

SITES AND BUILDINGS FUND

1. The Fund is the responsibility of the Diocesan Trustees, and the administration is undertaken by the Diocesan Secretary. Loan applications will be considered from PCCs to help meet the cost of repairs and alterations to the fabric of their churches.
2. Repairs are defined as the major items of maintenance of the structure of the fabric of the building. The term includes heating, lighting and decoration. It also includes works of repair necessary for the preservation of historic bell frames and the maintenance of pipe organs. The Trustees have agreed that loans can be made available for the repair or replacement of bells and pipe or electronic organs provided that they are fixtures rather than loose furniture.
3. Loans will be made over a maximum period of five years, with repayments of capital and interest at six-monthly intervals. The rate of interest will be subject to review from time to time and will be designed to encourage early repayment. The current rates of interest are:-

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Interest rate	Nil	Nil	2%	4%	6%

4. The amount of loan normally will not exceed 50% of the net cost of the work, i.e. having taken account of other grants, loans and money in fabric funds. The maximum loan is usually limited to £20,000. The Trustees have discretion to extend this in exceptional circumstances. PCCs wishing to apply for more than £20,000 should ensure that the appropriate archdeacon is aware of the reasons for such application.
5. Applications for loan are to be made on the prescribed form. Work should not be put in hand before the loan has been approved by the Diocesan Trustees.
6. Loans will only be made to PCCs which are up to date with their parish share / ministry share payments.
7. When considering applications the Trustees will be guided by the following criteria:-
 - (a) The Pastoral needs of the parish and deanery. If a loan is requested for the repair of a church which does not appear to be a satisfactory building in view of the current pastoral needs of the parish and deanery the Trustees may refer the matter to the Diocesan Mission Pastoral and Resources Committee for advice.
 - (b) Priority for loans will be given to those parishes whose church is unable or unlikely to receive significant help from English Heritage or other grant making bodies, provided the pastoral needs are clear.
8. Archdeacons are available for advice on grants from English Heritage. The Heritage Lottery Fund makes grants towards the preservation of churches, including organs and bells. Information is available from the Secretary of the DAC.
9. If a loan application is approved by the Trustees, the money will be made available on presentation of the completed loan agreement and either first architect's certificate or builders accounts.