

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 your parish. 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 adults and/or children and young people and/or intergenerational groups
- Doing something to deepen understanding/practice of Christian discipleship which you wouldn't otherwise be able to do.

The focus of the fund is on **learning, growing and developing in discipleship**. There are obvious overlaps with aspects of worship, mission and pastoral care, but 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 and go deeper in understanding and living out their Christian faith day by day**. There is scope here to be imaginative about the different ways in which 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 like in the Parable of the Talents. These are small grants, so we don't expect revolutionary change. But creativity is encouraged!

What Can - and 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
- 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).

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 initial gathering of representatives from churches receiving talents funding (2-3 months in).
- 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 open for applications on 1st November. The final date for submitting an application is **31st January 2025**. There will be enough funds available for all parishes participating in this pilot (up to a maximum of £500 per parish) so there is no need to rush to get your application in at the beginning of the application window. It's better to take the time to get it right.

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 grow and 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.