Minor Repairs & Improvements Grant Fund Criteria (April 2024)

**Eligibility**

**In the case of all applications**

The PCC must have a reserves policy in place.

Repair work must have been identified in your most recent quinquennial inspection or other professional building survey or inspection.

**For Minor Repairs**

Maintenance plan in place that includes inspections and regular basic maintenance tasks; or agreement to work towards one.

Budgeting for a designated maintenance reserve proportionate to income.

**For Improvements**

Priority will be given to improvement proposals that align with the strategic priorities of growing younger. becoming greener. becoming more diverse and focusing on the socially & economically disadvantaged.

**Eligible buildings**

Church of England consecrated church buildings and licensed places of worship (including those which are the subject of sharing agreements or ecumenical partnerships) serving parishes in the 40 mainland dioceses and the diocese of Sodor and Man. The ‘building’ extends to its below-ground drainage system, foundations and immediate curtilage.

**Ineligible buildings**

* Other buildings or structures in the churchyard or curtilage of eligible buildings which are not in ecclesiastical use.
* Cathedrals
* Churches and chapels which are the responsibility of private owners or institutions
* Church of England churches outside England or the Isle of Man
* Non-Anglican places of worship
* Closed and closing churches.

**Eligible repairs**

* Repair of building fabric (external): roof coverings, roof structure, walls, parapets, pinnacles and other architectural features, towers, spires, windows, doors, rainwater disposal system including below-ground drainage.
* Repair of building fabric (internal): ceilings, floors, doors, walls and wall linings (plaster/paneling but not wall paintings, mosaics etc),.
* Repair of building services installations where essential for health and safety and/or continuity of worship and mission use.
* Emergency repairs or holding works, eg propping, covering, protection etc.
* To be eligible, any such work must be recommended in the most recent QI report (or subsequent professional report or condition survey etc). Work classified as:
	+ Cat 1 - Urgent, requiring immediate attention
	+ Cat 2 - Requires attention within 12 months
	+ Cat 3 - Requires attention within 2 years

The above should take priority, but any work required within the quinquennium is eligible. Works of differing urgency within that definition may be undertaken together for the sake of efficiency and economy, especially where ‘stitch in time’ repairs can save money in the long term.

**Eligible Improvements**

* Additions, alterations or adaptations specifically to overcome building design defects or obsolescence (e.g. undersized hoppers or drainpipes) or to improve access for maintenance.
* Additions, alterations or adaptations where essential to improve physical access, e.g. handrails, ramps etc.
* Improvements to building services installations where essential to sustain worship and mission use, such as improvements to heating, lighting, wiring, kitchens, WCs. Where necessary, this might include the installation or upgrading of pipework or cabling to the perimeter of the churchyard or curtilage.
* New installations or improvements to existing installations for digital connectivity, whether through a wired connection or 4G/5G mobile Wi-Fi, where essential to sustain worship and mission use.
* Bat mitigation measures, including relevant ecologists’ fees and production of a bat management plan, where the impact of bats is a barrier to worship and mission use. A one off deep clean can be an eligible cost as part of a mitigation plan.

**Other eligible costs**

* Professional fees to design, specify, inspect and certify the repair or improvement work.
* Ecologist’s fees to prepare a bat management plan.
* VAT (for unlisted churches and work to listed churches which falls outside the eligibility of the Listed Places of Worship (LPW) grant scheme). It will be assumed that PCCs will apply to the LPW grant scheme wherever possible.

**Indication of the level of grant awardd**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Remember, all enquiries and documentation regarding this fund should be emailed to the Church Buildings Support Officer at** **mri@derby.anglican.org**