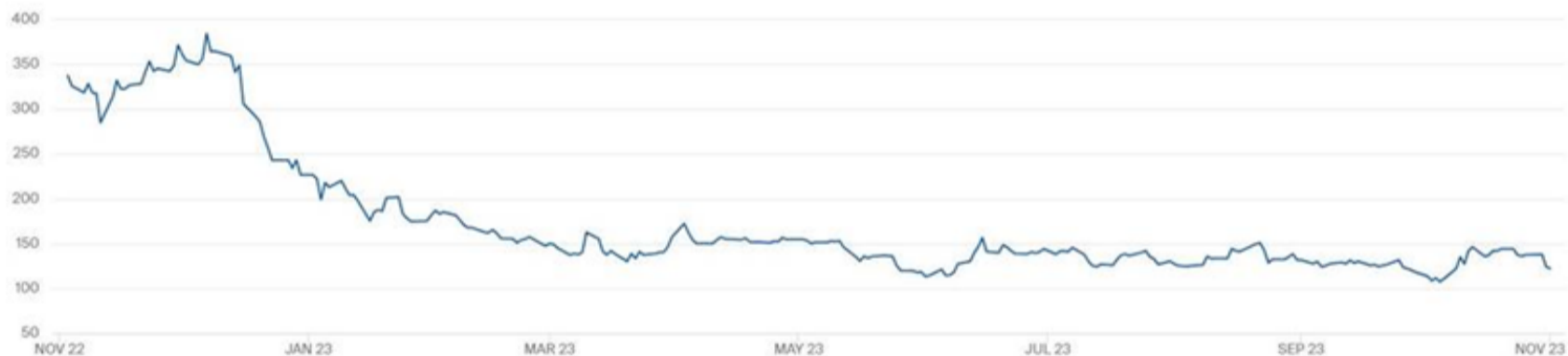




Welcome to our Autumn edition of the Green Journey newsletter. As the season starts to change and we head towards the colder winter months, we just wanted to provide a brief update on what's been happening in the energy markets since our last communication, as well as digging a little deeper into the idea of 'Green Gas' and what this can mean for your carbon footprint and green credentials at church. As always, we will round off with a few relevant articles relating to both energy and church environment news.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our churches from across the UK who have joined Green Journey over the last few months and are receiving this newsletter for the first time. Your commitment to both Green Journey and the environment is much appreciated and marks the start of your journey to becoming a greener and more sustainable church.

## What is happening with the UK energy market?



We entered last winter confronting the threat of gas & power supply cuts and price spikes, but in mid-December, Europe's energy crisis delivered its latest twist, and instead of spiking further over the winter delivery period, gas & power prices took an unexpected and sudden slump.

There are several factors that can be attributed to this sudden drop in wholesale prices, and these have been highlighted below –

- Low European gas & power demand – Demand declined more than 10% in 2022 vs 2021, with the biggest declines focused in Q4. A mild winter definitely helped, but there has also been evidence of genuine demand destruction due to high prices, as well as shifts in consumer behavioural patterns with a drive to be more energy efficient.
- Record European LNG imports – European LNG imports were up 74% in 2022 vs 2021, and this went a long way towards making up for the 2022 drop off in Russian pipeline supply volumes. As Europe entered the winter, storage inventories sat at over 83% full, and a milder winter meant the network was oversupplied for the winter.
- Weak Asian LNG demand – At the same time, Europe's surging LNG imports were supported by a substantial reduction in Asian LNG demand in 2022, which declined 8% in 2022 vs 2021. This was a major factor allowing incremental LNG volumes to flow into Europe.

Following this unexpected drop off in wholesale prices at the beginning of 2023, energy markets stabilised and have remained relatively consistent throughout the year, with energy prices fluctuating around 30-35p/kWh for electricity and around 7-9p/kWh for gas. As we head into winter 2023, it is quite possible that wholesale costs will start to increase as seasonal demand picks up.

## Energy Focus: What is Green Gas?

In addition to standard carbon-offset gas contracts, Green Journey can also offer churches a greener alternative for gas, which many consider to be a cleaner and more sustainable alternative to its fossil fuel equivalent.

Green Gas is produced through a process called anaerobic digestion, whereby a range of organic materials (feedstocks), food residues and landfill gases are broken down using bacteria to create Biomethane. Biomethane is a gas with similar characteristics to its fossil fuel equivalent, and once purified, it can be added to the gas network and used as a substitute for natural gas.

Every kWh of green gas is tracked from production through to consumption. Suppliers will sell Renewable Gas Guarantee of Origins (RGGO's) for the amount of gas they retire on your behalf and the process is governed by The Green Gas Certification Scheme. When making the commitment to go green, you will also receive a certificate showing the amount of green gas credits that have been retired and you can also see extra details regarding the green gas you have purchased, such as production date and method.

There are many benefits to using Biogas as an alternative to conventional gas. Not only does it reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, but it is virtually carbon neutral too. Rather than compensating for high-carbon fossil fuels by offsetting, Biogas will actually reduce emissions. In addition to this, production and consumption of Biogas also supports British farmers and Green Gas producers in the UK. The process of creating green gas is completely renewable & sustainable and opting for green gas on your next contract is a great way to promote your good stewardship at church and show your care and commitment to the environment.

Crown Gas & Power (who supply most of our church gas through Green Journey) offer a range of 25%, 50% or 100% green gas contracts, allowing churches to transition from carbon-offset gas to a renewable alternative, whilst keeping an eye on their budget at the same time. If you would like to consider upgrading to green gas, then please contact your account manager using the details below.

## Church of England Environment News

### Church of England invests GBP 30m in kickstarting net zero plans

Thousands of churches, cathedrals, schools and clergy houses in England will benefit from the first phase of grants and projects worth £30 million, as part of the Church of England's ambitious plan to achieve net zero by 2030. The aim is to support the Church in reducing carbon emissions from the energy used in churches, schools, cathedrals, houses and other buildings, saving money by improving the energy efficiency of buildings, and switching to cheaper, more reliable, renewable energy sources.

[Read More](#)



### Green Journey sponsor the 2024 Church Times Green Church Awards

Green Journey are delighted to be sponsoring two of the award categories at the 2024 Church Times Green Church Awards. This year there are seven categories that you can enter, from the Green Building Award to the Action on a Shoestring Award.

Join us to celebrate the remarkable efforts made in recent years by individuals and congregations to offset the damage being done to the earth, and to set good examples before others who might be inspired to follow suit.

[Read More](#)

### Diocese of Leeds pilots a match-funding project from the Church of England

The Church of England's 'Give to Go Green' scheme is helping churches in the Diocese of Leeds fund carbon cutting projects. Give To Go Green is a match-funding pilot project from the Church of England working with churches in the Dioceses of Leeds and Exeter to double locally raised donations, to allow for more work on reducing carbon emissions. Churches will be able to engage their community in building a sustainable future for their Church and the world around them.

[Read More](#)



The CofE have a number of webinars you can access on becoming a Net Zero Carbon Church and Diocese, along with helpful tools and information to assist you on your journey. Explore the kinds of changes that can help your church, along with a short guidance note which summarises all the key actions you can take. Click [here](#) to find out more.

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## Your Energy Account Manager

As always, if you have any energy or account related queries, please contact your dedicated account manager on the below details.

Craig Hogg

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