

Synod Advance Fund

1 Grants for Mission

The Synod Schemes & Grants Committee wishes to encourage creative ways at reaching out in mission to the community. Small grants are available for local mission initiatives. Examples are: new play equipment for toddler groups; inputs to start up a young persons' café; equipment for café style worship. Grants from £100 – 1000 are available. A SAF application form should be completed

2 Grants to support Youth work

Two sums of money are available each year.

1. A total of £1,500 is held annually for individual Circuit initiatives which would encourage young people (principally secondary school age and younger students) to get together in a more local setting. Or individuals to join an event or training. Youth/ junior church leaders in churches and Circuits may apply for support from this fund, using the SAF application form.
2. A total £3,200 is held in the Synod budget for the operations of Momentwm, including support for young people to participate in events. The expenditure is authorised by the Chair of Momentwm up to this limit annually.

3 Grants for Church and Circuit Ministry and Mission

The Synod Schemes & Grants Committee makes available grants to support additional Circuit staff for mission and outreach work. The work should be clearly linked to the Circuit mission priorities. Contributions from Church or Circuit towards the costs are expected. Normally £1000 - £10,000 per year for 3 years. A SAF Application form should be completed.

4 Grants for church and Circuit Building Schemes

The Synod Schemes & Grants Committee wishes to encourage churches in the modification of church premises to increase the scope for mission and outreach. The scheme should clearly link to both the church and Circuit mission priorities. The amount of funding available is limited and the Synod contribution of up to 10% of the project budget is seen as a small match fund to encourage other fundraising and applications for grants elsewhere. This fund is not available for routine maintenance, or for work highlighted in the Quinquennial inspections or for renovations to manses. A project should be created on the Connexion Consents scheme. Projects completed without Consent are not eligible for funding.

Martin Louher, Synod Property officer, is available for advice. He will also advise if a SAF application form is required or not.

5 Grants to support online worship and mission of Churches

The Synod Schemes & Grants Committee recognises the need to reach out online to both members and those in the community. Churches may need to invest in some additional equipment. Examples are: camera; sound or recording equipment; lighting; wifi; laptop computers. This type of project falls between the two funding streams of building and mission. Guidelines are available for these projects and applications should be made using the SAF Application form. Grant limit of £3000 The SS&GC has made up to £30,000 available for the 2021/22 Connexional year for such schemes.

6 Grants to support Churches in initiatives to combat Climate Change

The Synod Schemes & Grants Committee recognises the importance of the Churches and members, collectively and as individuals, taking action as part of their commitment to stewardship of creation. It is encouraging that some churches are already taking steps to become Eco Churches or to simply reduce their collective carbon footprint.

The types of initiatives supported include: awareness raising or campaign events in the community on environmental issues; participation in environmental action; creation of gardens; increasing biodiversity on church grounds; small scale carbon emission reduction initiatives (LED lighting, insulation, switching appliances from gas to green electricity) or installing photovoltaic solar panels

This type of project falls between the two funding streams of building and mission. Structural or larger building modifications on environmental grounds can apply to the SS&GC under building schemes where up to 10% of the cost is available. These grants are for up to £3000. Guidelines are available and applications should be on the SAF Application form. The SS&GC has made up to £30,000 for the 2021/22 Connexional year for such schemes.

7 Grants for Manses

Synod Charitable Trust can offer some support for manse renovations in some circumstances. Contact the trust secretary Martin Rees, for advice.

8 Urgent Building Repairs Grants

The Synod Schemes & Grants Committee offers 10% funding for building schemes with a mission and outreach objective. However, the Committee recognises that churches have had restricted income for 2 years because of reduced members offerings and loss of letting income. Some buildings require urgent maintenance, which may have been identified in a Quinquennial inspection, but they do not have sufficient reserves to carry out the work. Discretionary grants are being made available. Churches should show that they are financially viable in terms of routine expenditure and assessments through a 12 month budget and previous year accounts.

The SS&GC will make up to a total of £50,000 from Advance Fund available until the end of Connexional Year 2022/23 for such schemes. Grants of up to 50% of cost to a maximum of £5000 are available. Guidelines are available and applications should be on a SAF Application form.

Applications to Synod Schemes and Grants

The SAF form is available to download from the Synod website or alternatively email the Synod office. Please contact Gill Peace for guidelines for the Online Worship & Mission, Combatting Climate and Urgent Building Repairs grants.

The SS&GC meets in October and March to discuss major schemes. Straight forward schemes can be approved on a rolling basis. If you need advice or to discuss your ideas, please contact the relevant person.

Property & Building Schemes – Martin Lougher

Ministry and Mission – Gill Peace email: peacelossi@btinternet.com