

Case Study: LED Lighting; Quick Wins Grant; Green Tariffs

St Mary's Stoke d'Abernon Church Hall

Elmbridge, Surrey; Leatherhead Deanery

Summary

The community of Stoke d'Abernon are now able to enjoy a better lit and more environmentally-conscious venue, as well as lower utility bills, at St Mary's church hall thanks to a Quick Wins grant from the Diocese of Guildford.

The hall, built earlier this century, swapped out its inefficient fluorescent tubes for LEDs, and at the same time switched to one of the Church of England's recognised green electricity tariffs. The hall is already heated with a heat pump, making it now a truly Net Zero building.



1 St Mary's Church

Background

St Mary's is the oldest church in Surrey, originally built in the late 7th or early 8th centuries. The church hall, however, dates from the early 2010s, and is a well-built and well-insulated structure, welcoming both church and community groups for a varied programme of activities.

Both buildings are situated within the beautiful Surrey countryside near the River Mole in Stoke d'Abernon, adjacent to Parkside School.

Leadership

The Eco Team is led by a lay member of the church, Christopher Harwood, supported by vicar Phe, churchwarden William and parish administrator Polly.

Eco Team leader, Christopher Harwood, reflecting on creation care, said, "as Christians we are to behave as stewards, being conscious of our planet's climate disruptions and the impact humanity is having on habitat loss".



2 Eco Team: Christopher, William, Phe

Wider Context

Moving to Net Zero is just one part of St Mary's Eco Church commitment. They are also fostering nature through better management of their churchyard, and promoting awareness of lifestyle choices among the congregation. Their efforts have gained them an Eco Church bronze award, and they are advancing confidently towards silver.

Future Plans

Churchwarden William Fellows, who masterminded the LED scheme, addressed the church's future plans: "we are now revisiting our plans for solar PV on the hall roof to power our community activities, and need to replace our elderly and inefficient gas boiler in the church too."

Learning



3 New LED lighting in Hall

Martin Carr, the diocese's Net Zero Officer, praised St Mary's for their pioneering approach: "Stoke d'Abernon now benefits from a warm, well-lit hall for community use at the heart of their village, a beacon of sustainability and a reminder that Net Zero isn't just a distant aspiration, but achievable with commitment. The hall is a modern welcoming space with low running costs. We hope others will follow their example.

By switching their electricity supplier to a fully renewable tariff as a condition of the Quick Wins grant and to advance their Eco Church agenda, St Mary's has both achieved Net Zero for its hall, and lowered overall energy use."

Contact

The diocesan team is available to help with planning and fundraising around Net Zero and Eco Church. Contact martin.carr@cofeguildford.org.uk with any queries. We can also put you in touch with the team at Stoke d'Abernon if you have any questions for them.

Key Stats

Project Cost: £10.2k

Scope of Project: Hall lighting and emergency lighting

Quick Wins Grant Amount: £5k

Estimated Energy/Cost Saving: 75% on previous fluorescent lighting system

Renewable electricity supplier: Octopus