

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of All Saints' Sidmouth

Fundraising (Grants and Donations) Policy

Adopted 9 March 2021

Background

The income received by All Saints' PCC is in the region of £300,000 (2020 figures) of which £220,500 is received in donations and legacies from members of the church congregation, and the remainder comes from investments and other trading and charitable activities. All Saints' PCC does not regularly receive grants or donations from any external sources.

From time to time however, particularly to fund a large capital project, in addition to raising funds from members of the church, the PCC may seek grants and donations from other organisations who previously may or may not have had any connection with the church or its activities.

The purpose of this document is to guide the PCC through the process of fund-raising and to demonstrate to the members of the church, the general public and potential external funders, that the PCC is committed to following statutory guidance and regulations.

Introduction

Members of the PCC, acting in their role as trustees, have overall legal responsibility for decisions relating to the acceptance of a grant or donation. Trustees must be able to demonstrate that they have acted in the best interest of the church. Trustees have a duty to consider carefully, based on the evidence made available to them, whether the church's interests will be served by applying for a specific grant or accepting a donation and to act accordingly. These judgments must not promote any trustee's personal moral agenda or interest and the trustees must not allow individual or collective personal, political or ethical issues, which are not directly related to the interests of the church, to affect their judgment.

Fundraising Principles

All Saints' PCC abides by the Code of Fundraising Practice, promoted by the Fundraising Regulator (<https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/>) which is the independent regulator of charitable fundraising in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The code sets out the responsibilities that apply to fundraising carried out by charitable institutions and third-party fundraisers in the UK. For the purposes of the code, fundraising means to ask for money or other property for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes, and it covers a wide range of fundraising methods.

The following four values form the basis of the code.

Legal: All fundraising must meet the requirements of the law.

Open: Fundraisers must be open with the public about their processes and must be willing to explain (where appropriate) if they are asked for more information.

Honest: Fundraisers must act with integrity and must not mislead the public about the cause they are fundraising for or the way a donation will be used.

Respectful: Fundraisers must demonstrate respect whenever they have contact with any member of the public.

Fundraising Details

All Saints' PCC may seek grants and donations from local and national charities and grant-making bodies as well as from members of the church congregation.

The PCC will not seek to raise funds from sources outside the church congregation for the support of its day-to-day ministry, including, for example, paying its staff and clergy or paying its Common Fund contribution.

When fundraising for a particular cause or project, the PCC will not:

- Appeal directly to the general public, via street collections, collections door-to-door, over the telephone, using online-giving websites or by any other direct means
- Promote any prize-winning activity, for example, lottery or raffle-tickets or hold events which promote gambling e.g. race nights

Applications for Grants

The PCC will consider the suitability of each selected grant making body before an application is submitted; it will only submit grant applications to bodies approved beforehand by the PCC.

In determining the suitability of a grant-making body, the PCC will consider the following constraints and not seek grants from any organisation:

- Where it suspects that the grant would be used to facilitate money laundering or other criminal activity
- Where it can be clearly shown that the cost to All Saints' of accepting the grant will be greater than the value of the grant itself
- Where the activities of a grant-making body are contrary to the charitable objectives or policies of All Saints' PCC
- Where the sources of the income of a grant-making body include lotteries, gaming, gambling or similar methods whereby funds are raised from the general public
- Where the offer of a grant is dependent upon the fulfilment of certain conditions placed upon All Saints' PCC, and these conditions:
 - are contrary to the objectives of All Saints' PCC
 - require an unreasonable level of support from the PCC especially in relation to the size or impact the grant will have on its charitable activities
 - will divert the PCC from pursuing its agreed objectives, policies or priorities, at the present time or in the foreseeable future.

In exceptional circumstances, for example the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21, the PCC will accept grants made through local or national government bodies for which it qualifies on account of being, for example, a registered charity, a business rates payer or an employer.

This policy was last reviewed, updated and approved by the PCC on 9 March 2021