

Grants for Church Buildings

Revised 2025

(Last update 14th January 2025)

Information for Applicants

Contents

[General Information 3](#_Toc175047368)

[Support 3](#_Toc175047369)

[Summary of Funding Schemes 4](#_Toc175047370)

[Funding rounds and decisions 5](#_Toc175047371)

[Need 5](#_Toc175047372)

[Eligible projects 6](#_Toc175047373)

[Grant Application Form 7](#_Toc175047374)

# General Information

The Diocese of Leeds has several 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 up until the end of 2025.

In the summer of 2024, the Diocese of Leeds received a further **£68,850** from the Church of England’s Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Grants for 2024-25. These funds, which are distinct from the Buildings for Mission funding, are being also managed through the existing Diocesan Church Buildings Grant Scheme. Applications opened in autumn 2024 and there are three further application rounds in 2025.

All the funding schemes have broadly similar criteria and are reviewed by the same Diocesan Grants’ Panel; one form is used to apply for all schemes. Applicants are encouraged to have an early discussion with the Church Buildings Support Officer, Senior Stewardship Officer or Net Zero Carbon Fundraising 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, an application form for which can be downloaded from [Grants and Fundraising - Diocese of Leeds (anglican.org)](https://www.leeds.anglican.org/how-we-can-help/finance-and-stewardship/stewardship-and-income-generation/grants-and-fundraising/). These loans provide a readily accessible source of funds to parishes for major works which a parish would otherwise be unable to complete.

# 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.

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| **Church Buildings Support Officer** |
| Alena-Rose Douglas  07933509860  [ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org) |
| **Senior Stewardship Officer** |
| Janet Edmond  07376525684  [ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org) |
| **Net Zero Carbon Fundraising Officer** |
| Fran Taylor  [Fran.taylor@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:Fran.taylor@leeds.anglican.org) |

Completed application forms should be returned by email whenever possible, to [ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:ResourcingParishes@leeds.anglican.org) any hard copy applications should be addressed to Beth Vickers-Smith, Church House,17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX

# Summary of Funding Schemes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Buildings For Mission – Minor Repairs and Improvements Grants** | The Buildings for Mission funding project aims to give priority to areas which lack access to support, it also aims to address need.  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. *Stitch-in-Time* repairs, doing small works to prevent larger more costly issues in the future, are particularly encouraged.  Grants are prioritised according to the circumstances of the parish and parishes are expected to have utilised their own resources before approaching the diocese. | The total project cost must be under £20,000 (or £24,000 for unlisted buildings).  Multiple applications will be considered over the period of the scheme (2024-2025), but multiple awards cannot be guaranteed.  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.  Grants awarded are most likely to be in the region of £1,000 - £5,000. |
| **Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Grants** | The Carbon Net Zero Quick Wins Grant is part of the Church of England’s ambitious Net Zero Carbon 2030 programme.  The scheme is aimed at helping churches launch small scale decarbonisation projects as part of their journey to net zero. Projects should aligned to the guidance in the [Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon for Churches](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church/practical-path-net-zero-carbon-churches). | In addition to the projects listed on page 6, applications for temporary heating solutions, electrical upgrades and solar panels may also be considered. Please contact the Net Zero Carbon Fundraising Officer before making an application for these works.  Grants awarded are most likely to be in the region of £1,000 - £5,000. |
| **Diocesan Church Buildings Grants** | 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.  Grants are prioritised according to the circumstances of the parish and parishes are expected to have utilised their own resources before approaching the diocese | 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.  Multiple applications will be considered over the period of the scheme (2024-2025) but the total of £5,000 will not be exceeded.  The value of individual grant awards is at the discretion of the panel. |

# Funding rounds and decisions

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

* 28th February 2025 for grant awards made in March
* 30th June 2025 for grant awards made in July.
* 31st October 2025 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 normally 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](https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a)

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 rank1 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) |
| Examples of eligible Net Zero Carbon projects include: | |
| Repairs to roof and rainwater goods  Window repairs  Insulation of heating pipes  Draught proofing  Floor coverings  Pew cushions  Roof insulation  Fabric wall hangings or panels  Glazed doors in porches or draught lobbies  Creating smaller separately heatable spaces  Installation of smart meters | Replacing lightbulbs with LEDs  Replace floodlights with LED units  Improving heating controls, including HIVE or NEST-type heating controls  If current appliances fail, replacement with A+++ appliances  Under pew electric heaters  Infrared radiant panel heaters  Magnetic sediment filter to extend life of the system  Thermal and/or motion sensors on lighting |

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](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/building-maintenance-and-repair))

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

# Grant Application Form

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Church name | |  | | |
| Church code[[1]](#footnote-2) | |  | | |
| Listing | |  | | |
| Parish | |  | | |
| IMD Ranking[[2]](#footnote-3) | |  | | |
| Eco Church Award | |  | | |
|  | |  | | |
| Parish Contact 1 | | | Parish Contact 2 | |
| Name |  | | Name |  |
| Role |  | | Role |  |
| Email |  | | Email |  |
| Phone |  | | Phone |  |
|  |  | |  |  |
| 1.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) ……………………………………….. | | | | |
| 2.Please provide a summary of your project | | | | |
| 3.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 the plans to achieve carbon net zero by 2030? If you have a net zero action plan please attach it. | | | | |
| 4.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*) | | | | |
| 5.Please explain what short and long term benefits your project will offer to your building and wider community? | | | | |
| 6.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). | | | | |
| 7.Have you sought Archdeacon’s permission and/or have you applied for a faculty for this application? | | | | |
| 8.Please provide a breakdown of project costs. | | | | |
| 9.Have you been provided with two written quotes? If not, please provide an explanation. | | | | |
| 10.Have you spoken to the Church Buildings Support Officer, Senior Stewardship Officer or Net Zero Carbon Fundraising Officer and if so, have they indicated which grant your project is most suitable for? *(please tick all that apply)*  Yes, Buildings for Mission – Minor Repairs and Improvements Grant  Yes, Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins  Yes, Diocesan Buildings Grant Scheme  No | | | | |
| 11.Have you been offered funding from either the Buildings for Mission, the Diocesan Buildings Grants or Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins previously? If so, please provide details, including an update on whether the project has been completed. | | | | |
| 12.Has this project been offered funding from the Net Zero Carbon Demonstrator or Give to Go Green Schemes? If so, please provide details, including an update on whether the project has been completed. | | | | |
| 13.Please detail any grants applied for and/or committed by third parties. | | | | |
| 14.How much would you like to apply for? (Maximum grant available is £10,000) | | | | |
| 15.How will you make up the shortfall (if any)? | | | | |
| 16.Please state the amount of your unrestricted and restricted reserves.  Restricted Building Funds  Unrestricted General Funds  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. | | | | |
| 17.Supporting documents:  *Please tick the documents that you are able to include with your application. You will be advised if additional information is required.*  Completed application form  Quinquennial Inspection Report or Condition Report  Maintenance Plan  Energy Audit  Net Zero Action Plan  Quotes  List B of Faculty Permission  Mission Plan  Relevant Photographs | | | | |
|  | | | | |

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1. This is a unique six-digit code allocated by the Church Commissioners and can be found on the Church Heritage Record or A Church Near You. <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Indices of Multiple Deprivation Ranking can be found on the Church of England Parish Map <https://hub.arcgis.com/maps/67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a/explore?location=51.474299%2C-0.125886%2C13.58> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)