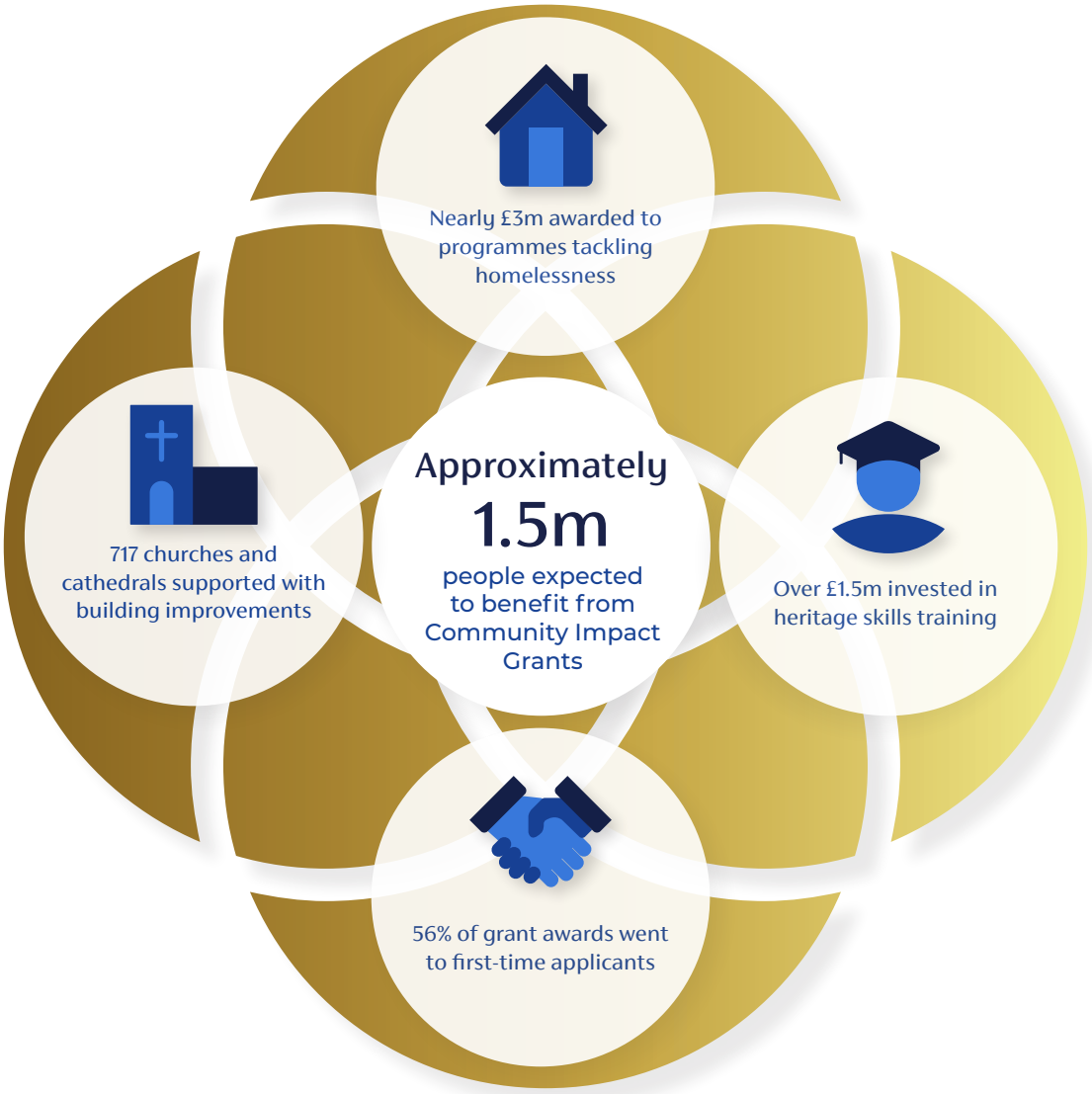
2025 GRANTS IMPACT SUMMARY

BENEFACT TRUST

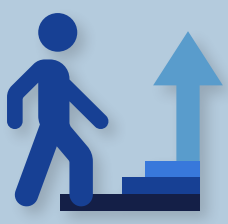
Our Impact

Benefact Trust's mission is to empower Christian organisations supporting communities of all faiths and none, to drive positive social change.

We gave approximately 1,400 grants totalling £26.7 million



£2.5 Million in deprivation uplifts



Supporting deprived communities

The Trust aims to ensure that its funds go to areas where they are needed most. In 2025, an additional £2.5m was awarded to local projects being delivered in deprived areas* in the UK and Ireland, resulting in larger grants. By value, nearly 40% of our funding for local projects went to the 20% most deprived areas.

*The Trust uses the Index of Multiple Deprivation scores for the UK and the Pobal HP Deprivation Index for Ireland to support its decision to award a deprivation uplift.

Community Impact Grants

Over £10.2m was given to support Christian organisations addressing a wide variety of social issues including poverty, human trafficking and mental health. It is estimated that 1.5m people will benefit from Community Impact Grants awarded by Benefact Trust in 2025.

Grants benefiting approximately **1.5 Million people**

The 180 Project

The 180 Project prevents people from slipping back into a life of drugs and crime. Working in Lancashire, the 180 Project supports men 6 months prior to prison release through fitness, CBT and faith-based mentoring. Post release, men continue to receive support developing positive social connections, maintaining fitness, building resilience, helping to reduce the risk of reoffending and relapse. Benefact Trust's funding of £65,000 will help to recruit staff to support 250 men, empowering them to rebuild their lives grounded in dignity, recovery, and hope.

Crisis Response Grants

£750k was given in response to crises around the world including the humanitarian crises in Gaza and Sudan, emergency response to Myanmar and Afghanistan earthquakes and a vaccination campaign for Refugees in Bangladesh.

World Vision

With millions forced to flee their homes following years of civil war, Sudan is facing the largest child displacement crisis in the world. Nearly half of Sudan's population, 24.6 million people, are facing severe food crisis with some areas experiencing famine. Following a grant of £150,000 in 2024, a grant of £100,000 was awarded in 2025 to provide further life-saving humanitarian aid relief including shelter, food, clean water and healthcare.

Over £750k to support international humanitarian crises

Building Improvement Grants

Over £4.4m was given to provide essential support to protect and enhance churches and Christian charity buildings, ensuring their continued use, safeguarding their heritage and improving accessibility.

Christchurch Baptist Church

For over 150 years, this church has served its community, but now struggles with space and accessibility. Benefact Trust's £100,000 grant will help create a sustainable, inclusive building for 400 worshippers and dozens of community groups. It's more than bricks and mortar, it's a place where faith meets action, where young people find mentorship, families gather, and the town finds belonging.

Strategic Partnerships

In 2025 more than **£3.5m** was awarded in multi-year strategic grants to tackle homelessness, help churches progress towards Net Zero, and develop heritage skills for the conservation of church buildings.

Net Zero

Building on the Trust's existing partnerships with the Church of England and Scottish Episcopal Church, which have kickstarted 29 net zero demonstrator projects to date, a further £200,000 was awarded in 2025 to the Church of Ireland for its Carbon Reduction Grants programme. This funding will empower parishes and dioceses to raise awareness of viable technologies and available funding sources that will enable churches across Ireland on their journey towards net zero.

Heritage Skills

The UK faces a growing shortage of craftspeople capable of preserving its historic buildings, including thousands of historic church and cathedral buildings. Benefact Trust recognises that strategic investment is necessary to revive endangered skills and support the next generation of heritage professionals.

Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship

In 2024 and 2025, a total of £2.1 million has been awarded to the Cathedrals Workshop Fellowship (CWF) to launch the 'Benefact Trust Scholars Programme'. This transformative investment will support 36 students in acquiring specialist heritage craft training across 15 of England's most iconic cathedrals. Students will gain access to a nationally recognised career pathway and the opportunity to pursue higher-level qualifications in traditional heritage skills.

Homelessness

In 2025 Benefact Trust awarded nearly £3m in grants tackling homelessness, which remains one of the most pressing social challenges across the UK and Ireland. Rising living costs, a shortage of affordable housing, and complex personal circumstances continue to push individuals and families into precarious living situations. For many, the pathway out of homelessness is obstructed by systemic barriers and a lack of accessible support. Grants have been awarded to a wide range of homelessness initiatives, from emergency shelters to more preventive approaches.

Oasis UK

Oasis UK delivers a wide range of services to support disadvantaged communities across England. Among the most urgent challenges facing the families they work with is the shortage of safe, secure, and affordable housing. Without stable housing, every aspect of family life is affected; children's education is disrupted, health and wellbeing decline, and vital community connections are often lost.

With a grant of £135,000 from Benefact Trust, Oasis plans to address this need by providing 20 high-quality, affordable homes for families accessing their wraparound support. These homes will offer long-term stability, enabling the families to remain in place while their children attend school. Alongside this, parents and carers will be supported by a dedicated community worker, helping them tackle wider challenges and achieve better outcomes for the whole family.

The Salvation Army UK

The Salvation Army is a global Christian church and charity working with vulnerable people across the UK, including those facing homelessness, poverty, addiction, and isolation.

With a £1.07m grant from Benefact Trust, The Salvation Army is creating 54 flexible, supported accommodation units across five centres in England. Designed for individuals who fall outside statutory homelessness support, these spaces will offer more than shelter: residents will receive trauma-informed care, life skills training, and pathways to independence.

Impact Stories

Benefact Trust is committed to creating lasting, positive social change by funding Christian organisations addressing critical challenges faced by communities across the UK and Ireland. Since 1972, the Trust has awarded grants exceeding **£330m** to support innovative projects empowering organisations and strengthening vital services that make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Street Connect

Faith in Action: Churches & Volunteers Transforming Addiction Support

With the support of a £150,000 grant from Benefact Trust, Street Connect has empowered churches to reach those facing addiction, homelessness, and mental health challenges. Over the two-year grant period, ten additional churches joined the mission and 150 volunteers supported it, benefiting more than 4,500 individuals through street and cafe outreach and holistic support.

One participant shared:

"I only cared about drugs and where they were coming from until I came back to church which connected me to Street Connect. Now I am closer to God and my life is much better. I have hope again, I am planning to go back to college to finish my studies and do a HND in social care."

This transformation is one of thousands made possible by the community-driven care provided by Street Connect and its partners. Benefact Trust's investment has not only expanded Street Connect's reach but reignited purpose and possibility in lives once overshadowed by crisis.

Saltbox

Pathways to Financial Independence: Money Matters in Action

Saltbox's Money Matters project has significantly grown its reach and impact across Stoke-on-Trent, providing essential financial and welfare support to those in need. With a grant of £44,000 from Benefact Trust, the project has supported over 888 people so far, with nearly 700 individuals receiving tailored welfare advice.

Over £890,000 in additional benefit entitlements were identified and over £600,000 in debt written off, far surpassing expectations. The Saltbox team also secured over £110,000 in other grants for things like food, phones, SIM cards, and household items.

This funding has enabled Money Matters to deliver life-changing outcomes, empowering individuals to regain financial stability and dignity. Benefact Trust's support continues to be a catalyst for transformation, demonstrating the power of strategic funding to uplift communities in times of need.

Acknowledgements

"Your donation will make a huge difference by enabling us to continue our church and centre engagement project; helping us to improve the mental health of women across the UK experiencing pregnancy crisis or loss." **– Pregnancy Centres Network**

"As we seek to preserve and reshape our facilities for mission and service in our local community and beyond, it has been very heartening for our church family to have been awarded such a substantial grant."**– Seymour Street Methodist Church**