



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Community grant application form - part A

Please ensure you complete all of this form and Part B and send:

- forms A and B
- your organisation's last set of accounts
- the most recent bank statement

to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk.

1. About your organisation

**Name of the organisation
requesting the grant**

ABINGDN PASSION PLAY

**Please state briefly what the
purpose of your organisation is**

"The object of the CIO is to provide the people of the town of Abingdon-on-Thames and surrounding communities with dramatic representations of an aspect of the life of Christ." *Source - Abingdon Passion Play Constitution*

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

The first (highly successful) 2013 production was performed primarily outdoors, in the Abbey Grounds but (because of the cold and risk of snow) on the day, with approved use of some areas shielded from wind (mainly by trees) for parts of the performance. The ambient temperature where the Crucifixion was enacted was minus 3 Centigrade.

The 2016 and 2019 productions, also well received, were performed totally outdoors. In 2016 a single stage was erected in the town centre, adjacent (and encroaching on) the Museum - but this involved closing off traffic through the town centre, which involved the agreement of the local Council, police and traffic wardens. The 2019 production took place outdoors in a different open space in the Abbey Grounds and employed a large projector screen and powerful microphones to assist audience viewing.

For the 2024 production, the committee has unanimously agreed that, similar to the 2013 production, we should again use a improved 'moveable' staging arrangement in the Abbey Grounds

What is the total cost of the project

£ 20,000

How much grant are you seeking

£1,000

What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant

Based on the cost of our previous Passion Plays, we estimate that the total cost of the 2024 APP will be £20,000. This calculation is based mainly on the cost of the 2019 production, adjusted and updated for inflation, and cost of living increases as evidenced in increasing cost of services etc.

How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project

For the production and performance of the Abingdon Passion Play 2024

Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down

The 2019 production costs included:

Staging £6,145

Screen Projection £3,824

Vale of the White Horse licence £495

Insurance £395

St John Ambulance £115

Toilets £450

Advertising and programmes £600

Actors' and Director's Fees £2,000

Similar and additional costs are envisaged for APP 2024

What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years

The Committee has been fundraising almost continuously since it was reformed in 2022. Roughly every couple of months we have offered a fundraising event, including such events as Hog Roast Evenings; Afternoon Tea Parties in local gardens; African History nights; Burns Supper celebrations, Musical Concerts in several churches in Abingdon, etc. The average raised at each event has remained steady at +/- £500.

3. Local benefit.

How many people take part in your organisation’s activities? Give local branch numbers if you are a national organisation.

As members	15 Members (the APP Committee volunteers)
As recipients	Unknown and unlimited - the event is free to attend and open to all.

Please fill in the table below relating to numbers of members and/or recipients falling into each category. Estimates are acceptable provided an “e” is put after the figure.

Age profile	0-16	16-65	over 65
- Members	0	11	4
- Recipients	Unlimited e	Unlimited e	Unlimited e

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	7	8
- Recipients	Unknown e	Unknown e

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	11	0	4
- Recipients	Unknown e	Unknown e	Unknown e

4. Vision and objectives

Please explain how your project will meet the town councils vision and objectives, which are set out below. **You do not need to respond to each point** but it is important that your project addresses the town council’s vision and at least one objectives.

4a. Vision

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community, the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

The objective is to reach out to the Abingdon Town’s people, both Church and non-Church attendees alike in Abingdon. However, despite our best efforts to date, the percentage of non-church attendees has been disappointing. To address this, for the next set of performances in 2024, the APP Committee has appointed a new director, Ralph Westby, who has shown himself to be very inclusive and has invited input from experienced directors from the local drama groups in the Abingdon area.

Ralph has already produced a Passion Play in Chinnor (Oxfordshire); he is mindful of his objectives and is planning to include, in the Abingdon production, a ‘Walk of Witness’, starting in the built-up areas in Abingdon town and finishing in the historical gardens of the Old Abbey Grounds.

4b. Objectives

1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency

After a long break of five years the next Abingdon Passion Play (APP) will take place on the 22nd June 2024. Previous productions (in 2013, 2016 and 2019) took place in Abingdon during the Easter period. The Covid-19 pandemic stopped plans in 2022. With Covid now under good control, the new APP committee decided on a date in June rather than at Easter, mainly to respond to the increasing likelihood of climate emergency-induced inclement weather.

2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future

3. To manage the Council’s assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future

This year we are committed to outdoor performances in a large communal space (the Abbey Gardens), minimising any carbon footprint such performances might engender indoors: as much to bring together as many people of Abingdon and the surrounding towns and villages for this community event as to enable us all to discover, exult and play in the glorious natural world, sensitively used as a backdrop to the performances, which many believe has been created for us and other creatures precisely to play in: by the God whose time on Earth among us our Play endeavours to portray.

4. To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity

5. Other/previous grant awards

Please provide details of any grant awards you have received from the town council, other councils or large organisations that you have received in the past three years

For APP 2024:

The Church in Abingdon: £1000 in 2023

The Passion Trust: £3000 in 2024

Abingdon Deanery Synod Mission Grant: £500 in 2023

Please list any grant applications to other councils or bodies which are currently pending

Abingdon Town Council, The Bishop's Outreach Trust

6. About your organisation

Please explain what structure your organisation has, i.e. is it a charity, a society, or another type of model

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity Number 1183512

What is the balance of your main account according to the most recent bank statement?

£14,224.54

Additional financial information

Does your organisation have any other finances held in other accounts?

No

If so, please provide full details of all your additional finances, including recent figures.

N/A

If these funds are earmarked for any specific projects, please provide further information about this.

N/A