

Heating and Lighting in Heritage Churches

How to Deliver a Great Project

All Saints' Church, Stamford

Michael Barham

BEng (Hons) MSc CEng MCIBSE MSL

Building Services Engineer

15th September 2026





People ... have had enough of experts

Michael Gove
Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor
2016



Heating and Lighting in Heritage Churches

Why you need experts , and when not to listen to them

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A Building Services Engineer
should offer advice which:

Is Impartial

Is based on Experience and Expertise

Delivers Value



good
A Building Services Engineer

Understands:

The unique and complex demands of a heritage church

Human comfort

Conservation

Politics...



The Church

The PCC

**Hub Group
/
Working
Committee**

The DAC

**Building
Services
Engineer**

Funding Bodies

**Heritage
Architect**

**Heritage Interest
Groups**

Conservators

Bat Specialists

**Structural
Engineer**

**Cost
Consultants**

**Project
Managers**

**Principal
Designer / CDM**



good
A Building Services Engineer
Understands:

Their place in the wider team

How to **establish** rather than dictate **needs**

The importance of **aspiration**

Needs

- **Safety**
- **Thermal comfort**
- **Reliability**
- **Heritage conservation**
- **Adequate lighting**
- **Energy efficiency**

Aspirations

- **Growing congregation**
- **Mission**
- **Community**
- **Heritage and history**
- **Welcome**
- **Net Zero Carbon**



To deliver a great project:

The PCC should

- Establish clear priorities: capital cost, running costs, comfort, flexibility, net zero carbon
- Have a clear understanding of future aspirations for the church, mission and community engagement
- Research the options put to them



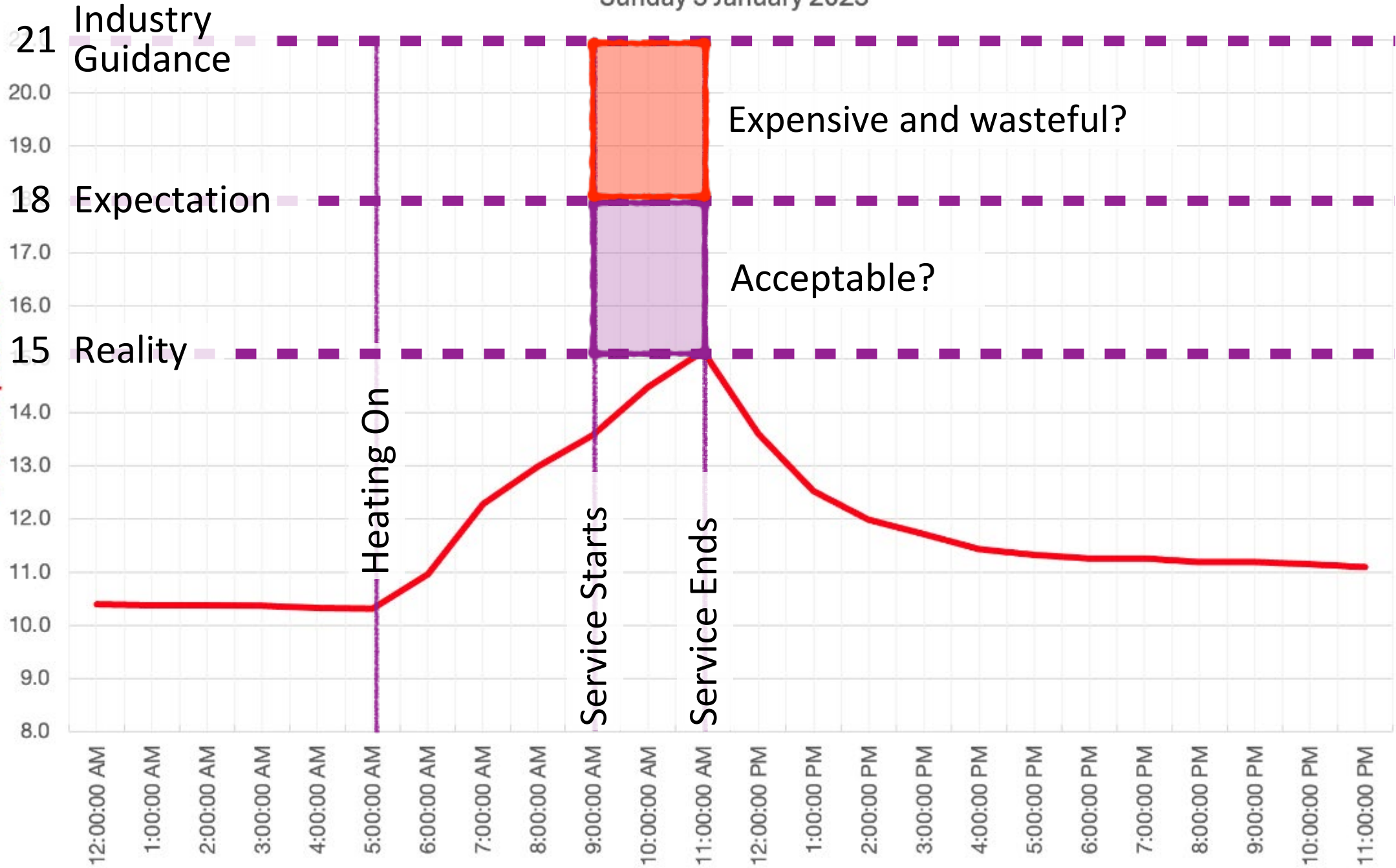
The Expert should

- Listen
- Clarify and reflect the brief
- Explain context
- Apply common sense to established criteria
- Consider building fabric as well as people needs

Sunday 5 January 2025



Air Temperature





Managing change



Thank you

**There will be a separate Q&A session,
and opportunities to talk over lunch**

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