



Church Buildings Team Bulletin January 2025

Welcome

A very happy New Year from the Church Buildings Team.

It may be cold and frosty but there is always something to do when we look at church buildings. In particular we are headlining the opening of the Energy Footprint Tool. This allows parishes to record their energy usage – gas, electricity and oil – so that it can be used to calculate the diocese’s carbon footprint. Over the last year we have also seen that it has led to the opening up of grant aid paths. More about this on page 3. There is also the usual round-up of news and information which we hope you will find of interest. As always, if we can be of help then do please be in touch.

Contents

- 2** **Welcome
Contents
Headlines**
- 3** **Focus on the Energy Footprint
Tool**
- 4** **News, Events and Resources**
- 5** **Recommended Monthly Tasks
Risk Calendar**
- 6** **Grant News - Listed Places of
Worship Grant Scheme /
National Lottery Heritage Fund /
Minor Repair and Improvement
Grant / Quick Wins Grant /
Asda Foundation**
- 7** **Grant Information**
- 8** **Key Dates
Contact Details
Suggestions Please
Church Photographs Request**

Headlines

Congratulations!

Steven Sleight , DAC and Pastoral Secretary was made a Canon of Lincoln Cathedral on 18th November. The whole team attended the service as well as Steven’s family and it was wonderful to see him installed into his stall.

Congratulations also to Mrs Janet Johnson of Silk Willoughby, who was awarded the 2024 North Kesteven Community Champion Award for Longstanding Contribution to a Group or Organisation. Janet won the award for dedicating considerable time and energy for the benefit of St Denis' Church in particular, in so many ways over 62 years.

Online Faculty System upgrade 1st April 2025

The Online Faculty System will be moving to a new operator on 1st April 2025. In order for this transition to take place, the current system will be down for the last two weeks of March. It will be necessary for all users to re-register on the new system. If this causes any significant problems, please contact Steven or Pete.

Save the date...

The Lincolnshire Festival of Chaplaincy takes place from 21st - 23rd March at the Cathedral. Further details can be found here:
<https://lrac.org.uk/events/festival-of-chaplaincy/>

Focus on the Energy Footprint Tool

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is open for 2025!

What can it do for your Church?

The EFT is easy to use and shouldn't take you long to fill in. It enables you to:

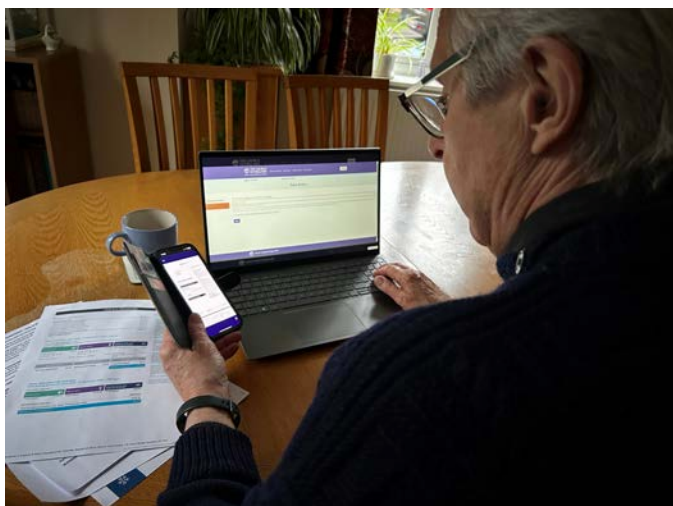
- Better understand your Church's energy use trends.
- Helps scope potential heating solutions and kickstart various other carbon reducing projects.
- Apply to Net Zero grants and other relevant sources of funding.

How do I complete the EFT?

- The EFT is part of the online Parish Returns service.
- You will need to have your Church's (and other buildings such as Church Halls) energy use figures readily available.
- These figures include the building's electricity use (usually in KWh) and heating use (generally either KWh of gas or litres of oil).

To save time, complete your EFT as you prepare for your Annual Parochial Church Meeting (ACPM) and Parish Finance Returns.

This work is an essential part of caring for God's creation, by helping to combat global warming and climate change.



What's new for 2025?

- New questions have been added to discern all the buildings, not just the Church, in your parish and help you provide their energy use figures.
- You don't need to enter work-related travel expenses this year.
- The EFT is closing earlier this year - 30th June 2025 - to give more time to analyse the data and share the results back in time for diocesan synods in the autumn.

The Net Zero Carbon Team is here to help!

We can provide:

- Advice around Net Zero Carbon at both a Local and National Level.
- Support in preparing and entering your EFT Returns.
- How to understand your energy bills to get the data you need for your EFT Return.
- Site visits to understand the challenges you face.
- Work with you on developing Net Zero Carbon Action Plans.
- Look at sources of funding to help fund your projects and support you in applying for them.
- Provide an interface for you to the other Diocesan Teams.

You can reach us on:

- Netzeromanager@lincoln.anglican.org (Chris Lynch)
- George.Davies@lincoln.anglican.org (George Davies)

News, Events and Resources



Photo credit:
Russell Ball

Love your Yew Week

8th to 14th February 2025

Caring for God's Acre is launching a new campaign this February. This new initiative is dedicated to the care and preservation of ancient yew trees. This annual week encourages those caring for these special trees, most of which are within churchyards, to focus on simple yet impactful ways to safeguard these remarkable living monuments.

There is also an informative blog post about removing ivy from ancient yew trees, which can be found on their website here:

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/ivy-and-churchyard-yew-trees/>

Is your project complete?

Your church building project may have been finished months (or even years) ago, but have you marked it as such on the online faculty system? We have noted several cases where we know that the works have been done for a while, but the system is still showing 'Faculty Granted - awaiting Practical Completion.' Please could you check and complete the virtual paperwork? It would be particularly helpful if this was to happen before the system upgrade - see headlines on page 2.

Surgery Sessions Available

We are happy to arrange a Zoom meeting with you to discuss anything church building related. Whether you want to discuss what to do with your Quinquennial Inspection Report, plan some repair work, want to open your church building more but are not sure where to start or are looking to provide more interpretation of the heritage in your care, book an hour long appointment and we will be able to steer you in the right direction. Between us, we have come across most matters to do with church buildings and if we do not know the answer, we usually know someone who might!

Contact Fran to book an appointment.

Some Key Dates for 2025

As you are planning the diary for this year, remember to work with your Local Mission Partnership, so that you don't all try and host Strawberry Teas or Harvest Suppers on the same date. Some events you could collaborate for include:

West Lindsey Churches Festival:

10th/11th/17th/18th May

Wolds and Coast Churches Festival:

6th/7th/13th/14th September

Heritage Open Days: 12th to 21st September

Ride and Stride: Saturday 13th September

Is your Quinquennial Inspection due this year?

Thank you to the parishes who are up to date with their Quinquennial Inspection report and who have sent us an electronic copy.

If your QI inspection is due this year, book your architect early, as they tend to work with several other churches too.



Recommended Monthly Tasks (From SPAB's Faith in Maintenance calendar)

January

- Have the electrical systems checked by a qualified person at least once every five years.
- Smoke alarms should be regularly tested and cleaned. Remember to replace the batteries too!
- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow.

February

- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow (see above).
- Make sure that the tower, roofs and windows are bird-proof before nesting starts. Do not disturb bats.
- Check the condition of any ladders in the tower and ask the tower captain to ensure that the bells and bellframe are in good order.

March

- Check that eaves, gutters and downpipes have not been damaged by frost. Look for cracks and leaks in rainwater goods.
- Clear parapet and valley gutters of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally. Take care in icy conditions.

Risk Calendar

Taken from *Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar*, where more information can be found.

January - Water pipes and heating

An escape of water can cause extensive and lasting damage. Check that your water pipes are lagged, the stopcock is clearly labelled, and your heating system has been serviced by a registered engineer.

February - Security

From theft to arson and vandalism, security is key. As every place of worship and its location is unique, a tailored assessment and response, reflecting the individual risks faced, should be undertaken.

March - Ladders

If using ladders or stepladders check that they are right for the job, free from defects and used properly, being appropriately positioned and secured.

Check out the proformas at [Ecclesiastical Insurance](#).

Grant News

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (VAT Reclaim) - No news yet...

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS) is due to expire at the end of March 2025. After the Budget, the DCMS advised that they were entering a period of business planning which will determine what happens with the LPWGS. They expect this process to take a number of months. In the meantime parishes are advised to continue to plan projects as if the LPWGS will continue, but include in your risk register details on how you would fill any shortfall if the scheme was discontinued. This could include local fundraising, applying for other grants or requesting a grant uplift from funders already committed to your project.



National Lottery Heritage Fund

In their last round of funding, the National Lottery Heritage Fund granted £1.25m to places of worship across the UK. Read more about the projects here.

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/were-supporting-communities-secure-future-their-churches>

If you're looking to apply to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant of between £10,000 and £250,000, then their new introduction to the grants programme could help. [Youtube Video](#)

Minor Repair and Improvement Grant and Quick Wins Grant

A variety of applications for the above grant schemes went to the Grant Panel in early December. For the Minor Repair and Improvement Grant, these included the usual small but vital repairs to roofs, rainwater goods and repointing, including the re-bedding of some coping stones to stop water damaging the ceiling, the improvement of ventilation to stop damp and rot becoming a problem and the upgrading of drainage to increase the capacity and simplify the route taken.

The Quick Wins cases included the replumbing of a heating system to connect it to the church hall system rather than the church system, allowing the areas to be zoned. Grants were also given for replacing lightbulbs with LED bulbs, a contribution towards electric seat cushion heaters and insulating a suitable roof void.

Both grants have to be spent by the end of December 2025. The application deadlines for this year are 1st March, 1st June and 1st September. If you would like an application pack for either grant or would like to talk through a possible application, please contact Fran or Matthew.



STOP PRESS - Outdoor Community Spaces Fund deadline 11th February 2025

This grant fund can help improve publicly accessible outdoor space. The funding window is small, having opened on 14th January and closing on 11th February, but if you have a project that is 'shovel ready' (sorry...), more details can be found here: <https://asdafoundation.org/our-grants/outdoor-community-spaces-fund/>

Grant Information

Where to start

Please get in touch with the team to discuss which grants to apply for and when. We can help you come up with a funding plan for repairs and new facilities.

You can register with this website for free to search for grant funding:

Charity Excellence Framework:

<https://www.charityexcellence.co.uk/>

The Voluntary Centre Services and Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service host a free web-based funding information service. For further information visit their webpage:

<https://lincolnshirevolunteering.org.uk/find-funding/>

Organisations can sign up to a regular funding newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/hWu2Vn>

Grants with no deadlines

Benefact Trust The Barron Bell Trust The Beatrice Laing Trust The Bernard Sunley Foundation Church Buildings Council Conservation Reports The Clothworkers' Foundation Garfield Weston Regular Grant The Hobson Charity Ltd John Warren Foundation The Kochan Trust Lincolnshire Churches Trust National Lottery Community Fund: Awards for All National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities Fund National Lottery Heritage Fund: £10,000 to £250,000 Tesco Community Grants

Share your grant news and sources

Please do share your grant news, good and bad with us. We know that parishes starting out on a project find it really helpful to hear what others have done elsewhere. Help us to build the network across our Local Mission Partnerships.

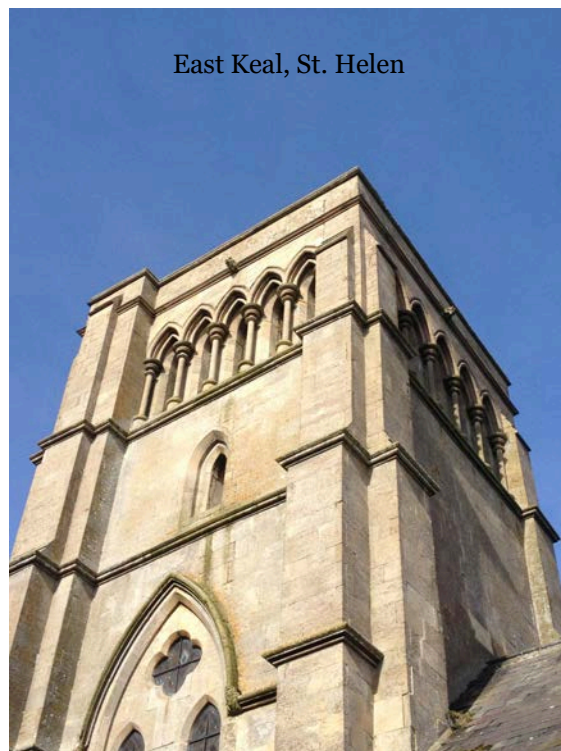
Upcoming Grant Deadlines

January	
27th	Churchcare Wall Paintings
29th	Sleaford REP Community Power
30th	Congregational and General Charitable Trust
February	
12th	East Coast Community Fund
15th	Idlewild Trust
19th	FCC Communities Fund
28th	War Memorials Trust
28th	National Churches Trust Small Grants
March	
4th	National Churches Trust Large Grants
5th	Mick George Community Fund (southern part of diocese)
7th	Marshalls
31st	Churchcare Bells and Bellframes
31st	William and Jane Morris Fund

Key Dates

The DAC agenda dates and meeting dates for the next four meetings can be found below. Please get in touch with Steven or Peter for further information.

Meeting Date	Agenda Close
Wednesday 12th March	Wednesday 26th February
Thursday 1st May	Thursday 17th April
Thursday 5th June	Thursday 22nd May
Wednesday 2nd July	Wednesday 18th June



Contact Details

Please contact the team if we can help with any church building related query.

Steven Sleight, DAC and Pastoral Secretary, steven.sleight@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504069

Peter Duff, Assistant DAC and Pastoral Secretary, dac.assistant@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504045

Matthew Godfrey, Historic Churches Support Officer, matthew.godfrey@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504048

Fran Bell, Church Development Officer, fran.bell@lincoln.anglican.org
01522 504018

Contributions and Suggestions Please

Have you got a good news story about your church building, carried out a project, found grant funding or have something you'd like to share? We would like to include your contributions in future editions. If there is a subject you would like us to cover, let us know and we will see what we can do. Email the team via churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org

Church Photographs

It would be really helpful if you could share your photographs of churches with the Church Buildings Team. Whilst we have an archive, they are not as up to date as they could be. Clear pictures through the seasons of the exterior as well as key items and facilities in the interior are always useful. Get in touch with the team via churchbuildings.team@lincoln.anglican.org