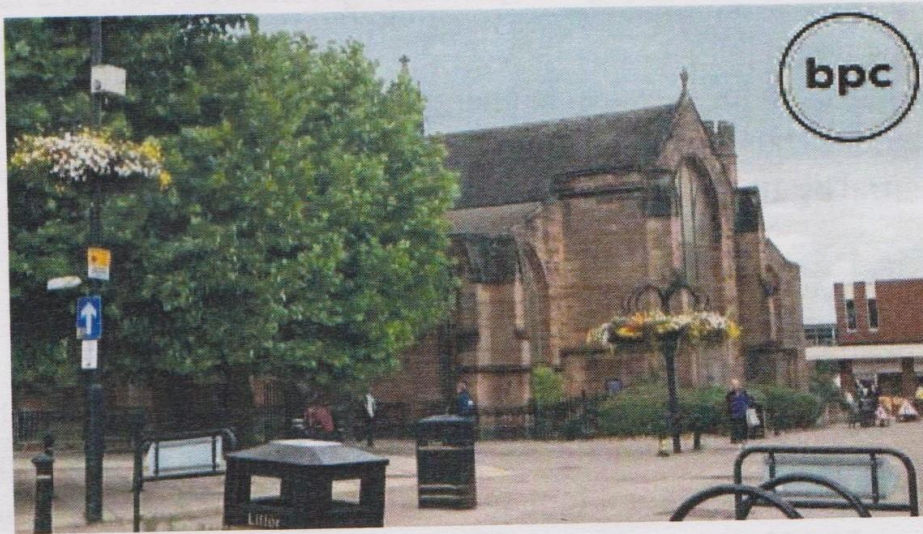


Gift Day 2023



Solar panels for All Saints

All Saints Church wants to lower our carbon footprint, reduce our electricity bills, and free up resources for other ministry, by having solar panels on the lower south roof of the church, overlooking the Health Centre.

The hurdles we need to get over to achieve this include:

- Historic England approval (because we're a Listed building)
- Church of England permission (the 'Faculty')
- Planning permission (because we're in a Conservation Area)
- Grant funding
- Other fundraising
- Engaging the community and schools

We've chosen a supplier, called Power-Aid Ltd (based in Oxfordshire), whose owner is a Christian. They are particularly interested in building up their work with churches. Apart from installations in the UK, they also support community solar projects in Malawi. They are being patient with our constraints, and willing to work with us through this lengthy process.

Solar panels will enable the church to do more for the community, rather than spending so much on electricity. They collect light from the sun, and turn it into electricity.

We will be a beacon for sustainable energy, both in Bedworth and the area, and lead the way for churches throughout the Diocese towards the goal of being carbon neutral by 2030.

What difference will a few panels make?

If we had 50 solar panels on that lower roof (19.5kWp), over the year it would cover about 39% of our electricity use, saving about £2,384 per year, mostly May to September. It also will take 4 tonnes off our annual CO² footprint. (Adding a battery saves £1,122 more, and exporting to the Grid is another £750 income.)

The rest of what is generated would contribute 100% renewable energy to the local Grid. After about 8 years, the money saved will equal the cost of the panels. The church will continue to save money well beyond the 25 year guarantee, as panels continue to generate for many decades.

Power-Aid's estimate of the church's daily usage pattern (grey line) is fairly close to what our actual usage data shows (red line). The vertical bars are the typical calculated solar generation per day. So the calculations are reasonable.





Figure 2: From the southeast (by Civic Hall) in August



Lower roof less than 1/2 visible



panels will neatly fit in two rows along the lower roof, and will be hardly noticeable even from the clearest viewpoint. Historic England have approved our plans as not having an unacceptable impact.



Figure 4: How the panels and edging look on another roof

What about night time and cloudy days?

In order to help our electricity usage when the sun isn't shining, we want to get a storage battery as well. Having a 16.4kWh battery enables us to store surplus generation so we can use it through the evenings and at night, increasing the estimated savings to **£3,506** per year, mostly in summer.

In the winter, we don't get a large amount of sunshine. If we have a battery, we will be able to charge the battery at the night rate which is 7p less per unit, and use that during the day.

Two batteries plus their controller are white. Together, they are about the height and width of a fridge freezer, and about eight inches deep. The controller will tell us what is being generated, stored in the battery, and used by the church.



How do the numbers stack up?

The total cost of the project is £48,000. We have identified two grants we can apply for. The total of these grants is £29,000. This means we are looking to the congregations of All Saints Bedworth to support the project by collectively donating £19,000 this gift day.

We are really excited about how beneficial every donation will be. Every donation made will make a big difference to All Saints finances over the 25 years of this project, and beyond.

**The saving every year on our energy bill
at the current tariffs will be**

£4256

Energy is becoming more and more expensive, and allowing for inflation the savings we will make will grow and grow over the years. Over the 25 years (the guaranteed *minimum* lifespan of the solar panels) with an initial investment of £19,000 we will save over £155,170.

A donation to this year's gift day means we will have the funds to undertake all the repairs identified in our quinquennial inspection required to the building over the next two years.

If you give a gift of X over the 25 years it will be worth Y to All Saints. So:

- £100 this giftday will be worth £817 to All Saints
- £500 this giftday will be worth £4,083 to All Saints
- £2,000 this giftday will be worth £16,333 to All Saints

Please consider prayerfully this October how God is calling you to support the environment and financial security of All Saints Church.

using the link <https://bedworthparish.churchsuite.com/my/giving> and click on the button. You will also be able to see if we hold a Giftaid declaration for you already.



+ Add declaration

If you have any problems with Churchsuite or questions about giftaid then do contact the Parish Office. If you need to create a Churchsuite account then go to <https://www.bedworthparish.org/churchsuite> and complete the form.

There are paper Giftaid declaration forms also available on the welcome desk which is that is easier.

What if we don't get planning permission?

Our planning application has the support of Coventry Diocese and English Heritage. We don't think it very likely that planning permission will be refused. If it is, then we will appeal. If ultimately it is impossible to put the solar panels on the roof, then the donations received will be used on carbon reducing projects such as double glazing, insulation and fabric repairs.

How else can we help?

Your interest and questions will be an encouragement. When the Planning application is submitted, we'll print another leaflet with a web page you can sign, to express your support. When we get to the fundraising stage, you will have the opportunity to contribute. Of course, please pray. There are so many many hurdles to get past - but "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit..." (Zechariah 4:6)

If you want to ask questions, or offer encouragement or help, please speak to Christine Rigden, or email her on eco@bedworthparish.org.