

Phonecall with Jo Hands.

Jo Hands is Governance and Grants officer at the Diocese on October 6th. She was extremely helpful and encouraged us to get our applications for net zero carbon funding to her as soon as possible.

The reason is that the funding is allocated every year and runs from January to December. At present there is funding left in each type of grant. In the New Year a new budget will be agreed which may not be as healthy as this year.

There are two net zero carbon funding grants.

A quick hit fund which can be applied for before any faculty or minor works approval. This gives a maximum of £1500 on projects of up to a maximum of £3000 ie it requires a 50% match funding which we are in a position to do. This would cover items such as heated cushions and replacing lighting with LED lights.

Jo was particularly interested in the heated cushions as she has never had a quick win application for those. She said the fact that we brought 10 for the congregation to test out would help in any application.

For the quick hit grant application once submitted that is circulated to advisors particularly Colin Angus for comment and then sent to a sub committee which includes the Archdeacon Paster (Tim Cockell). It is a fairly simple procedure which should take no more than a couple of weeks.

There is no limit to the number of times parishes can apply for a quick hit grant and Jo would expect a quick hit application to have been submitted before the other fund described next.

The other Net Zero fund would be for a maximum grant of £25,000 of any project of £50,000 or over. Again, matching funding is required.

This could include all other works to move us towards net zero- that would include the cost removing our current system, the wiring needed to fit pew heaters, the cost of installing those, the sockets for temporary heating equipment or convention heating equipment in the future, control panel and any other control equipment needed.

For the second bigger grant fund the procedure is to submit an expression of interest which can be done before quotes have been received. It is also not necessary to have had faculty approval. If the grant is approved, it will be subject to a 2-year period for claiming the money. The money would be released on submitting a copy of the faculty approval. The procedure after submission is more involved and takes longer.

In the case of both funds, we need to demonstrate how we are moving towards the Church of England's target of net zero by 2030. In making decisions the Diocese will consider information already submitted to them such as Statistics for Mission and Return of Parish Finance. They will also consider census and deprivation information.

Jo said the criteria which says the grants will be considered against the financial position (as suggested by Area Dean) only comes into play when a fund is oversubscribed which is not the case at present.