

March 2021

# PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

Welcome to the March edition of Property Matters with a focus on updates on guidance during the Covid-19 pandemic. If you have any feedback, please email the [Property Support Team](#).

## Property and Mission

We are pleased to announce the launch of the [Strategic Guidance for the Use of Property in Mission](#). Drawing on the successes and lessons learned, this new guidance sets out key priorities to enable effective use of property for mission across the Connexion. [Click here to read more.](#)



The Poole Methodist Church is a good example of an innovative approach in the use of property and partnerships to fulfil the Calling of the Church. [Click here to find out more.](#)

## Covid-19 Updates

Although the announcement was made for the roadmap out of lockdown in England, the guidance for churches has not changed because churches have been allowed to remain open during this latest lockdown. Thus, the guidance listed on the [Coronavirus Guidance for Property](#) page is



current until the government makes changes to guidance for the [Safe Use of Places of Worship](#) or the [Safe Use of Multi-Purpose Facilities](#).

However, the guidance for [Out of School Settings](#) has been updated, which may impact some churches. From 8 March 2021, providers should only offer indoor and outdoor face-to-face provision for:

- Vulnerable children and young people
- Reasonably necessary to enable their parents and carers to work, search for work, undertake education or training, or attend a medical appointment or address a medical need, or attend a support group
- Being used by electively home educating parents as part of their existing arrangements for their child to receive a suitable full-time education
- Being used as part of their efforts to obtain a regulated qualification, meet the entry requirements for an education institution, or to undertake exams and assessments

Please note this is for England only and please check the websites for [Scotland](#), [Wales](#), [Isle of Man](#) and the Channel Islands ([Guernsey](#) & [Jersey](#)).

## Methodist Insurance Update

### Electrical Wiring

Church fires can frequently be attributed to faulty or ageing wiring so regular inspections are vital.

Fixed electrical systems should be inspected and tested, at least every five years, by a qualified electrician. There is no statutory frequency for inspection and testing



of portable appliances. Instead the frequency should reflect the risk of the appliance causing damage or injury and this increases with the amount the appliance is used and the harshness of the working environment. [Click here to find out more.](#)

### **Show your community how they can donate**

Our [fundraising hub](#) is designed to give churches inspiration and support with fundraising. You'll find a range of resources to help with your fundraising efforts including our template poster to help remind your local community how they can support your church. [Click here to download the poster.](#)

### **Home insurance for church officials**

Did you know Methodist church officials receive our enhanced home insurance cover at no additional cost? Our Home Shield policy provides additional cover for the work you do on behalf of the church. Call the team on [0345 606 1331](#) or find out more by visiting our website. [Find out what's covered.](#)

### **Reducing slips and trips**

Bad weather can cause more slip and trip hazards than usual. Storms can cause debris to fall on pathways and ice and snow often create slippery surfaces. You can follow our top tips or read our in-depth guidance to reduce the risks at your church. [More on slips and trips.](#)

### **Could Methodist Grants funding help your church make a big difference?**

In the latest round of funding under the Methodist Grants programme, [13 Methodist churches](#) benefited from a total of £326,500 to run inspiring projects which will respond to urgent community need and set the foundations for a promising future. [Find out more about the grants available.](#)

### **Follow us on Facebook**

We share guidance, updates and announcements on our Facebook page. Follow us to stay up-to-date on the latest from Methodist Insurance. [Click here to follow us.](#)

# Asbestos Inspections

It is a legal requirement that the Managing Trustees have a “duty to manage” any risk from asbestos in church buildings and any other non-domestic premises.



Part of the requirement in managing the risk includes periodically reviewing and monitoring the plan. As well, **the asbestos should be checked regularly, between every 6 months to 1 year depending on the type and location**, in order to ensure that the arrangements and the condition of asbestos remain safe. More information can be found in the the [HSE Guide to Managing Asbestos](#) and the [Maintenance](#) page of our website.

# VAT Reclaim for Listed Places of Worship

The Government has [announced](#) that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be renewed this year, operating on the same terms as previously. This is the scheme which allows listed places of worship to claim a sum equal to VAT which has been paid on repairs and alterations. The scheme has been extended to March 2021. [Click here to read more.](#)



# Covid-19 Funding

For more information about possible funding that is available for charities during the COVID-19 pandemic, [click here](#). There is a list of 200+ sources of charity funding that you can download as well as the Architectural Heritage Fund has a useful guide to support available to charities and social enterprises during COVID-19.



## Managing Trustees Training Session

Following the workshop “Methodist Property: how to streamline transactions and improve efficiency” which took place on Thursday 4th February 2021, the PowerPoint presentation slides and a recording of the presentation are now available.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



## Homelessness and Housing Gathering

A Zoom Gathering will take place on **Friday 19 March 11 am and 12.30 pm** hosted by Rev'd Ian Rutherford (Manchester) and Mike Long (London).

There will be updates on actions by the Working Group on Housing, a report on lobbying in conjunction with Citizens UK, current developments in community led housing and an interactive session on the need for work on homelessness prevention. Please [click here to send an email](#) to Revd Ian Rutherford for the Zoom link to join the Gathering.



## Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- **22 March 2021**- Deadline for papers - 26 February 2021

**Property Matters** is a monthly newsletter focused on giving updates on property related guidance and legislation as well as providing information and links to related subjects. We cannot know about everything that's going on, so please do [email us](#) if you have any feedback or ideas for items to include.

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