

## How Keep Your Church Cool in Summer

For some of you this is not a problem but for most it can be. Here are a few tips to managing your building so that it stays as comfortable as possible in the heat.

### First, The Theory

- Big, solid materials (high thermal mass) such as stone, brick and concrete take a long time to heat up and to cool down.
- On most nights it is cooler than the comfort levels that we seek indoors during daytime.
- We need to ventilate away the heat from the solid materials when it is cool.
- We need to stop the air coming in or escaping when it is hot outside.
- We cope with higher temperatures when air is blown over us.
- The interior will hold on to the overnight “cool” for much of the day.

### Next the Practicalities

- Providing the forecast overnight temperature will be less than 19deg (or less than your internal temperature), open windows at low level late at night and close them again early in the morning before it gets to 20deg. If you have high level windows or vents do the same with these. Coolest time is usually between 2am and 5am, but that would be true dedication!
- Seal everything up as far as possible during the rest of day.
- Keep doors closed and use a lobby as an air lock if possible.
- This may seem unwelcoming, so you may need a sign outside inviting people into the cooler interior.
- Use wall-mounted or freestanding fans to circulate air across the people. This assists perspiration to cool the body.
- If you have blinds on north facing windows keep them closed during daytime.
- Much of the benefit of this “night purge” may have worn off by the time of the evening service.
- This approach can be use for a few days ahead of your service to flush out the heat.



### What to Avoid if Possible

- Leaving doors or windows open.
- Missing window panes
- Especially active worship - unless you have aircon.

### More Fundamentally

- Fix broken windows including making opening windows close.
- Fix operable dampers on roof vents if possible - this helps in winter too.

Management is better than the expense and ecological footprint of aircon in such a large volume.

Chapter list for [Making Property Serve Mission](#)

