

Quick Guide...

Church Lighting

Prepared by the Committee on Church Art and Architecture

Innovative lighting inside and outside your building need not be expensive and not only can offer more exciting solutions but often adds more practical and long-term economic results.

Modern trends in lighting design have advanced past the industrial down lighters which were recently popular. Designers have demonstrated what is possible using LED lighting and other modern fittings, with built-in variances in intensity and vibrant colour in church buildings.

A church is no ordinary building. Its architecture has symbolic significance and many features have a clear purpose in liturgy and worship, with the focus of interest varying during services. Additionally, many churches are also used for other activities such as concerts and community events. Therefore, whilst there are certain basic requirements such as light for reading, safety and security, simply adding more fittings may not be the answer. The quality and direction of the light is as important as its intensity, and a well-designed lighting scheme will take this into consideration.

worship? If the former, it could be that, given safe access, cleaning the lamps/reflectors/shades may be all that is required. It might also be possible to adjust or supplement an existing installation, but technical advice will be needed to ensure that the electrical systems and fittings can support change.

Modern lighting design not only can be affordable but also can remove Health and Safety hazards associated with access to fittings for maintenance. It offers flexibility and mood change to your lighting.

CARTA welcomes applications for lighting changes that meet the needs of worship and may, in conjunction with the General Trustees be able to assist with initial consultation costs for lighting schemes.

Further information

Further information can be found in the *Better Lighting for Churches* CARTA Guide for congregations which is available from: www.resourcingmission.org.uk/carta/resources.

Whom to Contact

Anyone wishing to contact the Committee should complete an enquiry form which can be found on the Resourcing Mission website (www.resourcingmission.org.uk/carta/about) and email it to: carta@cofscotland.org.uk.

Alternatively, you can telephone 0131 225 5722 and ask to speak to someone in the CARTA office.



If the existing lighting in a church is thought to be unsatisfactory, it is useful to consider why. For instance, do the fittings no longer provide enough light, or is the installation unsuitable for the current pattern of

CARTA Quick Guides

Other Quick Guides include advice on audio visual schemes, access for all, dementia friendly church buildings, stained glass and communion ware. These can be found on the Resourcing Mission website

(www.resourcingmission.org.uk/resources/quick-guides).

About the Author

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