

Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant

Manchester Diocese has been awarded £244,000 from the Church of England's Minor Repairs and Improvements (MR&I) Grant Fund.

Applications for **up to £10,000** can be submitted by parishes for projects which focus on urgent repairs, including 'stitch in time' projects (projects which, if completed now, will save money in the long term). Small scale improvements which are essential to sustaining worship and mission are also eligible.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Please see Appendix 1 for details of eligible buildings and eligible works.

Additional expectations

Grants are awarded on the understanding that any Faculty applications are subsequently successful and that relevant Faculty permission is awarded before work commences.

Application Process

Completed applications should be returned to:

finance@manchester.anglican.org

Finance Department
St John's House
155-163 The Rock
Bury
BL9 0ND

Information to accompany your application form

It is important that the correct attachments are sent with your application form:

Quotations – The Grants Panel would like to see two competitive quotes, however if only one quotation is obtained, the parish could give a reason and inform us if the quotation has been approved by your surveyor or architect.

DAC and Faculty Information

Parishes must consult with the appropriate Archdeacon or diocesan officer for legal and technical advice before applying for a grant.

For help on Faculty Applications: Alan Simpson
 DAC Secretary
 Tel: 0161 828 1419
 Email: dac@manchester.anglican.org

Please see the Church Buildings section of the diocesan website <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/churchbuildings> for more information on the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC) and the Faculty process.

Approval process

Applications will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee if they meet the eligibility criteria (see Appendix 1).

The committee meets on the following dates and applications must be received at least two weeks before the meeting date in order to be considered at that meeting:

- Monday 29th April 2024 (for applications received before 15th April 2024)
- Monday 24th June 2024 (for applications received before 10th June 2024)
- Monday 9th September 2024 (for applications received before 26th August 2024)
- Monday 18th November 2024 (for applications received before 4th November 2024)

Successful applicants will be notified shortly after the meeting date.



Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant – Application Form

Section 1 Parish details

Parish name and location	
Name and address of applicant (inc. postcode)	
Telephone	
Email	
Applicant's position in church	
Amount of grant requested	£

Section 2 The proposed work

Is the Church a listed building?	Yes / No
What works are proposed to the church building?	
Has the parish applied for a Faculty for this work? (to check whether a Faculty is needed, please contact the Diocesan DAC Secretary)	Yes / No

Section 3 The cost of funding the work

Cost of proposed work	£
Architects/Professional	£
VAT	£

Section 4 Declaration

I confirm none of the costs are recoverable from insurance

I have enclosed two competitive quotations (if only one quotation is obtained, the parish may give a reason and state that the quotation has been approved by a surveyor or architect)

I am aware that this application does not constitute an offer of a grant (all grant decisions are made by the appropriate diocesan decision making body and applicants will be informed of that decision following the meeting).

Signed..... Date.....

Please return to:

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155-163 The Rock
Bury
BL9 0ND

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Appendix 1 – Eligibility Guidance

Eligible buildings

- Church of England consecrated church buildings and licensed places of worship (including those which are the subject of sharing agreements or ecumenical partnerships) serving parishes in the 40 mainland dioceses and the diocese of Sodor and Man.
- The 'building' extends to its below-ground drainage system, foundations and immediate curtilage.

Ineligible buildings

- Other buildings or structures in the churchyard or curtilage of eligible buildings which are not in ecclesiastical use.
- Cathedrals; churches and chapels which are the responsibility of private owners or institutions¹; Church of England churches outside England or the Isle of Man; non-Anglican places of worship; closed and closing churches.

Eligible work

Minor repairs

- Repair of building fabric (external): roof coverings, roof structure, walls, parapets, pinnacles and other architectural features, towers, spires, windows, doors, rainwater disposal system including below-ground drainage.
- Repair of building fabric (internal): ceilings, floors, doors, walls and wall linings (plaster/panelling but not wall paintings, mosaics etc),.
- Repair of building services installations where essential for health and safety and/or continuity of worship and mission use.
- Emergency repairs or holding works, eg propping, covering, protection etc.
- To be eligible, any such work must be recommended in the most recent QI report (or subsequent professional report or condition survey etc). Work classified as urgent (either category 1 - Urgent, requiring immediate attention; 2 - Requires attention within 12 months; or 3 - Requires attention within the next 12 - 24 months²) should take priority but any work required within the quinquennium is eligible. Works of differing urgency within that definition may be undertaken together for the sake of efficiency and economy, especially where 'stitch in time' repairs can save money in the long term.

Improvements

- Additions, alterations or adaptations specifically to overcome building design defects or obsolescence (e.g. undersized hoppers or drainpipes) or to improve access for maintenance.
- Additions, alterations or adaptations where essential to improve physical access, e.g. handrails, ramps etc.
- Improvements to building services installations where essential to sustain worship and

¹ Such as schools, university colleges, hospitals and so-called 'peculiar' etc., even those which have opted into the Faculty Jurisdiction (under paras 38-44 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 or previously under the Care of Places of Worship Measure 1999).

² See Commissioning Quinquennial Inspection Reports Guidance Note at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/quinquennial-inspections>

mission use, such as improvements to heating, lighting, wiring, kitchens, WCs. Where necessary, this might include the installation or upgrading of pipework or cabling to the perimeter of the churchyard or curtilage.

- New installations or improvements to existing installations for digital connectivity, whether through a wired connection or 4G/5G mobile Wi-Fi, where essential to sustain worship and mission use.
- Bat mitigation measures, including relevant ecologists' fees and production of a bat management plan, where the impact of bats is a barrier to worship and mission use. A one-off deep clean can be an eligible cost as part of a mitigation plan.

Other eligible costs

- Professional fees to design, specify, inspect and certify the repair or improvement work.
- Ecologist's fees to prepare a bat management plan.
- VAT (for unlisted churches and work to listed churches which falls outside the eligibility of the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) grant scheme). It will be assumed that PCCs will apply to the LPW grant scheme wherever possible.

Ineligible work

- Routine maintenance, as set out in our [Calendar of Care](#).
- Routine cleaning.
- Work to furnishings, such as bells and bell frames, books and manuscripts, church plate, clocks, monumental brasses and decorative metalwork, monuments, organs, paintings and wall paintings, stained glass, textiles, wooden objects. These may qualify for the grants administered by ChurchCare (see [Grants for historic church interiors and churchyard structures | The Church of England](#)).
- Conservation reports. These may qualify for the grants administered by ChurchCare (see [Grants for conservation reports | The Church of England](#)).
- Routine inspection (Quinquennial Inspections, periodic inspection of electrical installations, appliance testing, gas safety checks, etc).
- Routine servicing of building services installations.
- Any work covered by insurance