rebuilding and refitting of any Churches and Chapels connected with the Established Church of England;
- E. Assisting by grants or annuities poor aged or infirm Clergymen of the Church of England or their widows or children;
- F Promoting religious knowledge among the poor by dissemination of the Bible and other Christian Books and Publications;
- G. Providing or assisting in providing Lay Scripture Readers to read the Scriptures from house to house and hold classes lectures and services in poor districts under the superintendence in each case of the Incumbent or other Church of England Clergyman in charge of the Parish or district;
- H. Providing and supporting or contributing to the support of Missionaries either for Home or Foreign Missions or both but in each case in connection with the Church of England;
- I. Maintaining the principles and doctrines of the Established Church of England and preserving the purity of Protestant Worship in such Church;

## **Principles**

By far the majority of grant applications and awards rely on Object D. This accords with the Trustees view that the preservation, repair and improvement of places of worship is a vital part of William Laslett's overall objective of promoting the values and culture provided by the Church of England. It is not possible to accept applications from other church denominations.

Although William Laslett did not specifically impose any geographic restriction from where applications/grants could be made, it is probable that he intended any benefits from his charity to be directed to churches within the Counties of Worcestershire and Herefordshire since that is where during his lifetime and upon his death his property and landholdings were located. In more recent times and given the changing nature of local authority boundaries the Trustees have agreed that reference to Church Dioceses would be more appropriate in setting a restriction.

However, given the demand for financial support the Trustees are only able to accept applications from churches within the following six Dioceses:

Worcester, Hereford, Gloucester, Lichfield, Birmingham and Coventry

## **Priorities for support**

Churches which have listed building status and/or are on the Heritage at Risk Register

Churches whose Quinquennial Review has identified works of an urgent nature to maintain a building structure that is safe for all persons to visit, work and worship

Churches which have an active congregation (however small) and which strive to play a key and supporting role within the local community.

## **Types of work Laslett's will support**

- The repair and/or replacement of the external fabric of the building and its churchyards including the external walls, roof, tower, windows, porches, doors and rainwater goods which help to ensure it is kept wind and watertight or otherwise would deteriorate and pose a risk to safety and thereby prevent or discourage full use of the church;
- The repair and/or replacement of critical structures within the interior of the church including walls, ceilings, columns, flooring which otherwise would deteriorate and pose a risk to safety and thereby prevent or discourage full use of the church;
- The installation or upgrade of heating facilities including the provision of service utilities which thereby assist in improving the overall sound upkeep of the church;
- The installation of toilets and basic kitchen facilities where none exist already thereby making the church more amenable and user friendly for the community and assist in fundraising efforts;
- The installation of ramps/handrails to improve disabled access to gain access to the church and equipment which may assist any person suffering from a disability in their use and enjoyment of the building;
- The conservation and restoration of historic features within the church

The above are not listed in any order of priority.

## **Types of work Laslett's are unlikely to support:**

- Revenue costs relating to the day-to-day running of the church not involving its fabric;
- Regular and routine maintenance costs for the church
- Works which may be the subject of an insurance claim
- Works which improve merely the aesthetic appearance of the church

## **Review**

The priorities in this policy will be reviewed every year (or more often if deemed necessary by the Trustees) and may be changed in accordance with the Trustees' view of the most effective application of available funds at any point in time. Any change to these priorities must still fulfil the charitable purpose and the Charities' Objects.

## **Overview**

Any grants offered are likely to be within the range of £1000 to £5000, other than in exceptional circumstances.

Any grant offered should be claimed within a period of two years unless an extension of time has been sought and which would not normally exceed a period of one year.

It is suggested that given the time limit as above, applicants should have received all necessary planning consents and faculties before lodging an application as well as an estimate or quotation for any works contemplated.

Where the project is likely to be expensive in terms of capital cost and take time to implement, applicants may wish to consider phasing the project and seek a grant for one particular phase of the works.

Given the demand once a grant has been offered and claimed, no further application for funding for a different project at the same church will be considered for a period of two years.

The grant application form indicates the issues that the Trustees wish to see addressed in a positive way.

## **Grant Application Process**

All applications for grants should be made to:

The Clerk to the Trustees, Lasletts Charities, Katern Heywood House, Berkeley Court, The Foregate, Worcester WR1 3QG or by email to [admin@lasletts.org.uk](mailto:admin@lasletts.org.uk) .

The application should be submitted on the standard template form (which may be downloaded from the website) and which should be supported by such other documentation as specified on the form eg accounts, annual report and photographs or otherwise as may be desired including any accompanying letter/email.

When completed the application form should:

- Inform the Trustees of the overall purpose of the application, its urgency, the details of the project, the way the grant will be used and how it will be managed effectively for its intended purpose;
- Indicate how on completion of the project, the fabric of the church will have some assured longevity and/or the amenities and facilities provided by the church to serve both the congregation and community groups will be enhanced;
- Demonstrate the active involvement of its congregation, churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council with the local community whether in a rural or urban setting;
- Confirm that funding applications are being or have been lodged with other key grant awarding bodies;
- Indicate the overall financial viability of the church through the provision of up-to-date accounts for the church.

## **Grant Assessment Process**

All grant applications will be acknowledged by the Clerk and an indication given as to when the application will be determined;

If it appears to the Clerk that the application is submitted by a church which is one that would be excluded (as defined earlier above) then in consultation with the Chairman, that application may either be rejected without further reference to the Committee or, in case of any doubt, submitted to the Committee in the usual way for determination.

The Trustees determine applications following recommendations from its Grants Committee. The Grants Committee and the Trustees meet quarterly in the second and fourth weeks respectively of January, April, July and October of each year;

In considering grant applications the Trustees will carry out sufficient due diligence to ensure that the request for funds comes within the Charity's objects and the priorities for support set out in this policy or as may be subsequently amended;

The decision as to whether or not a grant has been successful will be communicated to the applicant within one week of the meeting of the Board of Trustees;

The decision will be final and not subject to appeal. Neither the Grants Committee nor the Trustees nor the Charity itself will be obliged to provide an explanation should the application be unsuccessful though if requested, the Clerk may indicate in general terms why that should have been so.

## **Monitoring**

The Trustees wish to monitor the progress of projects/works for which grant funding has been provided. Upon receipt of the grant the applicant will be encouraged to provide feedback by way of letter or email addressed to the Clerk with any supporting photographs to show how the grant has been utilised.

The Trustees welcome any invitation or opportunity to attend a launch type event or special service arranged by the church at the conclusion of the works or project for which the grant has been utilised.

Periodically the Trustees like to conduct a tour within a given broad locality of churches for which a grant has been offered/paid to inspect either the work in progress or the work once concluded. Representatives of the church would be requested to be in attendance.

If any part of the grant shall be surplus to the requirements of the project or work as set out in the application, then such surplus will be refunded to the Trustees unless otherwise agreed.

(Policy adopted by Laslett's Trustees on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025)