

Guidance on the use of Temporary Heaters



Durham Diocese recommends that churches take the following steps before using temporary heaters:

- Confirm with your electrician that the supply is suitably rated and all cables can be suitably secured and protected to avoid trips or damage. Sockets should not be overloaded.
- Select robust heaters, that ideally are CE marked and provided with a tilt safety switch in the case of falling over.
- Locate heaters to avoid any possible damage to heritage features or to create excessive heating of organs, musical instruments and AV equipment.
- Locate the heaters well away from woodwork or other combustible materials to avoid the risk of fire.
- Ensure the heaters are fixed or weighed down to avoid them being portable or falling over.
- Only use the heaters when the space is occupied.
- Test the heaters as part of your normal PAT testing regime.
- Portable gas heaters are not suitable heating devices as they put large amounts of moisture into the environment which will be detrimental to the building fabric.
- Check with the DAC Secretary to confirm the approval route, and submit the necessary information.
- Contact your insurer to confirm your risk assessment and intended plan for use of the heaters (noting the points above), and obtain their permission.

Although this guidance is written with electric radiant heaters in mind, it is still applicable to all types of electric heaters (radiant, convective, fan assisted, etc.)

Whilst the use of temporary heaters can be a useful stop gap should your heating fail, it is important that they are only used for a short period of time whilst plans are put in place for a permanent solution.

If it is going to take quite a long time to develop a full heating scheme for the building, it may be appropriate to look at an interim heating solution for part of the building which could be either extended or repurposed as part of the new heating system.

For example, it might be appropriate to install a small number of pew heaters that will perhaps meet the needs of smaller services. These can potentially be installed under Archdeacon's permission, as can individual electrical heating appliances.