

St Thomas's Demonstrator church journey

St Thomas's has been chosen by the Church of England as a 'Demonstrator Church' in the Churches ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. St Thomas's has a staged plan to achieve this target and as a Demonstrator church we will be sharing journey, the good and the bad here, to help other churches learn from our project and also to inspire. When an ambition is rooted in a vision and a clear mission, all things are possible, though always in Gods time and not ours!

April 2026

Internal Environment Survey

Tobit Curteis <https://www.tcassociates.co.uk> leading architectural conservator specializing in the investigation and control of environmental deterioration in historic buildings and collections. He is recognized for his work in passive conservation, wall paintings, and polychromy (the practice or art of decorating architectural elements, sculptures, or pottery using a variety of multiple colours) visited St Thomas's on the 21st of April 2026 to examine the Murals ahead of the planned works to the Church.

Understanding how a building's internal environment performs, combined with the use of the building is critical to understand what heating interventions will be appropriate. Luckily, Tobit is no stranger to St Thomas's as he worked on a restoration project for some damaged Murals in the 1990's. This meant that he was able to bring with him detailed schematics of where there was previously damage and where new damage has occurred.

Sharing the knowledge

During Tobit's visit to the Island he also provided learning and CPD opportunities for the Church and the Islands professionals. An evening talk for the Clergy, property wardens and those with an interest Island wide was facilitated at St Thomas's and very well attended. This talk covered the mechanics of the building and its thermal envelope, delving in to detail of the types of environmental threat (liquid water, humidity, condensation etc) and the impact this has on different elements of the building fabric (stone, wood, fabric and of course murals).

A full day CPD event was then held for the Islands professionals and co-hosted with Manx National Heritage. The first half of the morning was technical lectures and the afternoon (after a wonderful lunch provided by the church) was a practical session looking at areas of St Thomas's and the effects of liquid water and damp on the fabric of the building.