

## Maintenance Matters for March - May 2026

# Church Maintenance: Your Guide to Care

## March, April and May Maintenance Tips

With Winter drawing to a close and spring in sight, you should make sure your maintenance programme for the months of March, April and May reflects the varied weather conditions of this period.

### Continue with Winter Checks & Inspections

The colder and less predictable climate of March and April means you should carry on with your winter checks until icy, snowy and windy conditions subside.

As part of your winter checks, you should inspect your roof to ensure it is in good working order. To do this, look out for any broken or slipped tiles or slates on your church roofs and check the ground for any debris that may have fallen from damaged tiles or slates. You should also make sure that all lead flashings and mortar fillets are intact and not showing signs of deterioration. Warning signs to look out for include holes or splits in the leadwork, as well as crumbling or eroding mortar fillets.

In addition to checking the roof, your winter checks should also include a visual examination of your rainwater goods. As part of this inspection, you should make sure all gutters and downpipes are in good working order and have not been damaged by frost or stormy conditions. Any cracks, leaks, loose or dislodged rainwater goods and missing components should be noted during these checks. If you identify any of these issues, you should aim to rectify them at the earliest opportunity to prevent damage to the fabric of the building (please note, permission may be needed).

Your winter inspection should also include an examination of all brickwork and stonework. As frost can weaken masonry, it is important to look for cracks and areas of delamination to ensure no problems have arisen and the structure is safe. If parts of your church already have these issues, you should make sure to monitor them regularly to ensure they are not deteriorating further. If you are concerned loose masonry could fall, you should cordon off the area and look to have the area repaired at the earliest opportunity (please note, permission may be needed). Please contact a member of the Church Buildings Team if you are concerned about this.

### Spring Maintenance Tasks

When Spring arrives, you should aim to clear both your above-ground rainwater goods and below-ground drainage to remove any debris which may have accumulated over winter. This will help ensure your rainwater disposal system remains in good working order. The May – July 2025 edition of *Maintenance Matters* incorporates a comprehensive guide on how to maintain your

church's rainwater disposal system, including what to clean and how often each task should be carried out. To read this guidance, please click [here](#).

With spring bringing increased plant growth, it is also important to check that drainage, rainwater goods and ventilation channels remain clear and unobstructed. For instance, plants, soil, and debris can block airbricks and reduce the effectiveness of drainage channels. To ensure these elements function properly, you should remove any obstructions from around the base of your church.

As the weather becomes warmer and spring transitions into summer, you should also plan to shut down your heating system and arrange for it to be serviced by an appropriately qualified professional. At the same time, it would also be a good idea to bleed any radiators and check your frost thermostat is working correctly.

### **Completing a Spring Clean**

The better weather of Spring provides a perfect opportunity to organise a big spring clean. These sessions are the perfect way to get a wide range of cleaning and maintenance tasks done at once and they also provide a good opportunity to welcome people from the wider community to help. If you have never hosted a Working Party session before, you can learn more about how to set one up by reading our 'Setting Up a Maintenance Working Party' article [here](#).

If you plan to undertake a spring clean at your church, it is important to remember that many items can face harm if improperly cleaned. This includes things such as furnishings, woodwork, metalwork, floors, monuments, and historic, painted, and stained glass. It is therefore important chemicals are not used in the cleaning process. If you are unsure on how to properly clean items in your church, we suggest you consult ChurchCare's free advice and resources by clicking [here](#).

If you have an upcoming spring-cleaning session arranged, you may wish to hire the Diocese of Worcester's High-Level Internal Vacuum for a nominal fee. The SkyVac Internal 30 has an 8.5 metre reach and is capable of clearing dust from the most high-to-reach places in your church. If you are interested in hiring the SkyVac, please complete a Microsoft Forms request [here](#).

### **Permissions**

Although many maintenance tasks can be completed without List B permission or a Faculty, general repairs and minor changes normally require permission.

If you identify a repair need, please contact us via [churches@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:churches@cofe-worcester.org.uk) for advice on whether permission is needed.

### **Need support?**

If you would like any advice on church maintenance or have any repairs you need help with planning, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the team for assistance. You can contact us via the Church Buildings Team email, [churches@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:churches@cofe-worcester.org.uk).