**Orphan House Trust Grant Application Information**

The Orphan House was opened in 1743, in Northumberland Street in Newcastle upon Tyne. It was a base for John and Charles Wesley on their journeys around the North East. The original plan was that it should also be an orphanage for 40 poor children, but its role was mainly as a school.

It was the home of the first Methodist Sunday School in the North East and was also used as a full time day school for young children.

Eventually the building ceased to be used by the Methodist Church and was leased for various commercial purposes. The original building was demolished in 1957, but the freehold of the site remains in Methodist Church hands. It is the income from leasing the land that is available to be distributed according to the decisions of the Board of Trustees of the Orphan House.

**Criteria used for Awarding Grants**

The Trustees aim to be faithful to the original purpose and ethos of the Orphan House and its founder, Rev. John Wesley, in the decisions they make regarding the allocation of money. As a result, there are a few main strands upon which we focus. We particularly welcome applications that are in support of:

* Local Church based or supported projects involving children or young people
* Local Church based or supported projects involving those most at need in our society
* Overseas projects involving education or health care, particularly those that have some link with the Christian Church, and which may have some direct link with local churches

The annual income of the trust is usually about £25,000. Consequently, the amount of awards made will usually be relatively small (of a few £100 to a few £1,000). However, if funds are available, larger amounts may be awarded for particularly relevant projects.

Priority will generally be given to projects which are small, and which might therefore have difficulty in attracting grants from larger grant giving bodies.

Awards will not usually be made towards large scale projects. Grants towards medium and small building projects will be considered if there is evidence that the grant is to be used for building work/alterations which are a pre-requisite for work described in the earlier criteria. (e.g. kitchen or toilet facilities needed because of the development of work with children and young people.)

Similarly, grants towards core costs of projects, including contributions to employment costs, may be considered. This is more likely for projects that clearly meet the above criteria, but require short term kick-start or interim funding, and can clearly show a business plan that demonstrates on-going viability.

In special circumstances awards may be made to individuals towards training courses or conferences which are Church connected. The Trustees would need assurance that the grant is in the spirit of the Orphan House and result in some benefit to the Church, as well as the individual.

**Process for Applications**

* An application form (enclosed) must always accompany a request.
* The Orphan House Trustees meet about 3 times a year. Trustees will consider completed applications that are received by email to the Orphan House Trust Secretary, as below, before the end of the month preceding the next meeting. Dates of forthcoming meetings are available from the Secretary.
* Supporting documentation may be sent to accompany the application form.

**Wesley Orphan House Trust February 2022**