

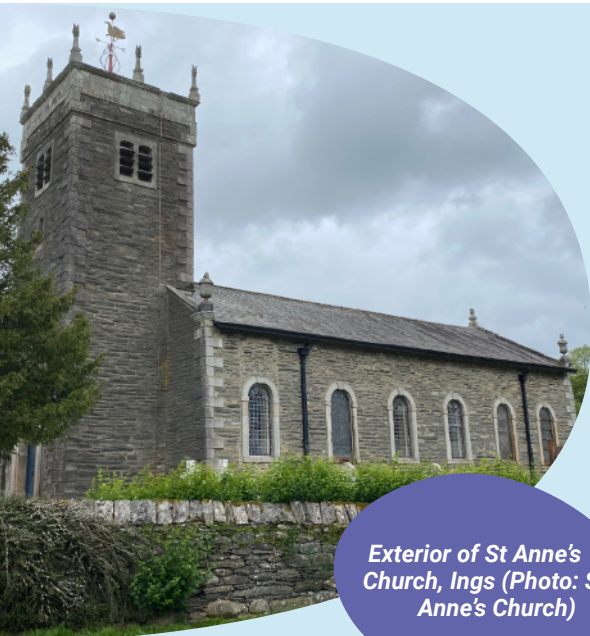
Case Study

May 2022



ACTion
with communities
in cumbria

St Anne's Church, Ings



Exterior of St Anne's Church, Ings (Photo: St Anne's Church)

Successful Air Source Heat Pump retrofit

This case study looks at the highly successful refurbishment of St Anne's Church, Ings. It has brought the interior to a warm, welcoming and accessible standard, revitalised community use of this beautiful space and pioneered church use of renewable energy generation on site.

Ings is a small South Lakeland community in the Lake District National Park, approximately 7 miles north-west of Kendal. In addition to the church, there is Ings Parish Hall, The Watermill Inn and Brewery and a number of small businesses adjoining a petrol station on the main A591 into the Lake District.

Background

There has probably been a church on the site in Ings since 1616, with the main body of the current building dating back to 1743. St Anne's is a Grade 2* listed church with all the benefits and challenges that comes with. There is a celebrated marble altar floor which remains a focus for worship.

By 2012, the generally well-maintained building was not accessible for the whole community and the only heating was being provided by under-pew electric heaters. The space was inflexible, generally chilly, with draughts and problematic condensation on the stone walls and the single-glazed stain glass windows.

An ambitious refurbishment of the building was planned, fundraised and executed in 2012. The joint aims of which were to: protect the fabric of the building; make it more comfortable for the congregation and other users; and provide level access to and within the building so that people with limited mobility could use it. Ten years on it is still going strong.

The Project

The decision was made to take out the traditional pews; and replace with movable chairs which immediately made the space multi-functional and more accessible. Secondary glazing was sensitively installed on all windows, including the stained glass, and the slate roof was insulated. Underfloor heating installed throughout (except in the marble altar floor area) draws on a 14kW Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) unit, on the outside of the building.

In the process of putting the underfloor heating in, the floor has been raised and levelled, taking out a significant step which was a barrier to use for many. Externally, works included the removal of a gravel pathway to create ramped access. The whole church is now warm and welcoming and completely accessible.

Warm, accessible and versatile (Photo: St Anne's Church)



What has been achieved?

A range of funders were excited by the opportunity to support the regeneration of this important community church and to try out the combination of ASHP and underfloor heating. The parishioners themselves made a significant contribution to the £110,000 costs of the work which took six months to complete in 2012.

A list of funders and their contributions is included here. Note, some of these have subsequently been replaced with new funding or incentive schemes.

Lake District National Park, Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, Garfield Weston, Community Sustainable Energy Project (National Lottery), Bernard Sunley Foundation, Carlisle Diocese Pastoral Fund, Hadfield Trust, Rank Foundation, Allchurches Trust, Neighbourhood Forum. There was also a generous bequest from the estate of Denis Sowerby.

The works have resulted in a measurable reduction (at least 10%) in energy use, but most importantly, with the far more efficient heating system, comfort levels in the building are much better and community use has gone up accordingly. The previous problems of condensation and drafts have been eliminated.

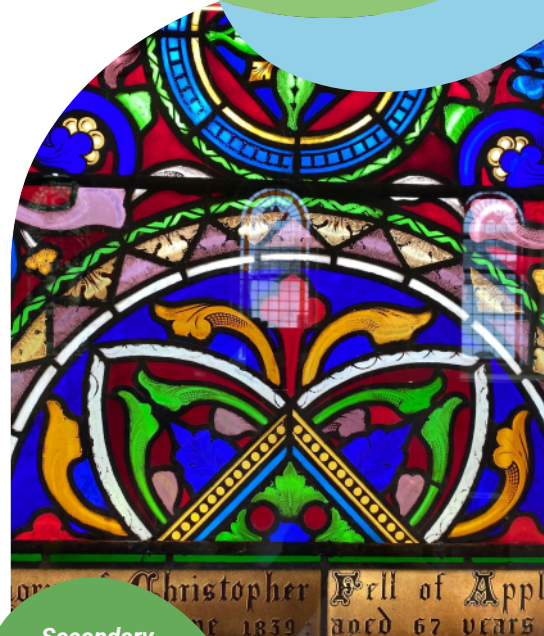
St Anne's continues to build on its success by engaging more of the local and wider community. It is directly across the road from the small Parish Hall and the two committees work together to compliment the social enrichment of the community. As well as religious services and celebrations, the larger church space is used several times a week for musical activities including classical, modern, orchestral and choral societies, as well as periodic craft and art events. The Parish Hall is perfect for smaller groups including a whist-drive, dominoes, knitting club, local talks and exercise classes. The Summer Fair in July uses both St Anne's and the Parish Hall, as well as the outdoor spaces surrounding.

As the community explores ways to take 'greening' steps on the Parish Hall, St Anne's is investigating the potential to install solar panels on the south-facing roof. It is estimated that this would make the building self-sufficient in energy for over six months of the year.

The Learning

- In the ten years since installation there has been no maintenance or repair required to the heating system. It is the right solution for heating this particular space, but take professional advice.
- The heating is both timer and thermostatically controlled to reduce waste and cost. Because the underfloor heating holds residual heat it is possible to use the cheaper overnight tariffs much of the time.
- The main rule is (still) 'close the door'!
- St Anne's is being promoted by the Diocese of Carlisle and the Church of England as an exemplar project as they consider how to encourage churches across the country to reduce their carbon footprint, and retain a vibrant church community. It would be ideal if the Church of England and Historic England were to agree ways to make this easier at a local level.

ACT



Secondary glazing installed on all windows (Photo: St Anne's Church)

Want to know more?

For more information visit the community website

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