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Lighting Guide

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Switching to LED could reduce the power needed to drive your lighting by around 75 per cent. That's not all. If the whole country changed to LED, they would save the equivalent of the energy consumption of Wales.

That's the message from lighting consultant Andrew Orange, who's on a mission to persuade churches to pursue this route. 'The moment you install an LED lamp,' he said, 'you start to save money.'

LEDs are the 'solid state' versions of traditional bulbs. Movements of particles in layers of silicon create light. Yet they produce little heat, last for thousands of hours and are ten times more efficient than incandescent lightbulbs.

'The lighting industry has changed beyond recognition,' said Andrew, who runs his own consultancy called Orange Lighting, as well as See The Light, an organisation that campaigns to promote the switch to LED.

Not only have LEDs transformed lighting, but also their cost has dropped, making it possible

for more people to switch. 'It makes sense for churches to have a level of responsibility to say, "yes, we can do this",' he added.

LEDs can be programmed to suit different settings – and even seasons of the year. 'You can make a difference to the welcome as people come in,' Andrew explained, 'with that feeling of being invited.' Lighting can change for more contemplative worship. 'You can create a more welcoming mood,' he pointed out. And LEDs require very little maintenance – 'fit and forget' – as Andrew put it. In his view, they are great for churches and great for the environment.

What examples of good lighting has he seen, which are inspiring? Andrew described how he visited the Welsh retreat centre Ffald-y-Brenin in Pembrokeshire. 'It was a very small chapel,' he explained, 'but the honesty of it was beautiful, just simple daylight and some candles. That struck me.'

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ORANGE LIGHTING
orangelighting.co.uk

SEE THE LIGHT
www.seethelight.org.uk

do



Churches and individuals can compare lightbulbs before making purchases – thanks to the Top10 Energy Efficiency Guide – a free and impartial guide to the most efficient household products.

The lists presented on Top10 demonstrate the money and energy-saving potential of efficient bulbs. 'Consumers often aren't aware of the significant savings they could make by doing something as simple as replacing their lightbulbs,' said Oliver Wright, Top10 Programme Manager at Keep Britain Tidy.

'An old inefficient lightbulb can be more energy-intensive than a fridge-freezer – and while LED bulbs are currently more expensive to buy, all the bulbs featured on Top10 are designed to last at least 20 years, so they will pay for themselves easily.' The Top10 Energy Efficiency Guide is a free and impartial guide to the most efficient household products.

Shed some light on the subject

One of the first steps churches can take to save energy and carbon emissions is to change their lamps. Lighting consumes 10–15 per cent of domestic energy, and accounts for most of a church's electricity. The Diocese of London diocese offers some general advice.

Discover the best lamps for you

Here is what you need to know about buying the best lightbulb for your needs.

Read up on the advice available

How do you tell your LEDs from your lumens? Some energy-saving light bulbs can use up to 90 per cent less electricity than old bulbs – but produce similar amount of light. And they can last more than ten times longer. That's the message from the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Download their advice leaflet.

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TOP 10 ENERGY EFFICIENCY

www.top10energyefficiency.org.uk/products/category/lighting

LIGHTING AND ENERGY USE

www.london.anglican.org/kb/lighting-and-energy-use

THE BEST LIGHTBULB FOR YOU

<http://www.which.co.uk/energy/energy-saving-products/guides/how-to-buy-led-cfl-and-halogen-bulbs/five-tips-for-choosing-the-right-light-bulb>

LIGHTING ADVICE

http://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/advice-leaflets/energy-advice/advice_leaflet_lighting.pdf



Lighten up on LEDs.

Here are a few questions and answers on the subject (thanks to Andrew Orange):

Will LEDs really reduce power?

It will depend on what the LED is delivering and what you are comparing it to. Higher output lamps have a lower lumen per watt rate. But an LED will generally save 75 per cent, plus the cost of the fitting.

Are LEDs still expensive?

If you count in maintenance costs and inconvenience of slow lamp starts for some lamp technologies and higher running costs, the initial outlay could be more expensive initially. But the numbers stack up for LED every time. They will pay for themselves and beyond.

Are programmable LEDs within church budgets?

With dimmable LEDs, the LED itself is the same – it's the source of the power that has to be appropriate to the technology dimming it. Dimmable solutions always cost more than non-dimmable power supplies. LEDs can be used with programmable controls packages/systems. If scene setting is required, then programmable systems/hardware can be a simple to very sophisticated solution. It's always an additional cost, but if required, a fair supplier would try and cut the cloth accordingly.