



Heating

We know heating churches is expensive and it's hard to please everyone. The following ideas should help reduce 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
 - Use data loggers to calculate how long it takes to heat the space and then how early to turn on the heat.
 - Heat areas and zones instead of the whole building, if possible.
 - 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.

Find frost protection guidelines to protect heating systems when not in use
[churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/heating](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/heating)

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.
- Use data loggers to establish where heat loss is felt most in the church.
- Draughtproofing is key and as simple as placing a draught excluder at the bottom of doors and tape or plasticine over keyholes.
- Reduce heat loss from surfaces by adding rugs to solid floors and timber floorboards and using cushions on pews and chairs.

Draughtproofing involving alterations or additions to fabric of the church requires DAC consultation.

Check the VAT rate on your bills, most churches should be on a 5% rate. Check out:
southwark.anglican.org/is-your-church-overpaying-for-vat-on-utilities

Watch this Church of England webinar for heating tips:
[youtube.com/watch?v=1XIFuU27xY0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XIFuU27xY0)

Speak to the DAC for advice on installing under-pew heating:
[oxford.anglican.org/church-buildings](https://www.oxford.anglican.org/church-buildings)