

Churches and cathedrals are fitting solar panels on their roofs to help tackle the climate crisis and fund important work in their communities.



The Church of England is currently marking the [Season of Creation](#) which includes a focus on environmental protection.

[G loucester](#)

[Sal i sbury](#)

Larger buildings including Gloucester and Salisbury Cathedrals already host solar panels. [Salisbury Cathedral](#) first installed panels in 2016, while [Gloucester Cathedral](#) installed them in 2020.

Yet itâs not just the large-scale buildings that have seen solar panels being erected.

[Solar Panels at Brighton St George](#)

[St John](#)âs in Old Trafford, Manchester, installed 39 panels on the side of its Edwardian building in 2015.

Since then it has produced 60,000 kilowatts of electricity â more than enough to power the church hall with the rest sold to the National Grid as part of the Governmentâs Feed in Tariff (FIT) scheme.

The money raised has not only helped support the church but also fund community projects through work an initiative called the [St John](#)âs Sunshine Cooperative.

Grants to community schemes are voted on by members of the cooperative. These included beehives in an allotment and food support for refugees.



Power Up North London

“Churches can’t and, perhaps shouldn’t, do these things on their own,” said the Revd John Hughes, the Rector of St John’s.

“Running our parochial renewable energy as a cooperative has enabled us to work with a wider cross section of our community. It’s been a great a *Fit* in more than one sense.”

Other environmental initiatives in the parish include opening its gardening space to green-fingered locals.

Speaking recently on the BBC’s *Songs of Praise*, Revd Hughes explained, “In church on Sunday I will try to nurture the Christian Faith in all those who want to hear the Word.

“But our grounds can do it every day of the week, so, alleluia to that!”

Vicar Will Hughes poses on the roof of a church with solar panels

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Elsewhere, the church of St Peter in Petersfield is also reaping the rewards of a solar switch.

parish, in the Diocese of Portsmouth

The church installed 27 solar panels in 2016 and has since reduced its heating and electricity bills by £6750.

Additionally, St Peter makes a further £600 a year from selling the electricity it generates.

A Rocha

A Fairtrade church and a bronze award-winning Eco-Church, through the Christian charity A Rocha, St Peter has also made its churchyard more biodiverse including using recycled tyres as owl boxes.

"Now the environment wins, the church wins and our finances wins," the vicar, Canon Will Hughes, said. "I can't think why everyone doesn't do it!"

Innovative Harvest Festivals have been celebrated

- The Church of England is currently marking the Season of Creation. across the country amid Covid-19 restrictions. set targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon net zero
- The Church of England's General Synod has by 2030.

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