

Your application for a Circuit Grant

Name of Church: Port St Mary

Name of Project: Disabled ramps and associated toilet facilities

Property Consents Reference: Planning Permission obtained

Person to contact regarding the scheme: Rosemary Cooil, Cooil Grianagh, Truggan Road, Port St Mary IM9 5AX. Tel: 07624-483096. Email: cooilrm@manx.net

1. Please give a brief description of the project for which this grant is requested. What do you plan to do? How many people, events, or activities will this Project impact upon? (Outputs)

We wish to install concrete ramps to allow easy access to the church and the hall. It is now law that all public buildings need to allow access to all persons regardless of disability. These are needed not only for church attendance but for hall users whether these be those who hire the hall or for church generated events. We have 3-4 church generated events per month and each one can bring in 30-40 people. The Port St Mary WI hire the hall at least twice a month and their numbers are increasing. They now have 50-60 members. The Port St Mary Cabaret Party have about 15 regular members and the Manx Wildlife Trust, when they have a speaker, could have up to 50 people in the hall. We have church members who are finding attending the services increasingly difficult due to access and when we had services around Christmas it was difficult for parents to manoeuvre prams/pushchairs across our threshold. There are some individuals from sister churches who cannot access our church for the monthly combined services.

2. Please give details of the mission policies of the Local Church/Group and indicate when the policies were adopted, and when they were most recently reviewed.

Our mission, and we choose to accept it, is to grasp all opportunities for outreach initially through our social activities in order to raise the profile of the church within the community and further afield. We wish to encourage as many people as possible to cross our threshold by providing a variety of events targeted at different sections of society. Following these we are offering a variety

of services within the church setting to encourage those outside of the church to recognise that we are a church that is forward thinking and preparing for the needs of the 21st Century. Following this we have had a regular attendee at these events cease to come as due to a deterioration in her MS she is now wheelchair bound and cannot access our building. We have also had a man, so keen to attend one of our functions, that he wheeled his chair up to the stone steps, flopped out of it, crawled up the steps and then heaved himself back into the chair. This level of enthusiasm cannot but be applauded but he should not have had to suffer this level of humiliation.

3. Please give details, under the appropriate headings, of how the project aims to meet the 'Criteria for Grant Applications'

- Concrete ramps to allow access to our church and hall is addressing a real need because we have already heard via email and word of mouth that there are individuals who cannot access our premises because of the lack of accessibility.
- Through the installation of ramps, we are encouraging more people to access our premises and thus raise the profile of the Christian presence in the area.
- Current regular hall users eg PSM WI and PSM Cabaret Party would benefit from easier access to the building. We have most recently worked with the PSM Lifeboat Ladies Committee and wish to build on this relationship. Our relationship with the local Primary School is strong and we wish to encourage families with prams into our building.
- Legislation now demands that all public buildings have access for all regardless of disability. The regular hall users have requested on numerous occasions what progress we are making regarding the installation of ramps.
- We offer soup lunches and coffee mornings at a nominal cost which ensure that these are accessible to most people. We wish to encourage more young stay at home mothers to attend and so need to have the facilities ready to welcome more of them in.
- In considering the ramps we have looked at the needs of not only those who are in wheelchairs but also those who use rollators and those who have prams. These people can fall into various age groups and so we hope that we have targeted all of them.
- With improved access then we have the potential to encourage more people with new ideas and skills across our threshold who will work with us to improve existing practice and encourage us into new ways of being Church.
- We are not asking to install temporary access ramps but ones which will

be durable and serve the building well for generations to come.

- We have not asked for a substantial grant from the Circuit previously and it is only because of the increased cost of our accessibility project due to CV19 that we now request some financial assistance.

4. Please give details of the risks of the project that have been identified from your risk evaluation.

The project will be in 2 phases. The hall phase with associated disabled toilet and baby changing facilities will be first and the entrance area cordoned off. Access at this time will be through the church. We have arranged for a second temporary fire exit to be created for this phase. The second phase will be the access to the church, and this area will be cordoned off with access during this phase through the hall entrance. The work should not impact on the outside pavement and road users.

If we do not undertake this work, we are not addressing the requirements of the law and we are at risk of losing hall users. We are also at risk of witnessing accidents to vulnerable church and/or hall users as they attempt to access our building.

5. What changes, benefits, learning or other effects do you plan to achieve through this Project? (Outcomes)

We would anticipate welcoming more people into our building and increasing the potential for use within the community.

6. If the project includes appointment of paid staff, please confirm that this has been approved by the District Lay Employment Committee, giving the date of approval and any comments made by the District Lay Employment Adviser.

We have a paid Project Manager who has drawn up the plans, guided them through the government planning process and has pulled in 4 tenders from quality ground working teams. It is important that the job is as aesthetically pleasing as possible due to the nature of the building and its physical position.

7. What is the total anticipated cost of the project?

We had budgeted for each phase of the project coming in at £20,000 however, the chosen contractor withdrew a day before he was due to sign the contract because due to CV19 and associated spiralling costs of raw materials he realised that he could not undertake the job for the proposed cost. From this evidence, we know that the cost of the job will be, according to the Project

Manager, at least 20% more than the original cost. Also, in the current climate many contractors refuse to be tied to a fixed cost for building work. A new contractor has been sourced and a fixed price for each of the 3 elements of the work has been secured. However, these fixed prices are only valid until the end of December 2021.

8. What is the commitment from the Local Church/Group? Include fund raising, use of church funds, time and skills of members.

We are using Church funds that we have raised and continue to raise from various events. We currently have at least 3 church generated events each month. The monies raised from these are automatically earmarked for our building project. Plus, we have some money from investments that has been released.

9. What is the amount of the grant being requested?

£10,000 or maximum permitted

a. If the grant is approved, would it be payable as a lump sum or would it be paid in instalments to be spread over a period of years?

We would need this money as a lump sum as we anticipate that the project is only 15-18 weeks in duration.

b. If the grant is approved, when do you anticipate it needing to be paid?

November 2021

10. Please list below other funders who have or are going to be approached for grants, giving details the names of the funders, the amounts asked for/confirmed, and details of when a decision will/has been given (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary).

Name of funder	Amount	Date of decision	Decision
Kelly Trust	£20,000	24/08/20	Yes
Kelly Trust	£3,000	14/09/21	Yes
PSM Co-op	£250	17/11/20	Yes

Methodist Insurance	£5,650	April 2021	Yes
J Thompson	£100	18/12/20	Yes

11. Is the project expected to continue beyond the period for which funding is being applied in this application?

No

If yes, please answer question 12 below.

12. Is the project expected to become self-funding within the foreseeable future?

Yes

If yes, please give details of how this will be achieved

Any future repairs necessary will be undertaken by the church.

If no, please give details of any current plans for project funding after any grant received as a result of this application has been used up.

We will continue with our on-going fund-raising efforts until we achieve our goal.

Please enclose with your application:

- **The budget of income and expenditure for the project.**
- **The most recent audited financial accounts of the Church/Group; and**
- **Job descriptions for any staff to be employed as part of the scheme or project.**

Please note: All applications must be approved by the Circuit Meeting as well as by any relevant Church Council/Group Trustees.

When completed the form should be sent to the District/Circuit Office via email to administrator@methodist.org.im or by post to: Methodist Church Isle of Man District Office, Trinity Methodist Church, Rosemount, Douglas, IM1 3EY.

I confirm that the above application was approved by:

the Church Council on: 16 September 2021

Signed: (Chair)

Date: 20 September 2021