Church Building Operations Plan

St. Columba's Jersey

Minimising Energy Use & Maximising Efficiency

St Columba's Church, Jersey (adaptable for your setting)

1. Purpose and Vision

We recognise that how we use our buildings is one of the most immediate and visible ways we care for creation. Our church will:

- Reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions
- Use resources wisely and responsibly
- Maintain a welcoming, comfortable space for worship and community
- Model good environmental stewardship within Jersey

---

2. Understanding Our Context

Jersey has a relatively low-carbon electricity supply (largely imported from France), but:

- Heating remains a major source of emissions
- Older stone church buildings are often thermally inefficient

This means **heating efficiency is our biggest opportunity**.

---

3. Energy Use Priorities

Priority 1: Reduce Demand First

Before investing in new systems, we will:

- Heat less space
- Heat for less time
- Avoid unnecessary energy use

Priority 2: Improve Efficiency

- Upgrade systems and controls

- Reduce heat loss

Priority 3: Transition Energy Sources

- Move toward lower-carbon heating and electricity where feasible

---

4. Heating Strategy

Zoned Heating

- Heat only areas in use (e.g. worship space vs halls vs offices)
- Install or optimise zoning controls

Time-Based Heating

- Heat buildings only when needed (e.g. pre-service warm-up)
- Avoid “background heating” in unused periods

Quick Wins

- Ensure timers are correctly set
- Review heating schedules seasonally
- Train keyholders to adjust settings responsibly

---

5. Building Fabric Improvements

Older church buildings lose significant heat. We will look to:

Draught Proofing

- Doors, windows, and roof spaces where practical

Insulation (Where Appropriate)

- Roof/loft insulation where practical
- Secondary glazing where permitted

Doors & Entrances

- Minimise heat loss during services
- Use lobby areas or double-door systems where possible

6. Lighting Efficiency

Upgrade to LED

- Replace all incandescent/halogen bulbs with LED
- Prioritise high-use areas first

Smart Use of Lighting

- Turn off when not in use – put up signage if required

Natural Light

- Maximise daylight use where possible

---

7. Equipment & Electrical Use

Reduce Standby Energy

- Switch off AV systems, heaters, and appliances fully
- Use smart plugs or timers where helpful

Efficient Appliances

- Replace old equipment with energy-efficient models
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of appliances

---

8. Monitoring & Accountability

Track Energy Use

- Record annual electricity
- Identify trends and anomalies

Report Progress

- Share updates with congregation annually
- Link to Net Zero Action Plan

9. Behaviour & Culture Change

The biggest gains often come from people, not technology.

Simple Actions

- Turn off lights and heating after use
- Close doors to retain heat
- Report faults or inefficiencies

Church Community Engagement

- Display simple energy-saving reminders
- Share progress and celebrate improvements

---

10. Events & Building Use

Efficient Scheduling

- Group activities to reduce repeated heating cycles
- Avoid heating large spaces for small groups

Space Use

- Use smaller rooms where possible
- Match room size to group size

---

11. Governance & Responsibility

Assign clear roles:

- **Eco Champion** – oversight and monitoring
- **Fabric Convenor/caretaker** – operational control of heating and maintenance
- **All Users** – responsible use of space

---

12. Review Cycle

- Annual review of energy use and building performance
- Update plan based on:
    - New technologies
    - Changing usage patterns
    - Budget availability
