

Buildings for Mission: Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant

Eligibility Criteria

Introduction

The Birmingham Diocese secured £176,000 for the Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant. The fund is being offered by the Archbishop's Council under the Building for Mission project, supported by the Church Commissioners' funding.

The £176,000 received will be available as small grants for a parish to undertake urgent minor repair works up to the maximum value of £10,000 or £12,000 for unlisted churches. The eligibility guide below will stipulate the criteria for which parishes are eligible to apply.

The grants will be administered by the Care of Churches Officer, Alice Latham, and will be assessed by a grants committee. There will be four grant application deadlines: All works must be completed by December 2025.

Eligibility

- The works must be to a Church of England consecrated church building¹ and licensed place of worship with the Diocese of Birmingham.
- The applicant must be legally responsible for repairing and maintaining the church buildings.
- The level of grant awarded is assessed against the indices of multiple deprivations by the ecclesiastical parish. Discussed in more detail under **Assessment**.
- The parish **MUST** have had an initial discussion with the DAC.
- Eligibility does not guarantee an award, it will be based on individual needs.

Eligible works

- The minor repairs can include internal and external repairs to building fabric, including below-ground works, the maximum grant is £10K for listed buildings and £12K for unlisted buildings and works that aren't eligible to claim VAT from the LPW grant scheme.
- Repair of building services installations where essential for H&S and/or continued mission use.
- The proposed works must be recommended in the most recent QI and/or recommended by a qualified professional (architect, surveyor etc). Priority will be given to works identified as urgent. Works of differing urgency may be encouraged when taken together for economic reasons.
- The grant can include the cost of professional fees required to design, specify, inspect and certify the work.
- VAT for unlisted churches and work to listed churches that fall outside of the eligibility of the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) grant scheme.
- The work must not have already started.

¹ The term building extends to its below ground drainage system, foundations and immediate curtilage.

Ineligible Works

- Maintenance costs.
- Routine cleaning.
- Works to furnishings that may qualify for additional grants administered by the Church Buildings Council.
- Conservation Reports.
- Routine Inspections (QI, appliance testing etc.)
- Routine Servicing.
- Any work covered by insurance.

Assessment

The grants are being allocated based on the demonstrated need and urgency of repairs. Please note that this grant is open to both listed and unlisted churches. A grant committee has been established to access applications against the criteria listed above. There will be four application windows for parishes to submit. These will be in June and October of 2024 and February and June 2025, the exact closing date will be released on our website shortly.

The level of grant available is determined by the IMD by the ecclesiastical parish as shown in the [Church of England Parish Map](#).

The following scale for grant rates will be used:

- Deprivation rank 1,266 to 12,307 – grant @ 50%
- Deprivation rank 733 to 1,265 – grant @ 60%
- Deprivation rank 501 to 732 – grant @ 70%
- Deprivation rank 293 to 500 – grant @ 80%
- Deprivation rank 167 to 292 – grant @ 90%
- Deprivation rank 1 to 166 – grant @ 90% (or more if exceptionally justified)

Conditions

- The offer of a grant from the Fund will not remove the requirement for the PCC to obtain faculty or approval under list B, as necessary, or any other necessary permission before the work goes ahead. The offer of a grant does not imply support for the proposal for the purposes of faculty or any other approval and does not indicate that permission will be forthcoming.
- Work must not begin until the diocese has approved the scope, methodology and estimated costs of the work and made an offer in writing which the PCC has accepted.
- Work carried out before a grant is offered is ineligible.
- Work costing more than £1,000 will need to be subject to some form of competitive procurement (normally by obtaining itemised quotations for comparison) on a best-value basis. A full competitive tender exercise will not be required unless the nature of the work or other factors make it necessary.
- Work will need to be carried out, paid for and claimed within a year of the offer date or by 31 December 2025, whichever is sooner.
- The diocese reserves the right to cancel grants towards projects not implemented within the timescale above.

- Grants are a restricted fund item for the purposes of PCC accounting and must be spent on the agreed work. The diocese reserves the right to claw back the grant if the work undertaken is not the work for which the grant was approved and/or any work or activity is removed from the project (and the diocese has not been informed in advance and approved any such change).
- The diocese reserves the right to withhold or recover the grant in part or in full if the work is not carried out in accordance with the agreed method statement or specification.
- Should the cost of the agreed work prove higher than estimated or quoted, the diocese is under no obligation to increase the grant, though it may do so at its own discretion.
- Grant recipients should retain relevant documentation relating to the grant and the work carried out for at least six years after the work is completed. The work should be recorded in the logbook. Documentation, including photographs, should be made available to the diocese on request.
- The dioceses reserve the right to publicise the grant and the project and to use relevant information in case studies, monitoring reports etc as it sees fit.

If after reading the above eligibility criteria you wish to proceed with an application, please request an application form from buildinggrants@cofebirmingham.com