

Central Church Fund evolves into Church and Community Fund

The Central Church Fund has changed its name to the Church and Community Fund with effect from June 2006. The CCF makes grants in support of church-based community work and the new name is intended to communicate its work more clearly.

Founded shortly after the First World War, the CCF is now part of the Archbishops' Council and awards more than £500,000 in grants to parish projects every year. All CCF grants seek to take the church out into the community, bring the community into the church and strengthen the relationship between the two.

The Fund's recently published *Annual Review*, the first under its new name, describes some of the projects supported last year. The CCF gave £5,000 to Stanton-by-Dale PCC in Derby Diocese towards expanding the PCC's Village Shop. The shop is run voluntarily by church members and is, in the words of the rector, 'a great way for the church family to meet newcomers and older residents alike. We are a true presence in the village and we do see the shop as part of our ministry.'

The CCF also gave £3,000 to a Christian charity in the Diocese of Chelmsford providing food, clothing and transport to legal appointments for asylum seekers, and £15,000 towards restoring a community centre in a deprived part of Blackburn Diocese. Other grants helped to run a homelessness project in Exeter, establish a youth group in London, support church tourism in Hereford and put on a mystery play in Leicester.

The CCF has expanded its work significantly over the last couple of years. Thanks to some generous legacies, it was able to award a record £537,000 to 107 parish or diocesan-based community projects in 2005. That is a third more than the amount awarded in 2004 and double that awarded in 2003. It also gives an annual grant of £250,000 to the Archbishops' Council in support of the national work of the Church.

'We are looking forward to continuing the same vital work under our new name,' says the Chairman of the CCF, the Ven David Woodhouse. 'These projects bear witness to an enormous amount of hard work and faith from local church people, and speak strongly of the Church's role in communities up and down the country. The trustees feel privileged to be able to help so many worthwhile projects, and would welcome donations to extend that support further.'

A copy of the CCF's *Annual Review 2005* as well as details of how to apply for a grant or make a legacy or donation to the CCF are available from the Secretary to the CCF at Church House, Great Smith St, London SW1P 3NZ, or at www.churchandcommunityfund.org.uk.

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More information from

Rachel Lindley (CCF) tel 020 7898 1767 or

Steve Jenkins tel 020 78989 1457