

General Church Building Maintenance Grant

In January 2020 the Synod introduced an Annual Church Grant for general repairs and maintenance. This was to ensure that Churches keep a keen interest in ongoing maintenance issues at their church while incentivising the use of funding available. It is funded from the Synod Church Buildings Fund.

Annual Church Grant

From 2025, each Church will be allocated £2,500 per annum 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 £2,500 has been reached. Monies not claimed by receipt in the year of spend can be carried over to the following calendar year. Prior to 2025 the grant available was £2,000.

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.
- The Church will send collected receipts to the Synod Property Office either by post or email once the £2,500 limit has been reached or by the end of the calendar year. If costs accumulate interim claims can be made during the year. Once receipts have been received, monies will be paid into the church account to the amount of the qualifying receipts (see Restrictions below).
- If receipts received for the year do not accumulatively come to £2,500 this will be noted by the Synod, and the Church will then be able to include this unspent portion in addition to next year's grant.
- Receipts for works in the year of spend cannot be carried forward to the next year.

Restrictions

Churches cannot claim for expenses on:

- gardening
- annual servicing of Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment
- electrical installation testing and PAT testing
- lightning protection testing
- annual fire equipment servicing
- major alterations, improvements and redevelopments
- cleaning, caretaker and maintenance contracts
- buildings insurance
- surveys & inspections

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.