



In conjunction with a scheme for church building inspections (> 021), the Synod has agreed the following policy for financial support towards the costs of undertaking recommended building repairs.

Inspection Process

Stone Ecclesiastical conducted the second phase of church building inspections during the spring and summer of 1999. Using the report of the first phase of inspections as a basis, the surveyor's report identifies:

- which items included in any earlier report had not been completed satisfactorily;
- the results of any specialist surveys carried out under Stone's oversight;
- the repairs required to be undertaken in the next five years;
- a priority (immediate, medium or long-term) for completion of each item;

and, if requested by the local church in advance of the inspection, includes:

- a schedule of works for tendering purposes, with budgetary costs.

It is for the local church to decide which work to have carried out, but grants and loans may be dependent upon essential work being undertaken, particularly remedial work recommended by a specialist report or work required to ensure the safety of those using the building. The local church will be advised of any such dependency shortly after the issue of the inspection report. Normally, three competitive quotations should be obtained for any work to be carried out. Where the District Council has set a limit to expenditure, it may be necessary to consult with District officers when tenders for work have been obtained.

Surveys

If a church elects to have a survey undertaken in place of an inspection by Stone Ecclesiastical, it is expected that the survey report will generally take the form set out above. All other provisions of the policy will apply equally to surveys and to inspections.

BUILDING REPAIRS – GRANTS & LOANS POLICY

Grants and Loans

The Province will meet up to 20% of the total cost of any of the recommended work by way of grant and up to a further 50% by way of loan. Loans will be at 3% p.a. interest rate over a 5-year term.

The grant will be paid provided that **all** of the following criteria are met:

- the application is from a church which the District Council has confirmed falls within the scheme;
- there is clear evidence that the invoice relates to work recommended in the inspection or survey report;
- the total amount of the invoices for which grant assistance has been sought falls within any limit set by the District Council;
- any essential work has been completed;
- the application is submitted within six years of the inspection date.

If a grant was made for work arising from the Phase 1 inspection, it was on the basis that all the work recommended at that time was completed. Accordingly, no grant will be made in respect of recommendations which have been carried over from Phase 1 if a grant for that phase was awarded. There are no other conditions to the payment of the grant.

Repairs of Listed Buildings are now effectively rated at 5% for VAT purposes (> 481) and any grants for such works will assume that the transitional grant of 12.5% will be obtained from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

Application forms for grants and loans have been prepared for each church and these should have been made available by the district officers.