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## Synod Church Building Fund Panel

1. The panel has had a bit of a disjointed existence since starting in January 2020. We were just getting underway with the new arrangements when the process was suspended from April until October due to the financial uncertainty caused by the Lockdown. However much has been achieved during this first year.
2. One million pounds was allocated to the Fund for the year 2020 and this was distributed as follows:
3. **Annual Church Maintenance Grant** – £252,000 was allocated for these grants which allow churches to claim £2,000 against receipts for maintenance work and repairs to their church buildings. Currently £80,160 has been claimed but churches can carryover unused 2020 allotted funds into 2021 so it is expected that more will be drawn against this item.
4. **Grant Applications** – 22 applications have been received and 19 grants totalling £528,167 have been awarded. Two churches were directed to the annual maintenance grant as the work was in this maintenance category and one application did not meet the requirements of the scheme as the building is being sold.

The majority applications were for less than £50,000 and were for general improvement works to assist the church in their ongoing mission. These included upgrading and extension to fire alarm systems, replacement roof and flooring, and in one case work on a spire in an unsafe condition reducing access to the premises. Grants over £50,000 were made to four churches for major development/refurbishment work.

5. **Loans** - Loans are awarded over a 5-year period with the Church being able to draw down the Loan within 1 year of the award. Interest is set at 5% with the funds ultimately returning to the Building Grants and Loans Fund. One request has currently been received and a loan of £50,000 towards a major project has been agreed.
6. **2021** – One million pounds has been allocated to the Fund for the year 2021 and we have now started processing applications submitted for this period.

David Walters  
March 2021