

Cumbria Methodist Circuit Grants Policy



Introduction

Methodist Circuits do not have grant making as part of their core purposes but are charged with supporting the local mission and ministry of the Methodist Church. Recognising both the finances available and the geographic scale of the Cumbria Circuit it is therefore appropriate that a small grants policy is in place to support and encourage local churches in new endeavours.

This policy provides for grants of up to £500 and is intended to both support Churches with small items and act as match funding for larger projects. The North West England District small grants stream currently provides for grants of up to £1,500 where local match funding is in place. Therefore, a church raising £1,000 locally either through donations or fundraising events may release an additional £500 Circuit and £1,500 District providing total funding of up to £3,000.

External funders would be required for more substantial projects for which additional District funding is available. Larger Circuit contributions may also be possible in specific cases (e.g. as part of related property schemes where sale proceeds will return to Circuit) but these would be by initial discussion with the Cumbria Circuit Leadership team and agreed and provided under a resolution of the Circuit meeting on a case-by-case basis.

Applications

- Small Grant applications should be made on the attached form and emailed to the grants group – grants@cumbriamethodists.org.uk
- Churches should not have had a £500 Circuit grant in the last 2 years.
- Grant Application is by email to the grants group setting out:
 - 1) An explanation of what the money is for and the project to be undertaken.
 - 2) A quote or simple budget of total proposed costs (not just this grant).
 - 3) The amount of funding requested from the Circuit.
 - 4) Dates the project is expected to take place.
- The Church Council should be supportive of the application (no special meeting is needed for this, a catch up after church so folk are aware of the application is sufficient.)
- The project must not have already taken place or the money already spent when the application is submitted (no retrospective grants.)
- Applications are only accepted from Churches within the Cumbria Methodist Circuit (for the avoidance of doubt, this includes Local Ecumenical Partnerships with a Methodist component.)

Approved Cumbria Circuit Implementation Group – 14th July 2025.

Signed Rev D Newlove

Date 14th July 2025.