

Community Warm Buildings Fund

The fund offers grants of up to £15,000 for energy efficiency improvements in community buildings.

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be scored against the following:

Criterion: Projects must demonstrate		Marks (5)
1	Energy use reductions and carbon emissions	
2	Need and benefit for the wider community	
3	Involvement of the community and partnership working where appropriate	
4	Value for money	
5	Organisational capacity to deliver	
6	50% match funding secured or meaningfully pursued	
7	How the project will be sustained after the grant	
	TOTAL	

Notes

First Attempt

St Michael's Church Secondary Glazing Project

St Michael's Church is seeking £15,000 towards the installation of secondary glazing in the church building.

The church is used regularly for worship and community activities and can be uncomfortable during the winter months due to heat loss through the existing windows. Secondary glazing has been identified as a suitable way of reducing heat loss while preserving the building's historic character.

The church welcomes approximately 80 people each week and hosts community activities including a coffee morning, toddler group and occasional concerts.

The project will improve comfort levels within the building and may reduce energy consumption. It will also help support the church's commitment to achieving net zero carbon.

The total project cost is estimated at £30,000 and we are therefore seeking a grant of £15,000.

The remaining funding will be raised through church reserves and future fundraising activities.

The project has the support of the PCC and congregation. We expect the work to take place during the next 12 months.

The church has previously delivered a range of community activities and is confident that it can oversee the installation.

This project will help ensure the building remains comfortable and welcoming for future generations.

Good Practice Version

St Michael's Church Secondary Glazing Project

St Michael's Church serves a parish of approximately 7,500 residents and hosts over 5,200 community visits each year through worship, a toddler group, luncheon club, debt advice sessions, concerts and local events.

The church is seeking £15,000 towards a £30,000 project to install secondary glazing throughout the building.

Community Need

The parish includes two LSOAs within the most deprived 30% nationally and one LSOA where 18% of households are estimated to be in fuel poverty.

According to Census 2021 data:

- 21% of residents are aged over 65
- 17% report a long-term health condition
- 29% of households do not have access to a car

The church's weekly activities are particularly valued by older residents and those at risk of social isolation.

Energy and Carbon Reduction

An energy assessment identified heat loss through windows as one of the largest contributors to energy demand.

The church currently consumes:

- 48,000 kWh gas annually
- 8,000 kWh electricity annually

Secondary glazing is expected to:

- Reduce heating demand by approximately 15%
- Save around 7,000 kWh annually
- Reduce carbon emissions by approximately 1.3 tonnes CO₂e each year

Community Impact

The project will improve comfort for:

- 120 weekly worshippers
- 45 toddlers and carers
- 35 regular luncheon club users
- 12 local community groups

A survey of users found that 72% felt the building was too cold during winter months.

Community and Partnership Working

The project has been developed in consultation with user groups.

Letters of support have been received from:

- The local foodbank
- The parish council
- The nearby Church of England primary school

The church is also sharing lessons learned with two neighbouring churches considering similar projects.

Value for Money

Three quotations have been obtained.

The selected contractor provides the lowest whole-life cost and highest anticipated thermal performance.

The project will benefit more than 5,000 annual users while generating ongoing energy savings.

Organisational Capacity

The PCC successfully delivered a £40,000 LED lighting project in 2024 and a community hall refurbishment in 2022.

A dedicated project team has been established, including a retired surveyor and experienced treasurer.

Match Funding

The church has secured:

- £8,000 church reserves
- £4,000 community fundraising
- £3,000 estimated volunteer and professional in-kind contributions

Total match funding: £15,000 (50%)

Sustainability

Energy use will be monitored annually and savings reinvested into building maintenance and community activities.

The project forms part of the church's wider Net Zero Action Plan and supports long-term financial resilience.