



St. Aldhelm's Church
2, Windmill Road
Edmonton
London N18 1PA
Tel. 0208 807 5336
vicar@aldhelms.co.uk

Vicar: David Bolster

We wish to commend to you the idea of installing Solar panels on your Church roofs. We did, back in May 2006, and were surprised that we won £78,700 in grants for a system that cost £92,400. We are also very happy to commend to you Richard Warren and Solstice Energy who helped us realise our dreams and were excellent contractors. The work took about 6 weeks and caused minimal disruption. In the process we got 3 x 120 yr old roofs retiled – as part of the package!

Our own story became news, in both TV, Film and magazines. We were amazed to win the Church Times Green Church award for "Shrinking the Footprint" and £500. This has been a good and clear witness in our neighbourhood. The church not only talks about Green issues, but does something about them. The encouragement that it has been to us as a Church has enabled us to think about other ways in which we can show our love for God by caring for his environment.

We gather that there are grants out there at this moment. Grants made it all feasible. Our own investment will probably have been paid off within 6 years. After that, we make profit! Our own system is 105 PV panels producing 18.4KWp. It was predicted to generate 14500kWh / yr, but actually generated 17000kWh in the first year, and is earning us about £1900 a year at today's prices.

More detail is available from our website www.aldhelms.co.uk.

David Bolster
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