

# Minor Repairs and Improvements and Quick Wins Funding

## Application Guide

### Minor Repairs and Improvements (MR&I)

The Diocese of Winchester has secured a small pot of grant funding from the Church of England's Minor Repairs and Improvements (MR&I) Grant Fund.

Applications for up to £10,000 can be submitted by parishes for projects that focus on urgent repairs and small-scale improvements which are essential to sustaining worship and mission. Amounts awarded will be based on deprivation and other factors - we expect grants to be in the region of £3,000 - £5,000.

This project aims to give priority to areas which lack access to support for Church of England church buildings. It also aims to address need and therefore, churches in areas of demonstrable need will be prioritised.

### Eligibility

#### *Eligible buildings*

Church of England consecrated church buildings and licensed places of worship. 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; non-Anglican places of worship; closed and closing churches.

#### *Eligible work*

Minor 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/panelling 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, e.g. 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 urgent (either category 1 - Urgent, requiring immediate attention; 2 - Requires attention within

12 months; or 3 - Requires attention within the next 12 - 24 months) 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.

### *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 oneoff 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.

### *Ineligible work*

Routine maintenance, as exemplified below:

Routine cleaning. Work to furnishings, such as bells and bell frames, books and manuscripts, church plate, clocks, monumental brasses and decorative metalwork, monuments, organs, paintings and wall paintings, stained glass, textiles, wooden objects. Conservation reports. Routine inspection (Quinquennial Inspections, periodic inspection of electrical installations, appliance testing, gas safety checks, etc). Routine servicing of building services installations. Any work covered by insurance.

### *Grant Priorities*

These priorities are not essential but would be preferential when making an application:

- Have received an Energy Audit or have a NZC action plan approved by PCC of which this project is a part.
- Signed up to Eco Church

- Have completed the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT).
- Have sought expert advice on the proposed project and its permissions.

Parishes who have not carried out the above can apply and will be considered, however applications are less likely to succeed.

## How to Apply

Proposals for either grants will be on the same application form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/2S9ePadQ2j>

You should indicate in **question five** whether you are applying for either Minor Repairs, Quick Wins or both and submit via MS Forms.

It is essential to have had a conversation with the DAC to apply for this grant:

[dac@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:dac@winchester.anglican.org)

Grants will be awarded by the Diocese from monies provided by the national church. Grants may be drawn down in advance of works, but projects must be completed within 12 months otherwise the grant may need to be re-paid. Further rounds of funding will be available throughout 2024 and 2025.

## Quick Wins

Quick Wins is aimed at funding simple, low-cost changes that will reduce energy use and carbon emissions. Grants will be funded up to £3,000 (and in exceptional circumstances up to £10,000). Grants will be awarded for applications that will lower the carbon footprint of a church's buildings that are low cost, simple and give rapid results. Because funds are limited, costs and benefits will be carefully assessed and prioritised against the CofE Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon for Churches.

Measures could include:

- Pipe insulation, draught-proofing
- Insulating curtains
- Heated cushions
- Rugs
- Replacing old lighting with LEDs
- Replacing hot water tanks with under-sink boilers

- Thermostatic radiator valves or digital controls
- Motion sensors and timing systems

A full list can be found at:

<https://winchester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Your-guide-to-projects-eligible-for-Quick-Wins-grant-A4-doc-1.pdf>

## Eligibility

Applications to the Quick Wins Fund will be considered from any parish specifically for projects designed to improve their facilities and lower their carbon footprint.

### *Grant Priorities*

These priorities are not essential but would be preferential when making an application:

- Have received an Energy Audit or have a NZC action plan approved by PCC of which this project is a part.
- Signed up to Eco Church.
- The project should reduce your carbon footprint (according to the Energy Footprint Tool).
- Have completed the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT).
- Have sought expert advice on the proposed project and its permissions.

Parishes who have not carried out the above can apply and will be considered, however applications are less likely to succeed.

## How to apply

Proposals for either grants will be on the same application form:

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Any questions please contact Lucy Howlett [lucy.howlett@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:lucy.howlett@winchester.anglican.org).

**Applications close on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 for consideration on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, with decisions to be announced shortly thereafter.**