

General Church Building Maintenance Grant

PAPER B1
Synod Together
Meeting
12 Oct 2019

Commencing January 2020 an Annual Church Grant will be set up for general repairs and maintenance. This will ensure churches keep a keen interest in ongoing maintenance issues at their church while incentivising the use of funding available. It will be funded from the Synod Church Buildings Fund.

Annual Church Grant

Each church will be allocated £2,000 at the beginning of 2020 and 2021 to be claimed against receipts for works carried out to the church property. Receipts should be retained by the church and submitted to the Property Administrator either by post or electronically at the end of the year or when £2,000 has been reached. Monies not claimed by receipt in the year of spend can be carried over to following calendar year.

The scheme will work as such.

- The church will arrange repairs/maintenance works to their building.
- The church will pay for these works and retain receipts (provided the receipt qualifies).
- The Church Treasurer/Secretary will provide collected receipts to the Synod Property Office either by post, email or in person once the £2,000 limit has been reached or the end of the calendar year. Once receipts have been received, monies will be paid into the church account to the amount noted from receipts. In the first year it will be up to £2,000. In the second year this will be up to £2,000 plus any unspent monies from the previous year.
- If receipts received do not accumulatively come to £2000. This will be noted by the Synod and the church will then be able to claim this unspent portion as part of the next years grant. Example: Church A submits receipts totalling £1500 for 2020. In 2021 Church A will be able to claim a total of £2500. Any monies not claimed in 2021 can be carried over into 2022.
- Any receipts received from Churches greater than £2,000, cannot be carried forward to the next year.

Churches will be expected to continue to carry out maintenance on their facilities regardless and the aim of this fund is to aid churches in these efforts. This grant cannot be a permanent financial aid which churches depend on.

Restrictions

There will be restrictions on what churches can claim.

Churches cannot claim for expenses on:

- gardening,
- annual servicing of Heating Ventilation & Air (HVAC),
- electrical installation testing and PAT Testing,
- lightning rod maintenance,
- annual fire equipment servicing,
- alterations, improvement and redevelopments,
- cleaning, caretaker and maintenance contracts
- buildings insurance

Listed Buildings

This Grant will also be available for churches that are listed. General maintenance of these buildings will not require an application to the Synod Listed Buildings Advisory Committee (LBAC). However, it is recommended that advice be sought from the Synod Property Office if there are any works that will impact upon the building fabric. Example: If guttering requires replacement, the Synod should be informed and a decision will be taken if LBAC consent is required.