



# Churchwardens' Training 2023

## Church Buildings – topical issues (for churchwardens)



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Diocese of Ely

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# What you'll hear about today

1. Net Zero Carbon 2030
2. Faculty Rules – changes in 2022
3. FAQs for new Churchwardens

# 1. Net Zero Carbon 2030

## In February 2020, General Synod resolved

*That this Synod, recognising that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation, and a fundamental injustice, and following the call of the Anglican Communion in ACC Resolutions A17.05 and A17.06;*

*(a) call upon all parts of the Church of England, including parishes, BMOs [Bishop Mission Orders], education institutions, dioceses, cathedrals, and the NCIs [National Church Institutions], to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions and urgently examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030 in order that a plan of action can be drawn up to achieve that target;*

## Consultation

- Scope of 2030 target (what rather than when) Summer of 2020
- Draught Routemap put out for consultation October 2021
- July 2022, Routemap approved by General Synod in York



### The Church of England Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030

June 2022



St Michael All Angels Withington  
The Church of England's first net zero carbon church in the modern era

## Scope

- Church buildings, including cathedrals
- Schools
- Clergy housing
- Offices
- Land holdings and property
- Investments



## A Practical Path to Net Zero

*In this order:*

- Maintenance
- Buy green
- Waste less
- Ditch fossil fuel
- Generate
- Offset

Our collective approach to net zero is underpinned by six principles:



### Well maintained

Reduce heat loss by keeping on top of basic maintenance and ensuring the building is wind and watertight. Maintain the roof and gutters, to prevent water from entering the building and warm air escaping. Fix any broken window panes and make sure opening windows shut tightly.



### Buy renewable

Switch to 100% renewable electricity, for example through Parish Buying's energy basket, and 'green' gas. Whilst this does not reduce the energy you use, it means it comes from a cleaner source. It is the simplest thing you can do to cut your net carbon footprint.



### Waste less

Waste less electricity, waste less gas/oil, tackle any food waste, reduce leaks and wasting water, and avoid unnecessary purchases. Read the 'Practical Path to Net Zero' and 'Energy Efficiency Guidance' for a wide range of ideas.



### Electric not gas/oil

Burning oil and gas to heat our churches is contributing greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere. We need to 'decarbonise' our heating. Where possible, move to electric heating, using electricity that comes from 100% renewable sources. There are many options such as heat pumps, pew heaters, and infra-red panel heaters and chandeliers.



### Generate more

For some churches, there are opportunities to generate electricity onsite from solar PV panels, or very occasionally wind turbines or small-scale hydro.



### Offset the rest

Once you have made real reductions in your energy use, you can offset the small remaining amount through Climate Stewards or other reputable schemes to become 'net zero'. Churches with grounds can also consider if there is an area where they could let vegetation or a tree grow, as a natural way to capture carbon from the air.



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## Maintenance

- Damp walls absorb more heat – gutters, drains, drips
- Draughts, gaps in windows and round doors (noting bats)
- Plant needs to be maintained – radiators bled, boilers serviced, more efficient use

## Buy green

- 26% of churches in this diocese are already signed up to a green tariff
- “Green” gas, lpg and oil will not help us meet the 2030 target
- Parish buying energy basket
  - 100% renewable electricity



ENERGY BASKET



## Waste less

- Do you/can you zone your heating and lighting?
- Can you use smaller spaces in the winter?
- Can you swap existing bulbs for LEDs?
- Can you cut down on floodlighting?

## Ditch fossil fuel

- Move towards electricity for heating
- Likely to be a bigger cost – therefore further down the pathway
- Heatpumps (can heat water or air)
- Infrared heating
- Pew heaters, heated cushions

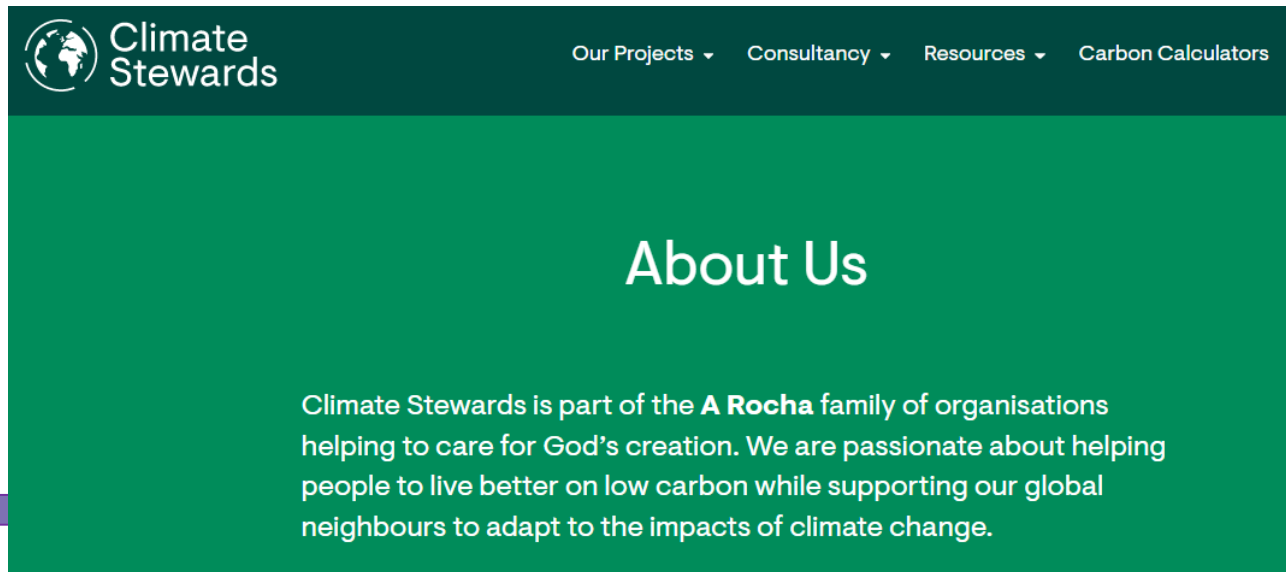
## Generate

- Condition of roof – good for 30 years
- Visibility from ground or (possibly) adjacent building
- Feed-in tariffs or batteries
- Rural churches could become net-contributors to meeting the target



## Offset





- Climate Stewards – offset by supporting their carbon sequestration projects
- Undertake your own planting scheme – where appropriate




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# HEATING – the biggie for many churches





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## Church Heating Presentations

The Diocese of Ely Church Buildings & Pastoral Department recently held a training day of seminars focusing on Church Heating during June 2023.


The day brought together a wide range of expertise to help churches to understand the options available for church heating, with a real focus on helping parishes to achieve the **Net Carbon Zero** goal, as adopted by the [Diocese of Ely](#) and the [Church of England](#).


Presentations from the day included:

- A path to Net Zero Carbon by Geoffrey Hunter, Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary and Head of the Church Buildings and Pastoral Department
- Solar panels and heatpump at Waterbeach by Richard Stobart, fabric team at St. John the Evangelist, Waterbeach
- General Heating Options for Churches by Bawden Burrows, Director of Building Services at SWECO
- Heat Pumps by Shane Browne of Mitsubishi
- Pew Cushion Heating by Richard Hammerschmidt from KovoSchmidt Pew Heating
- A Case Study of St Mary's Church, March, by Bob Skelton
- Solar PVs on Churches by Alexandros Michailtsianos of ArchAngel
- Information needed by the Diocesan Advisory Committee by John Morgan, Assistant DAC Secretary.

If you are interested in finding out more about Church Heating options, or were unable to attend, you can [access PDFs of these presentations here](#).

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# Embedding Bio-diversity

## Diocese of Ely Churchyards Training Day

The Diocese of Ely Church Buildings & Pastoral Department held a Churchyards training Day on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The day brings together a wide range of expertise to help churches to understand the rules governing the management of churchyards, and also the increasingly important roles churchyards play in environmental sustainability.

The Programme included:

- Churchyard Regulations and Grave Reservations
- Managing Churchyard Trees
- The Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Awards
- Churchyard History and Archaeology
- Churchyard Closure and the Role of Local Authorities
- Using Churchyards for Green 'Kit'
- The National Burial Grounds Survey
- Churchyards as an Opportunity for Mission



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## Things we know – the baseline

- 46% of churches show visible damp patches
- 54% are heated by oil or gas
- 26% currently signed up to green tariffs
- 20% have had a wildlife survey
- Usage patterns data

# Funding Net Zero 2030

- General Synod July 2022
- £190m over nine years
- Likely to be help for the biggest emitters and those least able to afford it.

## Church of England's net-zero plan in peril due to high costs

In February 2020 the General Synod voted in favour of setting a target for the institution to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030

By Gabriella Swerling, SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS EDITOR

10 October 2022 • 6:52pm



# Diocese of Ely project

- Net Zero Carbon Manager and DEO – Nigel Cooper [nigel.cooper@elydiocese.org](mailto:nigel.cooper@elydiocese.org)
- £180k NZC Grant
- Working in tandem with other Eastern Region dioceses
- Two new part-time posts
- Investment in research auditing – schools, parsonages and churches

## 2. Faculty Rules – revised in 2022

- List A – a published list of works which definitely don't need Faculty consent
- List B – a published list of works which are not on list A, and also do not require Faculty, but need consent from the Archdeacon
- What is on the lists has recently changed in response to Net Zero Carbon 2030 – carrot and stick approach

## Key changes – things now on List A

- Replacement of heating control systems
- Replacing an existing non-fossil boiler – list A
- Introduction of moveable breathable floor coverings “between pews”
- Disposal of gas and oil tanks and pipework
- Electric charging points in churchyard (unlisted churches only)

## Key changes – things now on List B

- Replacement of a fossil fuel boiler with non-fossil
- Installation of roof insulation in unlisted churches
- Replacement of light fittings to enable the use of low energy bulbs
- EV points mounted on the wall of unlisted churches, or in curtilage of listed churches
- Solar panels on unlisted churches, not in conservation areas
- Individual electric heaters
- Complete pew heater systems on post 1850 pews
- Putting in or upgrading an electrical supply



## Key changes – things now requiring a Faculty (the naughty list)

- Like for like replacement of fossil fuel boilers
- Replacement of oil tanks

*Faculties have been granted for these things since the change in rules, but it now needs clearer justification, addressing the environmental impacts.*

### 3. FAQs for New Churchwardens

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Things we get asked about a lot...

and some myths we spend a lot of time dispelling

# PERMISSION

- The DAC/Historic England/Victorian Society stopped us from doing our project



# PEWS

- We can't ever move our pews/pulpit/screen



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# HEATING

- Underfloor heating is the perfect solution for church buildings
- Heating a building 24/7 will stop it being damp
- 21 degrees C is realistic/desirable



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# BURIALS

- We can build an extension here because there aren't any burials
- We can't build an extension because there are burials



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# PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

- The parish council can no longer give money to support churchyard maintenance (1894)



Department  
for Culture  
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# CHURCHYARDS

- The PCC is responsible for keeping the churchyard “neat and tidy”.
- What if the churchyard is “closed”?
- Grave reservations



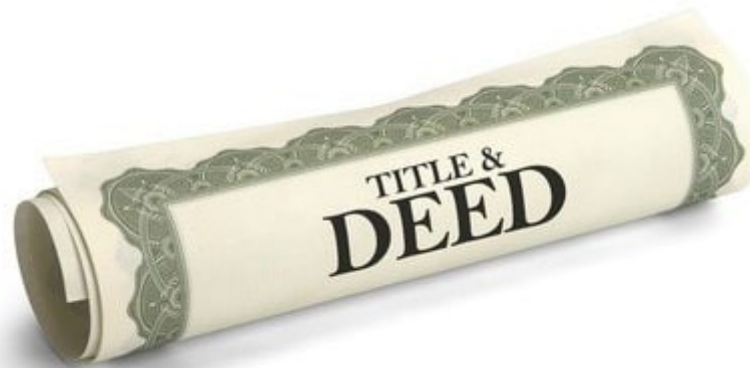
# CHARITABLE STATUS

- Because churches are charities they have a charity number



# WHO OWNS A CHURCH?

- The diocese? The Church Commissioners? The PCC, the Vicar, the whole village?



# GRANT FUNDING

- English Heritage has a special grant fund for churches

- [www.heritagefundingdirectoryuk.org/](http://www.heritagefundingdirectoryuk.org/)
- Lottery – Community Fund (not interested in heritage)
- Lottery – Heritage Fund (not interested in heritage...for its own sake)
  - End of GPOW
  - Challenging requirements for “outcomes” beyond the repair of the building
- National Churches Trust
- Landfill Tax money (won’t fund “religion”)
- Allchurches Trust (mission-focused)
- Local churches trusts, small but influential
- Charity Commission search for local/specialist trusts



# CHANCEL REPAIR LIABILITY



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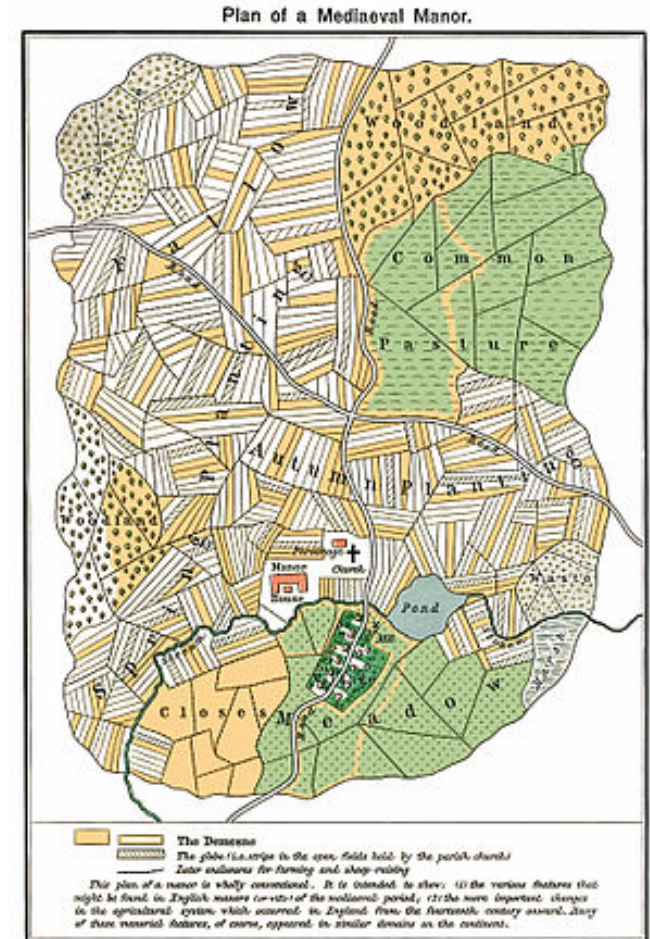
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# CHANCEL REPAIR LIABILITY

- An overriding interest in property whether registered or not, and an on-going problem, not yet fully resolved by legislation
- Came about when rectorial property passed into private hands
- Until a property is sold the liability can be registered
- The PCC is not obliged to register it
- Liability is joint and several – perhaps depends on who's liable
- Most enquiries/resentment comes from CRL insurance on property purchases – a tiny risk

# GLEBE

- Land historically part of benefice – to provide an income for the incumbent
- Poor vicars and rich vicars
- 1976 Glebe and Endowments Measure
- Fund managed by the Diocesan Board of Finance
- No longer the responsibility of the incumbent or the PCC



# ANY QUESTIONS?



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