

Meeting of:	Welsh Church Act Estate Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 13 October 2026
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Resources Scrutiny Committee
Item which the Chair has decided is urgent (Part I) (If yes, why)	Not Applicable
Urgent Decision Procedure Used (15.14 of the Constitution) (If yes, why)	Not applicable
Item Type	Part I
Report Title:	Applications for Financial Assistance 2026/27 Tranche 1
Portfolio Holder:	Choose an item.
Strategic Leadership Team:	Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
Lead Officer:	Matt Bowmer Head of Finance

1.0 What is this report about?

- 1.1 A budget of £60k has been set for issuing grants during 2026/27.
- 1.2 There was net reduction in the Welsh Church Act's reserve at 31st March 2026 of £15k
- 1.3 The maximum grant that can be potentially awarded has been maintained at £10k.
- 1.4 Grants totalling £44,647.36 set out in Appendix A are recommended as part of this report.
- 1.5 A remaining sum of £15,352.64 is available for allocation during 2026/27.

2.0 What are the Recommendations?

	Recommendations – What and How?	Reason for Recommendation – Why?
2.1	That Committee considers and approves the applications for grant assistance as set out in Appendix A of this report.	In furtherance of the objectives of the Trust.

3.0 What is the background to this report?

- 3.1 The Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has delegated authority to manage the trust's affairs in accordance with "The Scheme" the Welsh Church Act Estate as vested in the Council.
- 3.2 The purposes for which the Welsh Church Act fund may make grants is set out in summary at Appendix B to this report.
- 3.3 The applications received are set out in Appendix A to this report.

4.0 What issues are there to be considered?

- 4.1 Appendix A to this report sets out a summary of the applications to be considered.
- 4.2 The revenue outturn for 2025/26 and projections for 2026/27 are included in Appendix C and make provision for grant allocations of £60k in 2026/27.
- 4.3 There are 2 grant applications to be awarded in principle pending receipt of the supporting documentation for the grant award, totalling £20k as set out in Appendix A.

5.0 How has evidence been used to inform the report, including the views of others?

- 5.1 Welsh Church accounts are subject to regular monitoring and review. All grant applications are reviewed and considered alongside supporting documentation such as accounts, bank statements and quotations prior to recommending grant applications to committee for award.

6.0 What are the next steps if the recommendations are approved?

- 6.1 The applicants will be contacted to confirm that the grant awards have been agreed. Grant payments to the organisations will be made once a claim has been received and a final certificate of completion is required from the funding body.

7.0 How does this report support Vale 2030 and Reshaping?

- 7.1 Trustees are required to monitor the financial position of the Trust and ensure th charitable purposes are achieved through its activities i.e. the award of grants.

8.0 How does this demonstrate the Five Ways of Working?

- 8.1 The Trusts actions need to comply with Charity Law and its decisions are independent of the Councils obligations under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

Resources

9.0 Finance

- 9.1 The sum of £60k has been provided for grants in the Trust's revenue estimates for 2026/27.
- 9.2 It is recommended that an allocation of £44,647.36 is made for applications for grant assistance as set out at Appendix A to this report, which will leave a remaining balance of £15,352.64 to be allocated during 2026/27.
- 9.3 There are two grant awards for the Cardiff area totalling £10,690.00 which were recommended by Cardiff Council. There are a further 5 grant awards for the Vale of Glamorgan area totalling £33,957.36. The award for St. Illtud's Church is requested to be awarded in principle pending confirmation of the match grant funding from the National Church's Trust.

10.0 Workforce

- 10.1 There are no direct employment implications arising from this report.

11.0 Legal and Equalities

- 11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed because the scope of this report is limited to presenting factual financial data. It does not propose, amend, or implement any policies, services, or operational changes that could directly or indirectly affect individuals or groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.
There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

12.0 Key Contacts

- 12.1 **Who are the primary officers to contact with any comments and/or queries on the report?**

Lead Officer: Matt Bowmer Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer mbowmer@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk	Democratic Services Officer: Liz Whitaker
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Appendix

Appendix A – Applications for Grants

Appendix B - Charitable Purposes of the Welsh Church Act Fund

Appendix C – Welsh Church Act Financial Position

Background Documents

ITEM NO	NAME OF ORGANISATION (Date of original application)	SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR WHICH GRANT REQUESTED	CLASSIFICATION OF CLAIM	AMOUNT REQUESTED	GRANT RECOMMENDED	COMMENTS
	<u>New Applications</u>					
1	Cardiff & Wales Parents Federation	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</i> Deliver 2026 Understanding Disability Awards Ceremony. Cardiff and Vale Parents Federation has supported families of children and adults with learning disabilities for over 25 years. Through our ongoing work with families and carers, we consistently hear that there are limited opportunities to recognise positive inclusive practice and challenge stigma at a community-wide level. The Understanding Disability Awards directly address this gap.The Awards celebrate individuals, schools, professionals and community organisations that champion the inclusion, support and empowerment of people with learning disabilities and their carers	Other	£3,941.91	£3,941.91	Total Project Cost £5,255.88. Financed by Reserves and this Welsh Church Act grant application. Various quotes provided for room hire, finger buffets , trophies, certificates and photographers.Current bank statement, financial accounts dated 31st March 2025, Memorandum Articles of Associations Parents Federation and Equality and Diversity Policy included in the application.
2	Croes Y Parc Baptist Church	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</i> Replacement Sound System and Church Sign. .A sound system was installed when the Chapel Hall was built in 2017 however the system has come to the end of its useful life. Lots of the system was hard wired which has started to cause problems, the 4 speakers in the hall are all defective and the 'hearing loop' requires updating.It is proposed that a computer based system be installed, all microphones and the speaker system be upgraded to ensure it meets modern requirements. Further the Chapel itself will be celebrating its 250th Anniversary in 2027 and apart from holding many celebratory events, it needs a modern Chapel sign.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£9,040.00	£9,040.00	Total Project Cost £12,915. Financed by church reserves and this Welsh Church Act Application. Quotations received to support. Signed 2025 Audited Accounts, bank statement and Equality-Diversity and Dignity at work policy included in the application.
3	St Illtud's Church Llantwit Major	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.</i> Urgent Repairs. Urgent repairs are needed to the roof and lead flashing on the south side of the East Church where there is water ingress that is causing the roof to deteriorate and is dangerously affecting the electricity and lighting infrastructure.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Total Project Cost £26,220.00. Financed by National Churches' Trust Grant £13,110.00 (not yet approved) and this Welsh Church Act grant application. Plans and tender report with quotes received Unaudited Accounts as of December 2024 and Equal Opportunities Policy included in application. Award in Principle.
4	Trowbridge Pantry	<i>Recommended by Cardiff Council</i> Help with food costs. Extra funding to help feed children and families who would otherwise go hungry during the school holidays. To meet these essential needs, we are running a special project called 'School's Out, Grub's Up!'. This project will take place during the school holidays from October half term this year (2026), through to the end of the summer holidays next year (2027). The grant amount will not be used for every day running costs, it will be used only to buy in extra provisions.	Other	£2,550.00	£2,550.00	Total Project Cost £8,166.00. Financed by Member subscriptions and donations, other donations Waitrose Benevity grant, National Lottery Grant and this Welsh Church Act Application. National Lottery approval letter received, Bank statement received. Constitutional details supplied,
5	Bethesda Chapel Fair Oaks Dinas Powys	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council</i> Urgent Repairs. Urgent Repairs are required to the church roof, particularly the area affecting the Foodbank Storage.Recent hot/dry weather has avoided any water ingress for now, but as we head into the wetter period this is becoming an urgent issue	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Total Project Cost £15,100.00. Financed by this Welsh Church Acts grant application and remainder will be met from current held funds and members' support. 2 Quotes received. Copy of accounts NOT received (chasing), Equal Opportunities policy included, constitutional details supplied, no bank statement (chasing) Award in principle
6	Bethany Baptist Church	<i>Recommended by Cardiff Council</i> Purchase of storage container and chairs. Funding applied for with hopes to purchase a shipping container for the storage of equipment, primarily that used in children's and youth activities held at the church. Previous storage hut demolished due to discovery of asbestos.Shipping container would allow them to move equipment out of a meeting room where it is currently stored, freeing the room for community activities. Chairs will also be purchased allowing the removal of existing fixed pews in the main hall to create flexible space for additional community activities.	Places of Worship and Burial Grounds	£8,140.00	£8,140.00	Total Project Cost £10,854.00. Financed by sale of existing pews and legacy funds and this Welsh Church Acts grant application. Quote received for shipping container. Bank Statement and Constitutional details supplied with application. Equal Opportunities Policy supplied.
7	Forget-Me-Not Chorus	<i>Recommended by the Vale of Glamorgan Council</i> Help With session costs. Funding will be used to support eight in-person singing sessions at council-run care home Ty Dewi Sant. Forget-me-not Chorus subsidises delivery in council-run and not-for-profit care homes, and in homes serving areas of social deprivation, as they are often unable to fund sessions themselves. he FMNC care home programme is designed to improve wellbeing, reduce loneliness and isolation, and create opportunities for enjoyment, creativity and social connection.	Other	£975.45	£975.45	Total Project Cost £1,300.60. Financed by own funds committed and remainder from this Welsh Church Acts grant application .Costs are made up of fees for a freelance music leader for 8 sessions + learning fee, freelance pianist for 8 sessions and care home programme project manager contribution. Quote not received as n/a, bank statement received along with annual report and examined accounts 2024/25.Constitutional information and equal opportunities policy also supplied with application.
		Total Requested / Recommended		£44,647.36	£44,647.36	

Vale of Glamorgan

WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

The Charitable purposes for which the fund may be applied.

Set out below is a **summary only** of the purposes for which the Fund may be applied:

- (i) **Educational** - Provision of benefits not readily available from other sources, and recreation, social and physical training facilities, at educational establishments, not normally provided by the LEA.
- (ii) **Relief in sickness** - Assistance to persons who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm, where such assistance is not readily available from other sources.
- (iii) **Relief in need** - Assistance generally or to individuals in need, hardship or distress.
- (iv) **Libraries, museums, art galleries etc.** – Advancing the appreciation of Welsh arts and literature in general.
- (v) **Social and recreational facilities in general.**
- (vi) **Protection of historic buildings etc.** – Promotion of interest in Welsh architecture, history and science in general, for the benefit of Welsh people.
- (vii) **Medical and social research, treatment in general etc.**- Preservation and protection of the physical and mental health of society in general. Provision of nurseries, convalescent homes and hostels
- (viii) **Probation etc.** - Assistance to persons on probation or the families thereof.
- (ix) **Blind persons** - Provision of welfare including accommodation.
- (x) **Aged persons** - Provision of accommodation.
- (xi) **Places of worship and burial grounds** – Restoration and maintenance.
- (xii) **Emergencies or disasters** - Directly assisting persons in need.
- (xiii) **Other charitable purposes** – Contributions to charitable organisations not inconsistent with the purposes of the trust.

WELSH CHURCH ACT

APPENDIX C

Revenue Estimates 2025/26

	2025/26	2026/27	2026/27
	As per Accounts	to 31/08/2026	Full Year
	Actual	Actual	Estimate
	£	£	£
Income			
Property Rents and Lease Income	13,482	8,303	13,000
Dividends			
Projected Investment Income	56,750	14,559	58,237
Total Income	70,231	22,862	71,237
Expenditure			
Repairs and Maintenance	2,585	0	2,521
Court and Legal Fees	0	0	0
Valuation and Planning	0	1,250	1,250
Audit Fees	1,896	0	1,950
Charges VOG Staff time	5,530	0	5,516
Grants	75,327	0	60,000
Total Expenditure	85,338	1,250	71,237
Total (Surplus)/Deficit for the year	15,107	0	0
Carried forward from Prev Grant allocation	0	0	0
Total Contribution (from)/to Reserves	-15,107	0	0
Adjusted Total	0	0	0

	Total
Grant Allocation 2026/27	60,000.00
Recommended Tranche 1 (Appendix A)	44,647.36
Balance remaining to be allocated	15,352.64