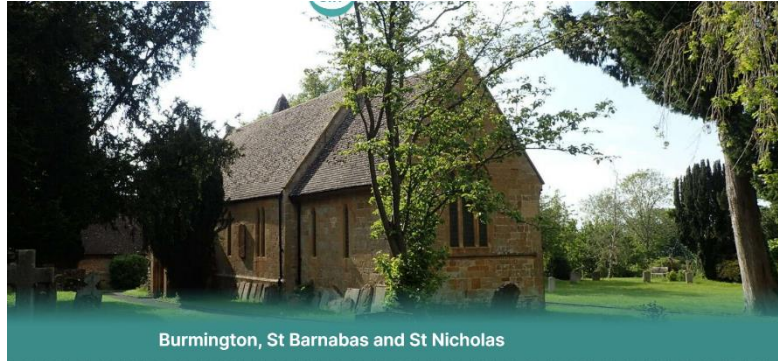


Case Study – Pew Heating

Burmington, St Barnabas and St Nicholas

What prompted the change?

St Barnabas and St Nicholas is a small church with 14 pews, each seating up to four worshippers. Our challenge was to find an economical solution to heating the church during the coldest winter months.



The church has no boiler and the only heating was from six overhead bar units.

What options were considered?

A neighbouring church has individual under pew heaters and this was one solution considered to provide secondary heating. While researching other options the church discovered the KovoSchmidt system of heated pew seating and decided to look into it. In late 2019 they contacted several churches across the country which had installed the system, and visited one, to gauge their satisfaction. They received positive feedback and so invited KovoSchmidt to survey the church and quote for installation.

Full details of the system can be found on www.pewheating.com



Usually when churches are heated the warm air rises into the roof leaving the congregation cold.

The idea from KovoSchmidt is to heat the person, helping maintain worshippers' constant body temperatures, rather than heating the cold space around them in the church. When a person sits on the pew seating its insulating material is pushed down and heat is released.

How did St Barnabus and St Nicholas proceed?

The PCC decided to progress with the system, successfully applied for a faculty and following an inspection visit by the DAC electrical advisor, the system was fitted in early 2021.

The cost of installing the system was £6,764. 'We applied for a Church Improvement Grant from the Diocese of Coventry to help fund the investment and were successful in being awarded £5,000, for which we were extremely grateful.'



How successful has the new heating been?

1 - From KovoSchmidt gallery

We have found the system easy to use and highly economical. The material we chose for the pew seat covering is attractive, gives a warm appearance and even when not switched on is more comfortable than a hard, cold wooden pew.

The cost of running the system is negligible.

KovoSchmidt state that for an average size of church for 120 people, with 60m of pew heating (1m of pew heating needed for two people), it costs a little over £1 per hour with all the seats turned on. Furthermore it only needs turning on 10 minutes before the service. We are able to turn off individual pews if any worshippers prefer - although this option may no longer be available to newly installed systems.

What key lessons would you pass on to other churches who are considering their heating?

We see KovoSchmidt however as a secondary system to the overhead wall heaters. Our warden, when facing a very cold night ahead before a service, typically leaves these heaters on overnight to give the church a comfortable temperature in the morning and will then decide to turn on the heated pews seats if felt necessary. Although our overhead wall heaters are relatively expensive to run, the fact that we have been reduced to just one service a month from two has reduced our heating bill and carbon footprint accordingly.

How can I get more information?

Sincere thanks to the Church Warden for making these available and for much of the content included above. If you want to visit the church during service times, then you would receive a warm welcome. If you want to visit at other times, please make prior arrangements. (Contact details available on request.)

This case study was produced by the Church Warden for
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