

Inspired Efficiency energy audit

Recommendations to PCC for next steps

Introduction

The PCC recently commissioned an energy audit of Flax Bourton Church to be carried out by an organisation called Inspired Efficiency.

The report arrived last week and a small group of PCC members, together with Mike Eustace who has overseen the audit on the PCC's behalf, met on Friday 19th July to discuss its findings and provide some recommendations to the wider PCC.

Those present were: James Harris, Adrienne Hughes, Peter Crawford, Viv Radford, Mike Eustace.

We were encouraged by the report's clear, concise and specific recommendations. In the suggested next steps that follow, we are mindful that whilst responsible economic stewardship is of course vital, these are not primarily financial decisions. Our stewardship of the planet is also a key focus of our mission as is our welcome and hospitality to our community (for worship and other uses) through the provision of a warm and comfortable place to gather.

Next steps

The report's recommendations fall into an action plan in two clear phases (detailed helpfully on page 5). Phase 1 includes some quick and relatively affordable actions which we think could realistically be achieved by the end of the year in order to make a difference this coming winter. Phase 2 is a longer term project around the replacement of the existing heating system which would require more extensive planning and fundraising. This might be more of a 2-year timescale.

We would recommend moving forward with the Phase 1 recommendations with the following comments:

Phase 1

Item	Comment
Change all remaining lighting to LED	We would plan to do this on an ad-hoc basis, only as existing bulbs/fittings fail.
Insulate pipework	Yes - this could be an in-house job.
Install reflective radiator panels	Yes - this could be an in-house job.
Draft proof doors by blocking key holes	Already done!
Install timer to water heater	Yes - will require contractor
Install trace wiring to water pipes	Yes - will require contractor
Install Smart Heating Controller	Yes - Mike will research options available

We propose that a budget of **£1k** is set aside for this work, much if not all of which we would hope to raise through the launch of the Friends group at Michaelmas.

Phase 2

We propose in principle that we pursue the recommendation to replace the existing gas heating system with electric infrared.

However, we have some questions around the exact specification of the infrared system, to enable us to make a decision on the two options detailed in the report. Questions include:

- How many Halo chandelier units are proposed, and in which locations, to achieve the desired outcomes? (Action: seek clarification from the report author)
- Would we still need additional panels (e.g. in the north aisle)?
- What is the estimated longevity of the hardware?
- How wide is the reach of the chandeliers?

We intend to arrange a visit in September to St Matthew's Church, Kingstown (Bristol), where they have installed four Halo chandeliers, to meet the architect and discuss their experiences.

Finally, we are not proposing to explore PV (solar panels) at the present time.

-ends-

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