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**Small Grants For New Congregations**

As we enter the Easter season we begin our lectionary journey in the Book of Acts where, after the resurrection, the disciples of Jesus are praying, waiting and, as the Holy Spirit moves, going out into mission and seeing many come to faith. It is fitting, therefore, that in this season we open up our small grants programme for new congregations.

By ‘new congregation’ we mean a gathering that is just beginning (or will begin in the next six months) which is aimed at people who are not yet part of the church. New congregations gather people in a place (ideally in person but could be online). They include some form of worship, an opportunity for people to talk about or embody faith, and are committed to maintaining relationships between gatherings.

We have twenty grants of up to £500 to offer to small new congregations to help them get off the ground. Fill in the form below and send it to: jude.smith@leeds.anglican.org. To support you as you apply we will hold drop in Zoom sessions for you to ask questions and you can ask us for further support in writing your application by emailing barnabas@leeds.anglican.org.

Zoom Sessions:

Tuesday 8th April at 12.30pm: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86055582548?pwd=YTdnT3R5MC9wbk1ROFdOZFNEV1J0dz09

Tuesday 8th April at 6pm: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84212882156?pwd=b1lZcGg5MG5vd2Nzc2tSRVZFZGhhZz09

Please send your application by 20th April. A small group of people will gather to make the decisions for this cycle on 23rd April. We will then contact you to let you know a grant is coming and also to arrange to hear your story. We know that when people hear about what others are doing it can help them to work out what to do. We would love to hear and share your story.

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| Who are you? (name of church/ parish/ benefice or other group. Please tell us which episcopal are you are in) |  |
| Who do we talk to?(name of Key contact and an email or phone number) |  |
| **QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR NEW CONGREGATION** |  |
| In 100 words tell us about your new congregation.Use another 50 words to tell us what you hope it looks like in a year. |  |
| ***Listening***How are you praying for this new congregation? How do you know that this congregation is needed? Who does it engage with (to receive funding it needs to focus on people who are not already part of other congregations in your church)? |  |
| ***Engagement***How are you inviting people to be part of this congregation? |  |
| ***Nurture***What will you do in this congregation to tell people about Jesus?How will you keep up relationships between gatherings (especially for once a month or less regular congregations)? |  |
| ***Discipleship***What opportunities are there to go deeper in faith (either now or in the future)? |  |
| ***Leadership***Who is currently involved in planning and leading the congregation? What opportunities are there now or will there be for new people to grow into leadership? |  |
| **QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFETY** |  |
| Has the PCC approved this congregation? |  |
| Have all the leaders and helpers in this congregation been safely recruited?  |  |
| Have all the right people been trained in safeguarding? |  |
| Do you have a risk assessment in place to make sure the activities are safe?  |  |
| **QUESTIONS ABOUT MONEY** |  |
| What will a small grant help you to do (or how will you spend the money)? |  |
| What plans do you have for the congregation to become sustainable financially? |  |
| Who do we pay the money to? (please provide parish bank account details) |  |
| **HOW WE CAN HELP YOU** |  |
| What support do you need for your congregation to thrive? (this could be training or advice, or joining a learning community) |  |
| **TELLING YOUR STORY** |  |
| If successful we would love to hear a story from your congregation (and that includes if it hasn’t worked out as you had planned). Please tick to say that you agree.  |  |
| Your signature and name |  |