

# ECO CHURCH: HEATING



## THE FOLLOWING IDEAS MIGHT HELP REDUCE HEATING COSTS WHILE KEEPING YOUR CONGREGATION COMFORTABLE.

### When to heat the building:

Do you need to use the building? Is there a more efficiently heated room or space that could be used instead of the church in winter? Could some meetings be held online?

If you need to use the building, can you reduce energy use by:

- Scheduling services and meetings during daylight and warmer times of the day.
- Heat areas and zones instead of the whole building, if possible.
- Work out what time heating needs to come on in order to heat the space.
- Check if your heating is scheduled to come on during the night or early hours of the morning. Consider if this has to happen.
- Use setback heating if you need to heat the building when it is not in use.
- Consider changing to smart heating controls and call in an engineer to optimise current controls.

### Heat loss:

- Infrared cameras can show where heat loss is occurring in the building. Many local sustainability groups use them and may be willing to help.
- Draughtproofing is key and as simple as placing a draught excluder at the bottom of doors and tape over keyholes. Draughtproofing involving alterations or additions to fabric of the church requires DAC consultation.
- Reduce heat loss from surfaces by adding rugs to solid floors and using cushions on pews and chairs.

### Tips:

- Check the VAT rate on your bills, most churches should be on a 5% rate [here](#).
- Find the Church of England guidance on Heating [here](#).
- Watch this Church of England webinar for heating tips [here](#).
- Speak to the DAC for advice.