



St Michael's Church Discretionary Fund: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Discretionary Fund?

St Michael's is committed to sharing 10% of all income it receives to provide support where there is need. This fund (known as a tithe) is reviewed, allocated and approved annually and is split into two key parts - regular donations to support a range of local, regional and international Christian mission projects and the new 'Discretionary Fund' which will be used to provide ad-hoc support where there is need and to support projects which will have an impact on the community.

This Discretionary fund allows St Michael's to allocate funds for additional and unexpected ad hoc projects and requests for support.

Who qualifies for funding?

We are keen to use this fund to provide support where there is need. We have therefore decided to not set specific criteria for who can (or cannot) apply. Funds will be granted on the basis of need and given to either individuals or to support organisations in our community.

What sort of things can funding / support be applied for?

We welcome applications covering a wide range of needs – from contributions towards community projects, the purchase of a community defibrillator, or the repair or replacement of broken household appliances. **We will prioritise providing funds where there is evidence of need.** Given our obligation to further the religious or charitable objectives of the parish, the only applications we could not consider would be those that are incompatible with our Christian conscience and faith.

How much money is available? Is there a maximum amount that can be applied for?

We want this fund to bless as many people as possible so have set an initial maximum amount of £200. In exceptional circumstances, we may be able to provide more than this amount.

I'm concerned about others knowing that I've applied for help. Who will know about my application and will it be treated confidentially?

All applications will be treated with the utmost respect and, where required, confidentiality will be assured at all times. A copy of our Privacy Statement can be found on our website.

Can only people who attend St. Michael's Church apply?

No. Whilst the fund aims to form links between St. Michael's and the community, the main aim is to provide support and help where there is need.

Are there any geographical restrictions? Does the money need to be spent in the Parish?

There are no geographical restrictions. Relationships with the church is the connection – not geography. Grants are available where there is need and / or where the funds will provide benefit to the wider community.

What if I don't have any links with St. Michael's?

You don't need to have an existing connection with St. Michael's to be able to apply for support. One of the funds aims is to establish and build relationships between the church and the community so if you already have a link with the church we ask that you list your contact's name as Church Sponsor on the application form. If you don't have an existing contact just leave this section blank **and we will arrange to meet with you and see how we might help find a sponsor for you.** The role of the Church Sponsor is outlined below.

The application form asks me to list a Church Sponsor – what is their role and how do I find someone to sponsor my application?

Any member of the congregation can be listed as a Church Sponsor on the application form. One of the funds aims is to help build and establish relationships with the community. Church sponsors will support and promote the application and provide a link between the PCC/Parish Office and the applicant. If you don't have an existing contact at St Michael's, simply leave this section blank and we'll find a sponsor for you.

Do I need to provide evidence or supporting material?

You don't need to provide any evidence, however, any supporting documentation that you are willing to include with your application will be useful when considering your request. **However, we do ask that Community Organisations provide a project budget and a copy of their last accounts.** All applications will be treated with the utmost confidentiality (a copy of our Privacy Statement can be found on our website).

How do I apply for funding?

Please complete the application form and return it to the Church Centre Office. Copies of the form can be downloaded from our website, by contacting the Church Centre Office or by asking any member of the congregation.

Where do I send my application?

Applications (and any supporting evidence / material) should be sent to St. Michael's Discretionary Fund, St Michael's Church Centre, Church Lane, Budbrooke, Warwick, CV35 8QL (or emailed to parishoffice@stmichaels-budbrooke.org.uk)

How quickly will decisions be made?

Where there is urgent need we **will seek to respond** quickly. Otherwise, all applications will be reviewed and considered quarterly (at the beginning of September, December, March and July).