

Synod Advance Fund October 2023

**1. 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 - £15,000 per year for 3 years. A SAF Application form should be completed. Circuit support for the application required.

**2. 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, up to £30,000, 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 Lougher, Synod Property officer, is available for advice. He will also advise if a SAF application form is required or not.

**3. Small Grants for Mission and Community Engagement**

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; costs for an outreach event or programme. Grants from £100 – 1000 are available. A SAF application form should be completed. Church Council support for the application required.

**4. Small Grants to support Youth Activities**

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 Momentŵm, including support for young people to participate in events. The expenditure is authorised by the Chair of Momentŵm up to this limit annually.

**5 Grants to support online mission and in person worship 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 grant scheme has been extended to include other equipment required to develop in person worship. 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 Funds are limited, but currently available.

**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, to take 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 £6000. Guidelines are available and applications should be on the SAF Application form. Funds are limited but are currently available.

**7 Grants for Manses**

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

**8. Grants for Urgent Building Repairs**

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/ or the reserves will be very depleted, to carry out the work. 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 total funds for this are limited but currently available. Discretionary 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**

The SAF form is available to download from the Synod website along with the guidance for the extra funds. Alternatively email the Synod office.

Note: Grants cannot be given for work that has already been undertaken or to repay loans.

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 martinlougher@mac.com

Ministry and Mission – Gill Peace peacelossl@btinternet.com