



Christians for Creation



January update 2026

Funding update

In 2025, selected Dioceses participated in Triennium 1 funding of the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon programme. T1 was a testbed for innovative grants and interventions. As a result, last year, Manx churches received (or have been awarded -projects due to start in 2026) over £200,000. From the smaller 'Quick Wins' grants to the larger 'Demonstrator' church projects.

2026-28 is 'Triennium 2', a full rollout to all Dioceses. Headlines of the programme have been announced, we currently await details and funding allocations, with anticipated grants opening from quarter 2 of 2026.

T2 grant options have been narrowed. They will include the most successful pilots from T1: redesigned 'demonstrator' scheme for the top 20% (carbon) emitters, Give to Go Green and the Boiler Hardship fund (amongst others). We will advise on details and opportunities as available.

In the meantime! If you are **considering work** or are **just curious** of the opportunities, please get in touch to explore possibilities.

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St James—Dalby (Quick wins)

It can be described as a tad breezy on occasion, in Dalby, hence why draft exclusion is so important to a warm and welcoming church.

St James received £500 Grant from the Quick wins scheme which enabled them to replace a failed window in the school room.

The work, now completed and it has made an instant improvement to the warmth of the school-rooms:

"On the night of the Taste of Christmas, when there was a cold northerly gale running which would have normally immediately dropped the temperature of the schoolrooms.

Instead, everyone had a warm cosy evening and were innocently unaware of what a fierce night it had become outside as our insulation and double glazing has had such impact!"

EFT

The [Energy Footprint Tool](#) on Parish Returns is now **OPEN!** Please grab your bills (Oil, Gas & Electric) and upload to the system.

This is important for the Diocese, as it impacts on the funds that we are allocated.

Thank you!

A prayer of thanks

As we reflect on the previous year and look forward to the next;

We give thanks for the 'God-incidents'

We give thanks for all Church leaders

We give thanks for all who volunteer to serve your purpose.

We pray our faith is emboldened in 2026 with your loving light, wisdom and mercy.

In Jesus's name, Amen

St Ninians—Douglas (Quick wins)

St Ninians, were awarded a £500 Quick Wins grant to replace fittings and bulbs with LEDs to the main Parish Centre area. This has reduced the amount of electricity used to light this area, reducing both carbon emissions and costs.

Originally, each light had 2, 48w lamps (9 units), that equated to 864w per hour. New units consume 18w each giving a total of 162w per hour. Estimated annual Kwh savings is 500Kwh—approx. £150 a year.

****SAVE the DATE****

31.01.26 am



Designing the right solution for your building

After two years of investment the central church has studied feedback, analysed project data, whilst working with leading industry partners and experts in the field. Consequently, we are in a much stronger position to understand the challenges and solutions in heating our heritage buildings. This interest, knowledge and investment in buildings is unapparelled at any other time in the Churches history, it is exciting and to the benefit of all. The Church of England has released new guidance, including these new findings (links below) we would strongly encourage everyone to read.

What has come in to greater focus, is the understanding that every solution is **unique** to each church and each congregation. The solution for a church that simply wishes to worship on a Sunday is completely different from those who wish to have a church open and active 365 days a year. Therefore, the first task before any project commences, is to having a clear understanding of your mission now, as well as future ambitions.

Where to start?

A great place to start, is by asking 5W's:

- Who** are the target users?
- What** activities will the target users be engaged in?
- When** and for how long will thermal comfort (see p3) be necessary?
- When** and for how long will thermal comfort be necessary?
- Where** in the building will the people be?
- Which** areas of the building (and contents) are at risk from environmental changes?

Central Resources—Updated Heating Information

Below are the new [guidance notes](#).

1. [Heating principles](#)
2. [Heating perspectives](#)
3. [Heating approaches](#)
4. [Heating checklist](#)
5. [Heating pitfalls](#)
6. [Options appraisals](#)
7. [Heating Permissions](#)
8. [Temporary Heating Solutions](#)

Essentials for all buildings

Knowing where to start with buildings can be daunting, especially when resources—time, funds, or tradespersons are limited. Here are four areas to focus on:

- 1) **Fabric first** – Making sure all rainwater goods are running clear, identify and if possible rectify areas of damp, leaks (water & air) or drafts.
- 2) **Maintenance** – There are various maintenance check lists that your Fabric Warden can use to undertake checks. Not only can this be an onerous task if left to one person, but also, when a place is familiar it can be easy to overlook items. An alternative approach is to have seasonal maintenance items included in the LCC / PCC agenda and even have a group walk round. This acts as a prompt, encourages others and changes focuses on familiar places.
- 3) **Building back to basics**—Spend right, spend once. On occasion it can be enticing to accept a quick fix, yet this will cause additional problems in the future. Be conscious in choosing the right solution, ones that are akin to original building techniques
- 4) **Climate change**—The climate has changed. On the Island we are experiencing milder winters, stronger storms and a change in the volume of rain. Gutters and drainage can be overwhelmed (walk round in the rain!). When replacing or repairing these items, first consider if they are the correct size.

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Heating Special—details

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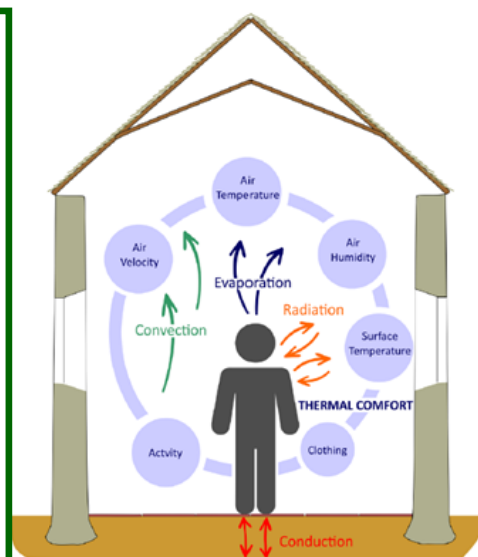
Different models of heating

As noted previously, the church heating model needs to reflect the mission of the church. There are a multitude of options for heating systems, which for technical, financial and environmental reasons have moved away from a single system to hybrid heating (i.e. a mix of types) and zoning (selective heat) approach.

If we look at the 'open 365' verses the 'Sunday church' models you can crudely divide this in to two variants of heating pattern (don't be put off by names). **Warm & dry** – a maintenance temperature (12 degrees) and uplift for thermal comfort as required. **Cold & wet** – maintain the building very well (looking after the building performance / thermal mass by limiting movement of moisture i.e. eradicating damp and drafts in the building) and create comfort heat (heat the people). Within all models—the key to a stable environment is not disrupting the humidity (see below).

Thermal comfort

It is important to understand thermal comfort. Ignore the numbers on a thermometer and check the 'feels like' comfort of the environment. The first priority is controlling liquid water (leaks, steam from urns, wet clothes). Look at why people are getting cold, the humidity levels, drafts, radiant temperature, as well as personal factors such as the individual (age, gender), clothing and activity levels. Take a fabric first approach—reducing air leakage and damp. Think about how the church was originally, lower ceilings, curtains, cushions and pew boxes. And manage expectations—expecting a church to be as warm as our homes is flawed thinking, peaks (high) and troughs (no heat) of those type of heating systems is harmful to historic structures.



Relative Humidity (RH)

There are often concerns about damp, mould, threat to precious objects, organs etc, and heating systems are frequently looked to as the solution / problem of water issues. Heating does not resolve water issues—it just moves the water around.

When a church is cold the available (free) water settles in / on surfaces and RH levels (% of moisture in air) settle. When the heating is switched on, this releases the water to condense in to the atmosphere, increasing RH. The water then seeks out cold places to settle and where there is suitable material this will start to develop into mould. This process leaves behind salts behind, and repeated cycles of wetting and drying can cause salt to accumulate and crystallize, damaging the building's surface. Further damage from water arises when the moisture leaves and returns to porous materials such as wood, stone, plaster and fabric, this causes expansion and contraction which in time causes cracking.

What is the optimal RH? In our heritage church buildings we should expect an RH of around 70-75% (note: 40-60% is museum standard and not feasible). If the building is above 75%, this indicates that water is getting in to the fabric of the building and this should be investigated.

Stable environment : Temperature changes of the whole air mass needs to be slow. To maintain a stable environment i.e. one that does not damage the fabric, the RH should not change by more than 2% in an hour. This is one reason why fan assisted heating is not recommended in heritage buildings, as temperature changes too quickly (causing spikes in the RH). The stability of the RH is more important than the actual %.

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