

COMMITTEE: CENTRAL AREA **REF NO:** CAC/23/10

DATE: 1 NOVEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: FUNDING REQUEST – ST HELEN’S CHURCH

REPORT AUTHOR: BETH ROBINSON

SENIOR OFFICER: ROBIN PAYNE

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report requests that the Central Area Committee consider allocating £1,000 to St Helen’s Church to run their ‘Messy Church’ activity in Central Ipswich, supporting families of primary aged children through crafting activities, story curation and a meal, with intent to focus on community cohesion between families.

List of Appendices included in this report:

- a) Appendix 1 - Completed Application Form

This report has been prepared by Beth Robinson

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

Internal consultees

External consultees

The following policies form a context to this report:

(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

Corporate Strategy: Proud of Ipswich – Championing our Community and Revitalising our Town

1. Item of business and issues for consideration

- 1.1 To consider the application of St Helen's Church and decide whether to agree:
 - i) Option 1 - Fund the total amount requested.
 - ii) Option 2 - Fund a lesser amount to the amount requested.
 - iii) Option 3 - Not fund.
- 1.2 The Committee will make its decision based on whether the application meets the funding criteria and the funds available to the Committee.
- 1.3 St Helen's Messy Church provide 8 different crafting activities for one hour, followed by assembly time, opportunities for children to share what they have made, followed by a meal.
- 1.4 Activities are heavily subsidized, with a £1 donation for the activities and food provided. However, they find that those who attend live in very deprived areas and often cannot afford to contribute each time, thus they intend to make the service free.
- 1.5 The Messy Church has been running for one year, and St Helen's Church would like to double the number of sessions. This fund would enable continuation one additional year.
- 1.6 Since June 2022, 421 people have attended the Messy Church, on average 40 people per session from the Central Area (particularly the IP4 area). Families from many demographics and religions are welcomed.
- 1.7 St Helen's Church partakes in community outreach work and will seek to increase participation and allow for further sessions to meet this demand. Examples of their outreach and community outreach work include collaboration with St Helen's and other local primary schools; provisions of a 'top up shop', offering weekly lunches and monthly dinners for residents struggling with the Cost of Living Crisis. They also intend to start another meeting called 'Messy Meet-up to build on the success of their current models.
- 1.8 This application intends to build upon the goal of creating community cohesion in order that more members of the community can be served, and to meet increasing demand for their Messy Church service.
- 1.9 The projects will be advertised within St Helen's Primary School and Clifford Lane Primary School, for both parents and children.

2. Links to Area Action Plan

2.1 Department of Communities and Local Government - Domains of Deprivation:

- **Education, Skills, and Training**, which is an Area Action Plan priority.
- **Income**
- **Living Environment**

2.2 Proud of Ipswich underlying principles:

- **Promoting Community Wellbeing and Fairness in Ipswich, which is the action plan priority.**

3. Financial implications

3.1 There is £2,552.00 remaining unallocated in the Central Area Committee's budget, which is available to fund grant applications.

3.2 Cost breakdown:

Description of expenditure		Cost (£)
Catering: Meals per session (11 sessions, estimated 40 people (£1/session/person))		£440.00
Stationary to support crafting activities (Pens, Glue, Card, Stickers)		£60.00
Advertisement – Printing Flyers		£60.00
Crafting activity costs (11 sessions, estimated 40 people - £1/session/person)		£440.00
Total project costs		£1,000
Total requested from Area Committees	North East	N/A
	North West	N/A
	Central	£1,000
	South East	N/A
	South West	N/A
	TOTAL	£1,000

3.3 Central Area Committee funding will not be used towards core costs.

- 3.4 The specified £1 cost for each provision is a replacement of the previous donation from participants owing to an increased number of attendees from deprived areas, who cannot afford to sustain the cost of coming to each session.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Council has the power to make grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 4.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e., the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 4.3 St Helen's Church (registered Charity no. XR609), has provided its constitution, named officers, proof of bank account, year-end accounts, and safeguarding policy as required by the Area Committee Funding Guidelines.

5. Risks considered

Risk Description	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high)	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)
Safeguarding risk to children and vulnerable people	Emotional or physical harm to individual	Safeguarding system Encouraging parental responsibility	2	3
Actions to mitigate risk	All staff use a safeguarding policy, and also encourage full parental responsibility over the children with whom they attend.			

6. Options

- 6.1 Option 1 – Approve allocation of funding of £1,000 to St Helen's Church to deliver their Messy Church activities.
- 6.2 Option 2 – Approve allocation of less than £1,000 as contribution to the same.
- 6.3 Option 3 – Do not fund.

7. Record of Decision taken

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8. Exemption from call in (if applicable)

I certify that this decision is urgent and therefore exempt from call-in for the following reasons:

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Signed.....

[This must be signed by the Chair of the Area Committee]