

Assets Group Diocesan Building Fund

The purpose of the Building Fund is to support Mission Communities and parishes in support of the Moving on in Growth agenda by providing funds to enable:

1. the review and rationalisation of a Mission Community's building stock
2. the re-ordering of church buildings (both consecrated and non-consecrated) to better provide for church and/or community use
3. the repair and improvement of church buildings including heating systems The Group will take into consideration:
 1. how the application fits with the Mission Action Plan of the Mission Community
 2. the funds currently available in the Mission Community
 3. the action taken to raise additional funds within the Mission Community/parish, and the ways in which the Mission Community/parish is encouraging Christian stewardship (but will not expect the parish to use up all its funds before being given assistance)
 4. the way in which the balance of the project funding will be raised, taking into account any grants, loans and parish resources;
 5. whether Common Fund assessments have been paid in full (shortfalls, whilst not necessarily indicating a disqualification, will reduce the likelihood of a loan).

Assistance is normally given by way of a loan. Loans currently bear interest at 3% per annum on the reducing balance of the loan amount, and are normally repayable in equal instalments over a period of 5 years or up to 10 years in the case of purpose 1 above.

The general benchmark for assistance is to allow loans of up to 25% of total project outlay, net of English Heritage and other external grants. Minor grants requested by rural churches will be referred to the Archdeacon concerned for disbursement from the Rural Churches Repair Fund. If only part of the work indicated in the application is carried out, any agreed loan may be scaled down accordingly.

Bridging loans will be considered for short periods of time where Mission Communities/parishes can demonstrate that incoming resources will be received towards qualifying work. In these circumstances interest will normally be waived for the agreed period.

The following expenditure will not normally be eligible for loans:

1. Repairs to organs;
2. Repairs to bells, monuments and stained glass (except money for making structures safe);
3. Interior decoration;
4. Furnishings and furniture;
5. Floodlighting of churches.

All requests for the appropriate Application Form should be directed to Nigel Pratt (DAC Secretary and Senior Church Buildings Adviser) 01392 294944 (nigel.pratt@exeter.anglican.org) or Charlotte Vickers (Church Buildings Adviser) on 01392 294945 (charlotte.vickers@exeter.anglican.org)