

Synod Advance Fund Sept 2024

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 of from Church or Circuit towards the costs are expected. Normally £1000 - £30,000 per year for 3 years (up to 50% total cost). A SAF Application form should be completed. Circuit support for the application is required. An example of a project description is at the end of this document for your guidance.

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 15% 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.

- a. 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.
- b. 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.

5 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.

6 Grants for Manses

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

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 peaceloss@btinternet.com

Appendix 1: Example of a Mission or Outreach Project Description for a SAF Application

Project Aim: The aim is to reach out with the gospel to children and young people in our community.

Objective 1: To provide child and family friendly worship on a regular basis

Objective 2: To engage with the children and parents in the two primary schools in our area

Objective 3: To reach out to children and young people in our church and community with activities they want to enjoy.

Activities for each Objective:

Objective 1: Provide messy church once per month; offer an outdoor family service once per month.

Objective 2: Offer school assemblies and Open the Book to our neighbouring schools

-Encourage a congregation member to join the school Governors

-Bring children into the church through offering a church visit for RE lessons; offering our space for school carol concerts and other events; inviting the school children to perform at church events and lunch club etc.

Objective 3: Restart a Toddlers group on a morning not covered by another church; Working ecumenically, consult parents and young people to find out what is missing and offer a weekly after- school session based suggested activities.

Activity Plan

Year 1: Set up a working group; to talk to local churches, schools, other youth activity providers; recruit new lay worker; initiate first activities in one school and a new worship for children in church. Reach 250+ children through school and 30+ through new worship

Year 2: Engage the second school; restart toddlers; initiate out door worship for families Reach 500+ children through school; 30+ through worship; 30+ through new activities

Year 3: Deepened relationships and continue to recruit and train volunteers; start after school activity. Reach 500+ children through schools; 30+ through worship; 50+ through recently started or new activities.

Resources Needed

Part time lay worker to coordinate activities, recruit, train and organise volunteers for activities and to energise the members to support new initiatives.

Budget:

Costs: Salary & other employment; Travel & phone; Training & safeguarding; Resources for planned activities; Outings

Income: Contrition from church including donations/ subs from participants, contribution from Circuit; small trust grant; SAF grant.