

FUNDING FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS: HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

FUNDING SHEET 9

The history of State and lottery funding for church repairs is long one, dating back to 1977. It has been distributed by a number of different agencies during that time, and has given rise to a good deal of confusion and folklore among church officers and congregations.

For some years, the funding was handled in a joint repair grant scheme administered by English Heritage, but including funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. For major repair cases, this has usually been the largest single source of grant-aid available. The scheme has called for a disciplined and time-critical approach by church officers, and in some cases the application process has been undertaken professionally by the church's architect or surveyor.

The present scheme has now closed, and a replacement scheme, run entirely by Heritage Lottery Fund, will be introduced in early 2013. It will be a more versatile scheme than its predecessor, and will include provision for a limited expenditure on improved facilities as well as straight repair of the fabric.

If yours is a major scheme of repair work, you are strongly advised to assume that an application to the new HLF repair scheme will be required, and this may produce the largest single element of your funding.

If you need further advice in relation to this guidance sheet, please contact us at Church House on 01452 410022 or by email at dac@glosdioc.org.uk