

Diocese of Lincoln Transformation Fund: Frequently Asked Questions

Where does the money come from?

The Transformation Fund is available to support parishes in their growth through the use of money from the interest above inflation of diocesan historic reserves.

What size of grant is available?

The Transformation Fund has two tiers. The first is for grants of up to £500 on a rolling basis, and the second is for grants of between £500 and £20,000. Tier 1 payments are made on a one-off basis. Tier 2 payments can be either a one-off payment or a repeated payment for a maximum of three years. We would encourage you to consider how these new initiatives will be sustained financially in the long term and would expect to see a sliding scale during the period of the grant.

Does the panel prioritise particular projects and events?

Yes and no. The Transformation Fund is open to all churches and affiliated groups in the Diocese of Lincoln and is designed to support churches and mission communities to develop their mission and ministry. It is expected that the church has developed a missional growth plan and is asked to demonstrate how projects are linked to this. For those churches that have not yet developed a missional growth plan there will be an expectation to provide a clear rationale for the project, with detailed criteria for success and methods of evaluation.

Is the Transformation Fund for new projects only, or is it for the development of projects that already exist?

The Transformation Fund is for both of these; it is not offer repeat funding.

Are there examples of the types of projects that the Transformation Fund would support?

Without wishing to be prescriptive, we are keen to support churches who understand the mission of the church within the context of the wider Local Mission Partnership and who:

- a. will develop the worship of the community to make it the best it can be
- b. will give confidence to people in their discipleship, deepening their faith and helping them to live it out in their daily lives
- c. will serve the local community in some way
- d. wish to publicise their activities, events and services in their community
- e. are imaginative and innovative with regard to church growth
- f. are looking to make the church more welcoming
- g. are seeking to engage with people on the margins of the Church
- h. are looking to develop relationships with people met through the occasional offices
- i. are seeking to develop all-age participation and engagement with families
- j. are seeking to engage with the local school(s)
- k. are looking to develop in terms of prayer and Bible study
- l. are looking to offer a Christian nurture or basics course to be run on at least an annual basis
- m. will seek to encourage lay leadership and ministry development.

Some examples of projects might include:

- a. running a new enquirers group, buying the resources and producing high-quality publicity
- b. running other courses; e.g. marriage, parenting, Grave Talk café
- c. setting up a parent and toddler group
- d. a men's shed drop-in for men
- e. setting up an Alzheimer's café
- f. drop-in sessions for people who are unemployed
- g. activities for children, young people or the elderly
- h. a crafts group for people to get together, share ideas and create items for the church or community.

Where might we obtain advice and further information?

Please visit the diocesan website, which contains helpful further information, or contact the Mission Officer, Sarah Spencer at transformation.fund@lincoln.anglican.org.

Can the Fund be used for building projects, such as toilets and serveries?

When there is clear evidence of missional intent and justification, some match-funding, can be sought, along with proof that all other alternative avenues have been explored.

Will the grants pay for feasibility studies or legal fees to allow a project or initiative to progress?

For example, could a parish wishing to sell some glebe land apply for legal fees to be covered, allowing for the necessary planning permission, etc. to be completed, which might then allow the land to be sold for a larger sum of money? Or could the money be used to pay an architect to provide plans for church development?

Yes.

Is the Fund able to pay for temporary trials for churches wishing to develop projects?

For example, festival-style matting as a temporary walkway to a church, or the six-month hire of a temporary toilet to allow further research into the possible need for a toilet facility?

Yes – but only with clear evidence of missional intent and justification, some match-funding, and proof that all other alternative avenues have been explored.

How will payments of the Covenant Giving affect an application?

For Tier 1 grants there is no impact. For Tier 2 grants, however, a clear commitment to engage with the Covenant Giving process will be required.

Can a parish have money from Tier 1 and Tier 2 in the same year?

Yes.

Can other Church organisations, such as a Church of England school, apply?

Yes – according to the same criteria as all other groups. There are also miscellaneous trust funds which are open to other Christian denominations and organisations - contact transformation.fund@lincoln.anglican.org for details.

Will the Fund cover the cost of attending training courses, such as Leading your Church into Growth?

Yes.

Where should completed forms be sent?

We ask that you seek advice before sending in a completed form. This will save you spending time on proposals that are unlikely to succeed. For example, if you are developing a fresh expression of church then you should contact your Deanery Partnership Mission Enabler. We will then offer any additional advice to support your application.

Tier 1 applications can be submitted at any time. Tier 2 applications must be submitted by the next published deadline (this is published on the diocesan website or may be obtained by contacting the Transformation Fund Officer). Completed applications should be submitted electronically:

transformation.fund@lincoln.anglican.org

How is the grant paid?

Applicants will be notified of the decision made after the meeting of the applications panel (although further questions or discussion may be needed before a final decision can be made). Payments will be made by BACS.

What type of follow-up will take place?

If your church has a missional growth plan, the project should form part of the annual reflection and celebration. If you have not yet developed one, the funding will form part of the process when you engage with the process.

A funded project or initiative will also be discussed during Episcopal and Archdeacons' Visitations in a benefice.

If it is felt to be appropriate, the project or initiative might be visited by a member of the panel.

As part of the agreement, each project will be asked to complete an evaluation report form. This will be completed by the PCC, benefice or deanery, as appropriate.