



The Mustard Seed Fund

Terms of Reference

"The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree."
Mt 13:31-32

These grants are to assist parishes in their work of Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation, for activities, projects and resources, as part of Parish Plans and *Some Definite Service*.

Practical Notes

The Fund came into being in 2023 thanks to the Archbishop's Appeal and a number of private benefactors, and is managed by the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis.

Secretary to the Fund is the Department Administrator of the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis, with their line manager serving as an Advisor to the Fund.

This unique Fund has as its focus parishes in the Archdiocese of Southwark, in their work of evangelisation, catechesis and formation, by dispensing small grants to support, enable and encourage outreach projects, and the purchase of resources which serve the Archbishop's vision that we become a missionary and evangelising Archdiocese. The total fund value is £4K.

Relationship with Some Definite Service

Some Definite Service is the diocesan-wide approach to parish growth in Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation through local people, plans and prayer.

Each application will be submitted by email and will be assessed against a set of criteria:

- The parish will have gone through the SDS Planning process.
- The sum of money required will be between £200 and £400
- The parish will commit to producing a short report on the grant's/project's effectiveness.
- Priority will be given to those parishes with
 - Proven record of effective transmission of faith
 - Limited funds for such projects though not necessarily low levels of income.

Process

The Parish Planning Process, as part of *Some Definite Service*, is itself the 'bones' of the application, including details of the proposed activities. Once the plan is recorded via the SDS planning online form an application can be made to mustardseed@rcaos.org.uk by the parish priest and the Parish Lead in either Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation.

Where possible we will try to ensure that there is a geographical spread of beneficiaries. It is also important that the Fund is open to supporting projects that are pioneering, enabling outreach activities that have never been tried before, in service of the New Evangelisation.

Every beneficiary will be asked to submit a short report about their project after it has happened, including photographs, a description of what they did, an indication of the impact their activity had and next steps. It is not envisaged that the Fund becomes an independent Charity or Trust, but exists for a specific purpose, to support the Archdiocese of Southwark's mission and the development of *Some Definite Service*.