

## Church on the Heath Green Energy Fund

The Eco-church team, with support from the ECC, is currently considering two significant investments to the church building that will in the short term reduce our carbon footprint and in the medium to long term also save us money.

The first is the installation of **solar panels** on the church roof to provide the church with a green energy alternative to fossil fuels. We are also looking at **air source heat pumps** (ASHPs) which could replace our main heating system, providing a more energy efficient system that is not dependent on gas. Air source heat pumps take ambient heat from the air and convert it into heating energy for your radiators or hot water system.

While there are benefits in doing the two projects simultaneously, we are currently at different stages with both as outlined below.

**Solar panels:** We have already completed a survey and have a number of quotes from certified installers; we are ready to deliver this project when the funds are raised (likely to be in region of £30,000).

**Air source heat pump:** We have just approved the funds to undertake a feasibility survey; following that we will need to develop a project plan based on costs (no accurate cost estimate available yet).

Building on the success of smaller initiatives such as 'sponsor a spotlight', when you funded the switch of halogen spotlights to LED ones, and in order to finance these new ambitious projects we have set up the **Church on the Heath Green Energy Fund** (which is separate from the main church budget). We have already received generous donations totalling £12,000, £400 of which is being invested in the air source heat pump survey.

The Eco-church team will be looking at a range of grant options to add to the fund, but we also wanted to share our ambition and the opportunity to contribute financially with the wider church community.

The **Eco-church team** is founded on the biblical principle that stewardship of God's creation is a core part of our discipleship and that abuse and degradation through pollution or overconsumption, such as illustrated by the climate crisis, is a matter of social justice as it so often hits the poorest hardest. The group is committed to:

1. Reduce church building(s) CO2e footprint
2. Place eco awareness at the forefront of preaching and worship
3. Enable individual members of the congregation to reduce their own CO2e footprints

Team members: Alex Weld, Andrew Cullingford, Chantelle Gardner, David Alston, David Garford, Iain Williams, Katie Roberts, Louise Williams, Patrick Butler, Sue Fisher