

COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND APPLICATION

Please answer all questions which are relevant to your organisation – failure to do so may result in a delay in the determination of your application

PROJECT (In no more than 25 words)	Shrewsbury Unitarian Church Grade II listed building roof repairs	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	£3,000
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Contact Details

Q1 Name of organisation making application:

... SHREWSBURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

Name of contact for this application

Title: Mrs. First Name:Lindsay..... Surname:Delaney.....

Position held in the organisation: [REDACTED]

Contact Address, including full postcode:

[REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Contact Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

About your organisation

Q2 What type of organisation are you?

Tick (✓) relevant category:

Registered Charity: (✓) Charity Registration Number ...1140696

Voluntary Organisation: ()

Company Limited by Guarantee: () Company Number

Other – Please specify:

Q3 When was your organisation established?

There has been a church building and a congregation on this site since 1691.

Registered as a Charity in 2011.

Q4 Briefly describe your organisation.

Describe your organisation, including how many members/users you have, whether there is a subscription fee and the usual activities/services you provide.

If you are a new organisation, describe the services/activities you plan to provide.

Shrewsbury Unitarians Grade II listed Church stands prominently on Shrewsbury High Street and is of considerable historical and architectural importance. Many know this Church as "Darwin's Church".

Brief history of the Church

It's history extends back several centuries: built in 1691, the chapel was enlarged by incorporating the houses in front in 1703, this was destroyed by a Jacobite mob in 1715 and then quickly rebuilt. George I later granted a Royal Charter, and his coat of arms still hangs above the pulpit. The chapel also has strong cultural associations, having been attended in childhood by Charles Darwin and having welcomed Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who preached here in 1798. Plaques in the church commemorate these events.

Architecturally, the building retains many notable permanent features, including memorial tablets to early ministers, historic panelling and a clock that predates the present structure, 18th-century stained glass, a pulpit, a pipe organ, 17th-century chairs, and decorative details such as the painted frieze and Wedgwood ceiling decoration.

Importance of the Church to the local and wider community today

It continues to serve the community as a place of worship and a venue for concerts and local events. We have an average attendance at Sunday morning services of around 24 people.

In the last 3 months the following activities took place in the Church:

2 May - Charity second hand book sale in aid of Shrewsbury Ark (homeless charity)

7 May - Robin Nolan Gypsy Jazz guitar masterclass concert

9 May - Spring craft fayre

10 May - Congregation meeting

16 May - SYGigs music concert
 21 May – Poetry group
 6 June - Wedding of previous administrator's son
 13 June - Charity second hand book sale in aid of British Red Cross
 18 June – Poetry group
 21 June - Summer Solstice Celebration Service
 25 June - Shrewsbury Folk guitar masterclass concert
 2 July - Charity second hand book sale in aid of British Red Cross
 7 July - Visit by Shrewsbury School exchange students from Korea
 12 July - Annual General Meeting
 16 July - Poetry Group
 25 July - Green Room for the Children's Literary Festival

Every Tuesday - Food hub, Coffee morning, Meanderings

Every Wednesday - Lunchtime meditations

Every Thursday - Coffee morning

Every Sunday - Morning services at 11am, followed by coffee and chat

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Q5 If you are a subsidiary of a larger organisation, please state which one.

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Q6 Does your organisation have an agreed Constitution or Memorandum of Association?

Please state which and attach a copy:

.....Constitution.....

Q7 What is your primary source of funding?

Our day-to-day activities and general annual expenditure are funded from our investments (valued at £472,597 on 31st March 2026) and donations. If major one-off works are required to maintain the building, we have to fund raise.

Details of the project or activity you are planning

Q8 Describe the projects/activity you plan to use this grant for.

i. Try to be specific about what you will do and how you will do it.

Urgent roof repairs

Within our most recent Quinquennial structural report in 2021 there were several matters which were raised. The roof has been regularly monitored and is now in need of urgent repair and remedial works to repair damage from water ingress described by the job specification as follows:

- *The works include full site set-up and safe access arrangements, with external scaffolding erected to roof level independent of the existing church.*
- *Internal protection will be provided to the kitchen and other fixtures and fittings, and all waste will be removed from site.*
- *Roof repairs at the west end, on both the north and south sides, will include new leadwork from the parapet ridge to the drip edge, relining valley gutters in lead, replacing broken slates with matching materials, and removing vegetation to prevent further water ingress.*
- *Displaced stonework will be re-fixed, three sandstone cornice units replaced to match existing details, steel anchors installed to stabilise stonework and leadwork, and existing copings repointed.*
- *Internal works will include removing damaged plaster, repairing it using traditional lime hair plaster in two coats with appropriate drying time, and completing paint repairs to match existing finishes. The west gable wall below the copings will also be raked out and repointed.*

Planning application 26/02437/LBC submitted to Shropshire Council in June by our Architect. Site notice currently on display outside the Church.

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- ii. Please state how you have identified this need and how the project will benefit the people of Shrewsbury, together with the estimated time span. If you are seeking continuation funding for this project, please provide evidence for this continued need.

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iii. How many people from the Parish of Shrewsbury do you expect to benefit directly from your project or activity?

76,000
Everyone

iv. Please indicate which of the key pillars of the Council's Vision are met and how:

Pillars	Met	How
Building Resilient Communities For Shrewsbury	YES	Our activities and services help build a resilient community
Supporting Shrewsbury Residents To Live Active And Healthy Lives Through The Provision Of Quality Services	YES	We provide access to a food hub available for all on Tuesdays and well-being, mindful services and gatherings to support good mental health open for all
Preserving Shrewsbury's Heritage	YES	The church is of significant historical and cultural importance
Creating A Greener And Better-connected Shrewsbury	YES	Open spaces and free access to all when we are open. We also are a venue for many external events and concerts and provide a meeting space to many local community groups
Maintaining A Sustainable, Resilient And Efficient Organisation	YES	The works will repair the building and protect it from further damage, ensuring our organisation can continue to deliver our valuable services to the communities of Shrewsbury
Taking Positive Action To Tackle Climate Change	YES	We will be starting a new Climate Café as part of our innovative activities and gatherings starting in the Autumn.

Q9 What criteria will be used to measure the success of the project and how many people from the Parish of Shrewsbury do you expect to benefit from it?

The repairs will be self-evident, preserving the building and its heritage which in turn ensures the activities here can continue and grow. This will support the well being of all those who live in Shrewsbury (76,000) and those who visit here from elsewhere.

Q10 What, if any, special safety issues are related to your project/activity?

Please provide the following information:

- i. What kind of insurance does your organisation have?

Church Connect – includes Building, contents (including organ), All Risks, Money, Business Interruption, Personal accident. Employers' liability, Public and Property liability, public owners liability, fidelity guarantee, Trustees indemnity, PR Crisis communication, Legal expenses

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- ii. Do the leaders have the relevant qualifications and/or experience?

The project will be fully managed by our Architect –
Candida Pino,
LUIPAE *Architecture & Conservation*
Broseley Shropshire

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- iii. What policies does your organisation have in place (i.e. Health and Safety, Child Protection/Safeguarding, working with vulnerable adults, Equal Opportunities, CRB Checks etc.)? *You may be required to submit copies of your policies.*

Health and Safety

Safeguarding Adults and Children

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Data Protection

CCTV

Social media

Anti-fraud, bribery and corruption

All Trustees and staff are DBS checked

Funding of your project

Q11 Previous Applications

If you have applied for and received funding from Shrewsbury Town Council in the past please provide details of the amount, the year and briefly what the funding was used for.

Year	Project Description	Award £

Q12 Project Funding

Please provide details of the amount of funding you need for your project and give us a breakdown of what the money is for (please enclose any relevant estimates or details).

Tell us the amount of grant requested £..... and provide a detailed breakdown as to how you have reached this figure

Project Expenditure Please list all items of expenditure for your project	Amount of Project
Urgent repairs and remedial works to repair damage from water ingress – Architects job specification available on request	£56,558
	£
	£
	£
	£
Total	£56,558
Project Income Please list how the project shall be funded	
Midlands Unitarian Association	£15,000
Gregson Trust	£5,000
National Historic Churches, Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, Shropshire Horticultural Society - currently in application stage	£28,000
Donations from congregation and church investments	£8,558
	£
What is the difference? This should be the same as the amount of Grant you are applying for	£3,000

Q13 Covering a Shortfall

If the Town Council makes an offer less than the amount requested, how will that impact on the Project and how will you cover the shortfall?

The church will need to sell additional investments which will impact on running cost income for the future.

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Q14 Sustainability

What plans do you have in place to ensure that your organisation becomes more sustainable and less reliant on grant funding, particularly from the Town Council?

The Church is currently undergoing a future-proofing process. Funding has been received from the Unitarian Innovation Fund to design and pilot new services and activities to help ensure the congregation grows. The project is designed to bring in new more varied members who can help support the Church and its activities in the future.

We have funding already agreed in principle for this innovations project that will run for the next 5 years.

These new offerings will keep the Church going into the future and these innovations will also increase access to the Church to other organisations in Shrewsbury to use our space for their own activities.

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Your Accounts

Q15 Please provide the following details from your most recent annual accounts

Total Income	£50,145
Less Total Expenditure	£45,856
Surplus / Loss	£4,289
Savings (Reserves, Cash, Investments)	£522,732

Please provide a copy of your most recent annual audited accounts or, in the case of newly established organisations, the projected income and expenditure for the next twelve months.

You need to include these documents with this application.

Account Details

Q16 Please provide your bank or building society account details

You can only apply for grant if you have a bank/building society account in the name of your organisation. We will only pay grants into an account which requires at least two people to sign each cheque or withdrawal. These people should not be related.

Account name: [REDACTED]

Sort Code: ... [REDACTED] Account Number: ... [REDACTED]

Bank/building society name: [REDACTED]

Bank/building society address..... [REDACTED]

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Who are the signatories and what position do they hold in your organisation?

1 Name .. [REDACTED] Position Chair

2 Name .. [REDACTED] Position Treasurer

3 Name .. [REDACTED] Position Trustee

Any Other Information

Q17 Any other information which you consider to be relevant to your application.

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Declarations

Q18 Declaration

Please give details of a senior member of your organisation.

For example, this may be your Chairperson, Treasurer or Secretary. They must read the application and sign below. **(This must not be the main contact name in Q1).**

I confirm, on behalf ofShrewsbury Unitarian Church....(insert name of organisation):

That I am authorised to sign this declaration on its behalf, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all replies are true and accurate.

I confirm that I have read the Terms and Conditions set out in the Notes which accompanied this application and further confirm that this application is made on the basis that if successful, the organisation will be bound to use the grant only for the purpose specified in this application, and will have to comply with those Terms and Conditions and any others which the Council might attach to the Grant.

Post held in organisation:Treasurer.....

Title: ... First Name: ... Surname: ...

Organisation address: ... Postcode:

Telephone:

Signed: Date: 15/07/26

Q19 Signature of Person Completing the Application

This must be the signature of the person named in Q1 as the main contact and **not be the same person who has signed in Q18**

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this application from is true and correct. I understand that you may ask for additional information at any stage of the application process.

Signed: Date: 15/7/2026

Checklist

1. Have you answered every question?
2. Have all signatures been completed?
3. Have you included a copy of your constitution?
4. Have you included a copy of your most recent audited accounts?
5. Please state any supporting documents you are submitting:



Please return your completed application form to:

Town Clerk
Shrewsbury Town Council
Livesey House
7 St John's Hill
Shrewsbury
SY1 1JD

Telephone: 01743 281010
Email: Helen.ball@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk