

Church Buildings Team Bulletin January 2026



Welcome

Welcome to 2026's first edition of the Church Buildings Team Bulletin. We're pleased to be able to announce the opening of the Energy Footprint Tool and why it's important for your parish to be involved. We also bring you updates on roof alarm upgrades and important news on grants and grant givers and a good news story looking at the rejuvenation of a Victorian tiled floor.

If you want to get in touch then we'd love to hear from you.

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Edward King House in the snow

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Energy Footprint Tool Now Live

The 2026 energy footprint tool is now available for you to complete, and George tells us more about why it's important for your parish.

Accessible Bulletin

Would you benefit from having this bulletin in an accessible or printer-friendly format? e.g. Word document. Please contact Sophie if so.

Hello 2026!

Wishing you all the best for the New Year from Steven, Pete, Matt, Sophie, and George.



Why Completing the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) Matters for Your Parish

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) can help parishes to cut energy costs, unlock grant funding, and plan confidently for the future. By collecting basic energy information about church buildings across the Diocese, the EFT helps shape diocesan strategy and enables the creation of practical, tailored Action Plans for each parish.

Put more simply, the EFT helps us understand your parish so we can support you better.

We are also keen to hear about what you are already doing well. If your parish has installed solar panels, heat pumps, LED lighting, or other green technologies, the EFT helps us capture and share these successes with the Diocese.

What Information Do You Need?

Completing the EFT is straightforward. For any buildings your parish is responsible for, please provide:

- Annual electricity use (in kWh)
- Whether you use a green tariff
- Annual gas, oil or LPG use (in kWh or litres)
- The age of your boiler
- The proportion of your lighting which is LED

Energy usage figures are more helpful than cost, but if you don't have kWh data, don't worry, submit what you have.

How to Submit

The EFT can be completed via the Parish Returns website [here](#).

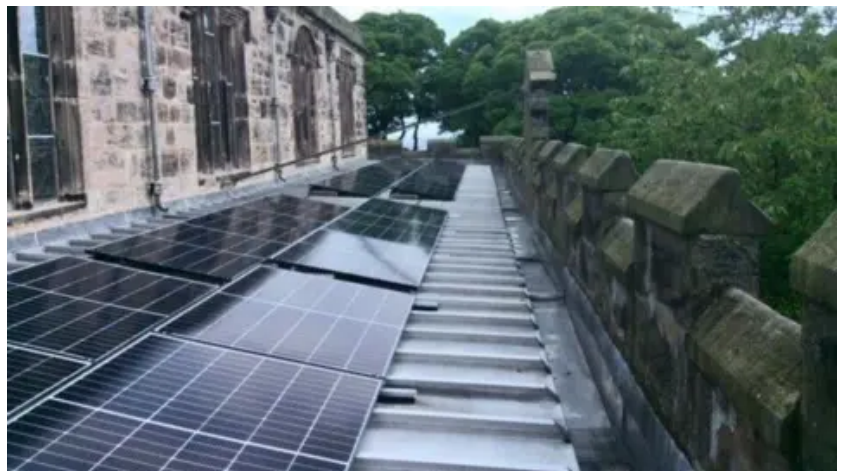
If you would prefer a paper form, please email me.

Alternatively, you can simply email us your energy statistics, and we can help from there.

We're Here to Help

The Net-Zero Team is here to support you at every stage by offering technical advice, site visits, help with grant applications, and liaising with the DAC and Church Buildings Team.

**If you'd like help or want to arrange a visit for your church, please contact:
george.davies@lincoln.anglican.org**



News, Events, and Resources

Revealing Victorian Tiles at St Mary le Wigford

One of the most passed-by churches in Lincoln, not least by the railway line that runs just feet away from its South aisle, is making progress by removing unsuitable carpets from its chancel. The tiles beneath likely date back to the restoration of the 1870s, when the Gothic Revival was in full swing and reproducing medieval styles. It is hard to imagine now the vibrant colour that would once have filled our ancient churches but this gives us a peek.

Benefits are already being noticed and these are not only aesthetic, but acoustic. Those leading worship can now be heard clearly from the back of the church, and it is hoped that this will also be an asset to local musicians who wish to rehearse and perform in this space.

Undoubtedly this will also benefit their regular congregation who meet for worship at 12:30 on Wednesdays. Find out more [here](#).

If you would like to restore your floor, feel free to get in touch for advice further to the below:

- Be mindful not to use harsh abrasives or bleaches, or to introduce too much water while cleaning.
- Conscientious use of a fine scraper, a weak washing up liquid solution, and a little warmth can be all it takes to remove glue or carpet backing residues.
- Avoid applying any modern plastic-based sealants which will trap moisture. This not only deteriorates the flooring but will make your building feel colder. Linseed oil or beeswax can be used to restore shine, but test this in a small area first as it can make the surface slippery and take time to dry down.



Upcoming Events

Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology Churches Conference

Heckington Village Hall, Saturday 18th April 10.00am – 4.30pm

Learn more about our fantastic churches with a series of talks followed by a guided visit to St Andrew's church. The present building dates from around 1307 and is substantially Decorated in style. The exterior has wonderful friezes, cornices and statue niches and interior features include a rare Easter sepulchre and beautiful sedilia.

Find full details and buy your ticket [here](#).



Upgrades to Roof Alarms

Is your roof alarm going to be affected by the phasing out of 2G and 3G mobile networks? Monitored systems need to maintain contact with the control centre to alert the authorities, and thieves will be aware of this upcoming lapse in coverage. However, while 3G is all but gone, 2G will remain in service until 2033.

Be sure to check the requirements of your insurance to ensure your premium and level of cover are maintained.

We understand that the proposed upgrade costs are out of reach for many. With this in mind, we are discussing this issue with insurers, grant funding bodies, and our national Church Buildings Teams to assess all possibilities.

Please get in touch with us if this will affect your church, ideally by phone where possible for added security.

Equally, if you have a system at your church which is effective and economical, please let us know so we can spread the word.

Preventing Lead Theft

If you're not sure where to start with protecting your roof from lead theft, or simply can't afford an alarm system, Ecclesiastical Insurance has a helpful checklist [here](#), and there are a few pointers from us below:

Roof Access

Ensure bins, ladders, benches, or water butts are not kept in such a way that thieves could use them to access the roof. Be aware that even if your lead roof is not visible from ground level, this alone may not deter thieves.

Transport

Check that gates or routes of vehicle access are secured or monitored, and that items like wheelbarrows or wheelie bins that could be used to move stolen lead are not vulnerable. Consider your location too as the closer you are to major routes out of the county / country, the more vulnerable you may be, and the more warranted a roof alarm may be.

Visibility & Visitors

Check that neighbours are aware that no workmen are expected at the church, and that they know who to call if they see suspicious activity. You could do this by leafletting locally, and being open for visitors also indicates a presence to deter thieves.

A simple sound-based alarm system can also go a way to alert neighbours who can then alert the authorities, if an externally monitored system is out of your budget.

If in spite of your best efforts the worst should happen, rest assured that our team are here to support and advise you.

Grant News



Severn Trent Grants

The Severn Trent Community Fund has reopened for 2026, for parishes in roughly the North Lincolnshire and West Lindsey area. Even if you are not billed by Severn Trent, if you are within their waste water coverage area you may be eligible for funding.

They offer two grant streams of between £2,000-£20,000 and £20,000-£50,000, aimed at meeting the following principles:

People

Projects that support healthier lifestyles and skills development.

Place

Projects that help create better places for communities.

Environment

Projects that look after our natural environment, rivers and water.

You could approach them for funding a building project, a series of events, or training for your PCC to meet the needs of your community. While they do also like to fund projects with a connection to water, this is by no means essential. You can check your water provider [here](#).

And find out more about the Severn Trent Grants [here](#).

Parish Accessibility Fund

A new fund is coming soon to the Diocese to aid parishes in becoming more accessible to Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent people. Sophie will be our lead on this and full information on when and how to apply will be issued in our next bulletin.

Listed Places of Worship VAT

The current Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will end on 31 March 2026, or when the budget for the year is spent, whichever comes first, so ensure you submit your claim as soon as possible. We are awaiting further details of the scheme to follow which we will share in due course.

Read more and find out what happens next [here](#).

Net Zero Carbon Quick Wins Grant Feedback

Congratulations to Burgh on Bain St Helen for their successful heating and lighting upgrade, part supported by a Net Zero Quick Wins grant.

They had this to say about the process:

“I found the grant application process very easy compared to other grant application processes. I particularly appreciated the support from the diocese team. Thank you for your support and generous contribution to the project. It could not have been undertaken without your help.”

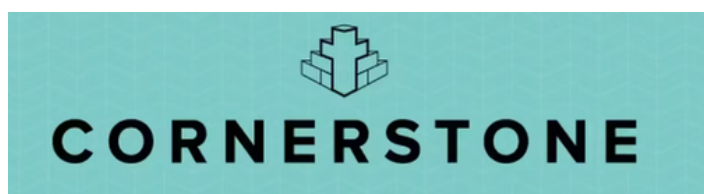


Grant Information

Where to Start

Please get in touch with us to help you with a funding plan to know what to apply for and when. We keep in contact with many grant providers so have the latest information and can offer feedback to give you the best chance of success.

You can also browse available grants through the [Charity Excellence Framework](#), [Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service](#) or use [Cornerstone](#).



Cornerstone is a new programme developed by the National Giving Team which offers three distinct functions: Insights, Pathways, and a comprehensive Grants database. If you are interested in being involved, please contact the Generous Living Team for more information generosity@lincoln.anglican.org

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: Reaching Communities Fund ☐ National Lottery Heritage Fund: £10,000 to £250,000 ☐ Tesco Community Grants

Share your Grant News

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

February	
28 th	West Lindsey, East Lindsey, and Boston Borough Council Community Grants
March	
1 st	Severn Trent New Project Grants
April	
8 th	Sleaford Renewable Energy Plant Grants
15 th	Northern Powergrid Foundation Energy Resilience Grants



Monthly Tasks



SPAB's Faith in Maintenance Calendar

February

- 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 and note damaged sections.
- Parapet and valley gutters need to be cleared of snow to prevent melt water from rising above them and causing damp internally. Extra caution is needed in icy conditions.

April

- Check the roofs for frost, snow, and wind damage. Debris on the ground from broken slates and tiles indicates that there may be a problem.
- Check for splits and cracks in all areas of flat or sloping sheet roofing.
- Inspect lead flashings and mortar fillets at chimneys for signs of decay. Problems will include holes or slits in leadwork and erosion of mortar fillets.
- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly. Frequent attention may be needed if the building is surrounded by trees, or perched on by pigeons. Cast iron gutters may also require repainting.



Ecclesiastical Insurance's Church Risk Calendar

February - Tree Management

- Trees form a natural part of the landscape and bring many benefits. However, they can present a number of hazards as they age and careful management is needed.

March - Flood Safety

- Climate change is resulting in more extreme weather events. Though it's impossible to flood-proof your church properties, there are some simple actions you can take to reduce the damage caused.

April - Working Alone

- Working alone can present several hazards, including an increased risk of assault and/or aggression. Review situations where people complete tasks alone to check the precautions in place to protect them.

Key Dates

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

Meeting Date	Agenda Close
Wednesday 11 th March	Wednesday 25 th February
Tuesday 5 th May	Tuesday 21 st April
Thursday 4 th June	Thursday 21 st May

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

Sophie Clark, Church Development Officer, sophie.clark@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