

# **ST. GILES CHURCH**

## **NORWICH CHURCHES**

### **Solar Site Planning and the History of Sanctuary Orientation**

The word “orientation” means facing East. Church buildings traditionally have been orientated to face the rising sun, in line with the sunrise on patronal feast days.

The guiding tradition of associating Christ’s entrance into the world with morning light entering the sanctuary end of the church has been followed, either consciously or simply by architectural habit.

The aim of all these east-facing buildings was to connect users to God’s earth, yet many Christians are unaware of the connection between the lunar cycle and the Easter season, or the relationship between the daily office and the sun. Similarly, many people cannot describe the direction in which the moon waxes and wanes, or have any idea of its current phase, or are able to distinguish between a planet and a star in the night sky.

From a pragmatic point of view, the site location of all churches makes it possible to adopt solar technology with ease and without the need for planning consent from any local authority.

*Many apocalyptic tales have been told across the ages. They have often been fabricated and told for reasons of religious control and/or moral instruction.*

*What Climate Science informs us is that for each 1°C increase in global temperature we can expect 2 metres in sea-level rise.*

*Tackling climate change is clearly our very last opportunity to discover how mankind can apply the best theological, philosophical and political belief systems.*