

Eligible buildings

Church of England consecrated church buildings and licensed places of worship (including those subject to sharing agreements or ecumenical partnerships) serving parishes in the Diocese of Gloucester.

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.

Churches and chapels which are the responsibility of private owners or institutions;¹ closed and closing churches.

Eligible work

IMPORTANT: The total cost of eligible work should not exceed £ 20,000.

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 (including wall paintings, mosaics and wall-mounted memorials).
- 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 usually 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 months²) 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. The grant panel reserves the right to apply discretion to decide on the eligibility of applications.

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.

¹ Such as schools, university colleges, hospitals and so-called 'peculiar' etc, even those which have opted into the Faculty Jurisdiction (under paras 38-44 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 or previously under the Care of Places of Worship Measure 1999)

² See Commissioning Quinquennial Inspection Reports Guidance Note at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/quinquennial-inspections>

- 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.

Ineligible work

- Routine maintenance, as set out in our [Calendar of Care](#).
- Routine cleaning.
- Work to furnishings, such as bells and bell frames, books and manuscripts, church plate, clocks, monumental brasses and decorative metalwork, churchyard monuments, organs, easel paintings, stained glass, textiles, and wooden objects. These may qualify for the grants administered by ChurchCare (see [Grants for historic church interiors and churchyard structures | The Church of England](#)).
- 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.

Eligible applicants

Applications must be made by a member or designated representative of the PCC or equivalent body with legal responsibility for the church building. Please ensure the PCC has discussed and agreed to the works and to the application to the DMRIF before submitting your application, and that a record of this agreement has been made in the PCC's own records. Funds can only be paid to the PCC, not directly to contractors or other companies appointed to undertake the work.

Only one application per church building, per calendar year can be accepted.

Grant conditions

The offer of a DMRIF grant is subject to the conditions set out in the Application Form.

Questions?

Please contact mrif@glosdioc.org.uk