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Sustainability is about the financial, social, organisational and environmental future of your project.

We can help you put the right structures in place so that your activities run for years to come.

Download the toolkit



St Peter, Peterchurch

Environmental sustainability

Are you doing any building work? Make sure to look at the most energy-efficient options.

Think about:

- Re-using materials or equipment
- Using the most nature-friendly products possible
- **Buying LED bulbs**
- Getting your materials locally
- Hiring local contractors
- Installing an effective heating system
- Using renewable energy sources

Also, don't forget to:

- Think about the life span of your new facilities
- Aim for the best building performance standards
- Consider the impact the building works are having on the environment
- Take care of the plants and animals in your churchyard

Find out more about making your building sustainable

Best practice notes are also available for architects and surveyors issued jointly by the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association and the Church Buildings Council, which describe how to integrate environmental matters into Quinquennial Inspections and project work as part of our path to Net Zero Carbon.

"In the long-term investing in energy efficiency is likely to save you money."

Crossing the Threshold

It's not just about the environment

There are other things you need to think about to make sure your project is sustainable.

Economic sustainability

Once your project is up and running, you will have day-to-day expenses. And the work you've done today may need repairs in ten or twenty years.

Think about how you are you going to make enough money to pay for these or any other random costs.

Find out more about sustainable investments

Organisational sustainability

How are you going to manage the new activities in the long-term? Do you have the right structure in place?

Think about:

- Having the right mix of people involved in making decisions
- Passing on knowledge in case a key person leaves
- Encouraging people to take on new responsibilities and learn new skills

Whatever you do don't let your project be dependent on one person who then collapses with exhaustion.

Find out more about organising yourselves

Social sustainability

Once your project is up and running, how are you going to continue to ask the community what they want and what they need?

Your activities might change over time to adapt to changing circumstances.

Find out more about talking to your community

Case studies

- [Case study: St Mary Chalgrove](#) (403.36 KB)
- [Case study: St Anne Highgate](#) (200.76 KB)
- [Case study: Peterchurch](#) (286.77 KB)

Next steps

To make your vision become a reality you need to start thinking about:

- Making sure you keep people informed
- Planning the project
- Appointing an architect

Want more help?

[Find out how to develop a sustainable project](#)

[Keep your project activities going after the grant money ends](#)

[Shrinking the Footprint](#)

[Read how we address the issue of climate change](#)

[Put God's earth at the heart of mission](#)

[Become greener in your spiritual life, management and outreach](#)

[Parish Buying's energy basket](#)

[Get 100% green energy and save money](#)

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