

Grants and Loans for Church Buildings

Revised 2024-25

(Last update May 2025)

Information for Applicants



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General Information

The Diocese of Leeds has a number of restricted funds, which are available exclusively to support church buildings. Therefore, in order to support mission across the Diocese we launched a Church Buildings Grants scheme in 2021. This scheme is currently providing **£80,000** of grants per year for a minimum of five years (i.e. 2021 – 2025)

Early in 2024 the Diocese of Leeds received additional “Buildings for Mission” grant funding totalling **£272,000** from the Church of England’s 2023 -25 Triennium funding round, providing important investment for the future sustainability of our church buildings. This additional funding has significantly increased our total grant fund and allowed us to broaden the range of projects that can now be supported.

Both funding schemes have similar criteria and are reviewed by the same Diocesan Grants Panel; one form is used to apply for both schemes. Applicants are encouraged to have an early discussion with the Church Buildings Support Officer or Senior Stewardship Officer about their project; but ultimately the panel will make the final decision about which fund to make an award from.

A parish loan scheme is also available. These loans provide a readily accessible source of funds to parishes for major works which a parish would otherwise be unable to complete. **(Appendix B)**

Support

Support in applying is available from the Church Buildings Support Officer. For general advice on fundraising and stewardship, please contact the Senior Stewardship Officer.

Church Buildings Support Officer	Senior Stewardship Officer
Alena-Rose Douglas 07933509860 ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org	Janet Edmond 07376525684 ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org

Completed application forms should be returned by email whenever possible, to ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org any hard copy applications should be addressed to Janet Edmond, Church House, 17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX

Summary of Funding Schemes

Buildings For Mission – Minor Repairs and Improvements Grants	Diocesan Church Buildings Grants
<p>The Buildings for Mission funding project aims to give priority to areas which lack access to support, it also aims to address need.</p> <p>The primary focus of this fund is for small-scale repairs and improvements, particularly for fabric repairs identified in a QI report and improvements which are essential to sustaining worship and mission. <i>Stitch-in-Time</i> repairs, doing small works to prevent larger more costly issues in the future, are particularly encouraged.</p> <p>Grants are prioritised according to the circumstances of the parish and parishes are expected to have utilised their own resources before approaching the diocese.</p>	<p>The Diocesan Church Buildings Grants aim to support churches with maintaining and improving their church buildings, as vital centres of worship, community and mission. Applications which support projects that reduce the environmental impact of our buildings are particularly encouraged. Alongside this all items of maintenance and improvement to the structure of the church will be considered; particularly if your proposed works have been specified in a QI report or identified through your maintenance plan.</p> <p>Grants are prioritised according to the circumstances of the parish and parishes are expected to have utilised their own resources before approaching the diocese.</p>
<p>The total project cost must be under £10,000 (or £12,000 for unlisted buildings).</p> <p>Multiple applications will be considered over the period of the scheme (2024-2025), but multiple awards cannot be guaranteed.</p> <p>IMD ranking will be considered by the panel and may impact the percentage of project costs that can be awarded, as guidance from the national scheme.</p> <p>If your project cost is more than £10,000 you may still be eligible for this fund if the project can be broken down into distinct phases. Please email resourcingparishes@leeds.anglican.org for further advice.</p>	<p>Grants can be awarded up to a maximum of £5,000 per parish over the period of the scheme (2021-2025). Grant awards can be made to projects of any cost.</p> <p>Multiple applications will be considered over the period of the scheme (2024-2025) but the total of £5,000 will not be exceeded.</p> <p>IMD ranking will be considered by the panel, but the value of grant awards are at the discretion of the panel.</p>

Funding rounds and decisions

There will be three funding rounds per year. Deadlines for each funding round in 2024 are:

- 17th March 2024 for grant awards made in March
- 30th June 2024 for grant awards made in July.
- 31st October 2024 for grant awards made in November.

Grants will not be awarded retrospectively for work which has already been carried out. If you need funding for emergency works between funding rounds, please contact the Stewardship Team as soon as possible.

Decisions will be made by a grant award panel which will include a Bishop, an Archdeacon, an Incumbent, Director of Church Revitalisation and Chief Financial Officer. Parishes will be notified of the result of their grant application by email in the week following the grants' panel meeting.

Grants awarded will be valid for 12 months from the date of the grant offer. Standard terms and conditions will be sent out with the grant offer, this will include the requirement for two written quotations and evidence of either List B or Faculty Permission (and Planning Permission if needed).

Need

Grants will be prioritised according to the circumstances of the parish. Indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) will be taken into consideration. To discover your parish's IMD ranking please consult the [Church of England Parish Map](#)

The following scale for grant rates is being used as guidance only for the Buildings For Mission grants. The volume of applications received will also affect the number and value of grant awards made. The final grant amount awarded will be at the discretion of the panel

Deprivation rank 6,236 to 12,307 – grant @ 50%

Deprivation rank 5,012 to 6,235 – grant @ 60%

Deprivation rank 3,812 to 5,011 – grant @ 70%

Deprivation rank 2,558 to 3,811 – grant @ 80%

Deprivation rank 1,232 to 2,557 – grant @ 90%

Deprivation rank 1 to 1,231 – grant @ 90% (or more if exceptionally justified)

It is understood that IMD is not the only indicator of parish need. You are encouraged to explain the particular challenges of your parish in detail in the application form.

Eligible projects

Examples of eligible improvement works include:	Examples of eligible repair works include:
Accessibility – handrails, ramps etc Rainwater Goods to improve climate resilience. Heating Lighting Wiring Kitchens WCs Internet/Wi-Fi/4G/5G (for mission use) Bat mitigation	Roof coverings Roof structure Walls Parapets Pinnacles Towers Spires Windows Doors Rainwater goods Drainage Ceilings Floors Doors Walls Wall Linings Building services (electrical, lighting etc)

Grants are not available for the following:

- Churchyard walls
- Wall paintings
- Mosaics
- Bells & bell frames
- Books & manuscripts
- Church plate
- Clocks
- Monumental brasses & decorative metal work
- Monuments
- Organs
- Paintings
- Stained glass
- Textiles
- Wooden objects
- Conservation reports
- Routine inspections (QI, electrical certs, gas safety, PAT etc.)
- Routine maintenance (as set out in the Church of England's [Calendar of Care](#))

Grants will not be awarded retrospectively for work which has already been carried out.

Appendix A - Grant Application Form

Church name	
Listing	
Parish	
IMD Ranking	

Parish Contact 1		Parish Contact 2	
Name		Name	
Role		Role	
Email		Email	
Phone		Phone	

Please tick the box(es) which best describes your project

- Minor repair works
- Physical access improvement
- Improvement to visitor facilities (WCs, kitchens etc.)
- Digital connectivity
- Environmental improvements (heating, lighting etc.)
- Enhancement of building spaces for activities
- Bat mitigation measures
- Other (please state)

Please provide a summary of your project

Are the proposed works to be conducted because of a Quinquennial Inspection, Maintenance Plan or Energy Audit? If so, please provide a copy. If not, please detail why the work is being undertaken.

How does this project fit with your plans to see your church grow? If you have a mission plan please attach it. If it does not, what other support might you need to think about your next steps in mission? *(Please note that all applications require either an attached mission plan or a detailed response to this question)*

Please explain what short and long term benefits your project will offer to your building and wider community?

Please explain the particular challenges faced by your parish, both financial and in terms of social need (with reference to your IMD ranking if appropriate).

Have you sought Archdeacon's permission and/or have you applied for a faculty for this application?

Please provide a breakdown of project costs.

Have you been provided with two written quotes? If not, please provide an explanation.

Have you spoken to the Church Buildings Support Officer or Senior Stewardship Officer and if so, have they indicated which grant your project is most suitable for?

- Yes, Buildings for Mission – Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant
- Yes, Diocesan Buildings Grant Scheme
- Yes, Either Fund
- No

Have you been offered funding from either the Buildings for Mission or the Diocesan Buildings Grants previously? If so, please provide details, including an update on whether the project has been completed.

Please detail any grants applied for and/or committed by third parties.

How much would you like to apply for? (Maximum grant available is £10,000)
How will you make up the shortfall (if any)?
<p>Please state the amount of your unrestricted and restricted reserves.</p> <p>Restricted Building Funds Unrestricted General Funds</p> <p>Have these funds been allocated and, if so, what for? Please provide an explanation as to why any reserves are not being allocated to this project.</p>
<p>Supporting documents If you are unable to provide any of the documents listed, please provide an explanation.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed application form <input type="checkbox"/> Quinquennial Inspection Report or Condition Report <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes <input type="checkbox"/> List B of Faculty Permission <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Photographs</p>

Completed application forms and supporting documents should be returned by email whenever possible, to ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org any hard copy applications should be addressed to Janet Edmond, Church House, 17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX

Appendix B - Application for a Parish Loan

Parochial Church Council of	
Purpose for which loan is required.	
Total cost of above scheme (A): £	Amount of Loan required (B): £
Has DAC approval been given YES/NO	Period of Loan..... (Max 5 years)
How does the Parish propose to fund the difference between A and B above?	
Financial Information:	
Current Year Share Request £	Amount paid to date £
Outstanding Share Arrears (if applicable) £	
Outstanding Diocesan Loan (if applicable) £	

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council, we apply for the above loan and enclose.

- (1) Accounts for the last two years
- (2) Cashflow forecast for the loan period.

Chair of PCC Date:

Secretary of PCC Date:

Notes

- (1) Loans initially attract interest at the Bank of England Base Rate + 0.50% at the point of issue (i.e. on 31 October 2023 5.75% per annum)
- (2) The rate of interest would then be reviewed and reset every two years on the same basis, with the maximum loan length being five years.
- (3) Repayments are by monthly or quarterly standing order over the term of the loan.