



NEW ENERGY SAVER PLAN AIMS TO CUT PARISH BILLS

A NEW utility costs savings services is available to parishes in the Lichfield Diocese which could help save money on energy bills.

Operational in some 20 other Diocese, the service has been in operation since December 2010 and has already helped a number secure major savings... And it doesn't cost a penny.

David Savage at Church Utility Savings heads the service under the Charity Funding Solutions (CFS) initiative. The CFS service is supported by the Church of England Procurement Group.

The new energy saver plan enables treasurers and clergy to:

- Obtain an assessment and price 'benchmark' of their parish utility costs.
- Change electricity-billing profiles to achieve enhanced savings.
- Identify and recover erroneously charged Climate Change Levies and higher rate VAT.
- Obtain information on contracted energy rates to compare future contract offers.
- Switch providers to obtain the lowest uncontracted energy rates for churches in the UK.
- Switch to a 'green' energy provider and/or purchase carbon credits.
- Make reductions in parish office and vicarage telephony and broadband expenditure.

Since being operational, over 600 parishes throughout the UK have used the CFS service to make annual savings ranging from £150 (a 20% saving in a small rural church in Somerset) to over £3000 (in a large London parish). Annual savings in parishes across all dioceses are averaging £700, with 90% of parishes benefitting. The 10% of parishes that could not be helped have either received the reassurance that their energy arrangements are fairly priced, or have had to delay taking action due to existing energy contracts.

The scheme is easy to use and all parishes or treasurers need do is contact David Savage giving the following information:

- Name of Parish and whether the Church/Church Hall/Vicarage has just electricity, or also a gas supply.
- The number of separately billed supplies and whether or not any of them are tied into a term contract. (If unsure, please check with the current supplier).
- The tariff being charged on the most recent energy bill for each supply, or if coming to the end of a contract - the new contract tariffs.
- Whether the PCC is also paying for telephony and broadband services in the parish office or vicarage, and their current cost.

This information can be telephoned to **01352 771238**, or sent by post to: **Church Utility Savings, TY TO GWELLT, Nercwys, Mold, Clwyd, CH7 4EN**; or e-mailed to: **dis@uwclub.net**. Ideally David Savage would like to see a recent energy bill; alternatively the attached Parish Utility Costs Survey form can be used to collate the information.

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 DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD