



**Methodists in many places are considering the future of their buildings. This short guide provides an overview of the options.**

Consideration of what is the right option for your church needs to involve:

**Consultation with church members and a review of what resources you have both in terms of people and finance.**

**Consultation with people who use your building and the wider community, including community groups and the local authority. Sometimes this consultation is the start of new relationships, that can breathe new life into your mission.**

**Collecting information about the building. Sometimes this will involve commissioning a new Quinquennial Inspection, reviewing maintenance expenditure or a valuation report called a Designated Advisor Report.**

**Considering your church building's role in the context of your circuit. Talk to your minister about how your church building can best contribute to a future for Methodism in your local area.**

## What are your options?

### Keeping your building

If the church wants to keep its building, you need to have a mission plan about how you can grow and reach out to the local community.

Information on how to write a mission plan can be found at:

**[methodist.org.uk/MissionPlanning](http://methodist.org.uk/MissionPlanning)**

If the church building is in the right location and has the potential to meet the needs of its members and the community but has maintenance issues, or the church could do more mission work if facilities were improved or the layout changed, think about a building project.

Information on property development can be found at: **[methodist.org.uk/Property](http://methodist.org.uk/Property)**

**Do not wait until you have improved your building to start on mission.**

Your church can apply for grants for maintenance, not just big development projects.

If the church building is too big for the church members, consider the following options:

- ⇒ Selling part of the site and using the funds to modernise the part you retain.
- ⇒ Working with local community groups to transform the building into a community hub, while still retaining Methodist use of the building.
- ⇒ Sharing your building with other denominations.
- ⇒ Working with Methodist fellowships and congregations who worship in other languages.

**If your building is in a strategically important location, for example a town centre or new housing development, speak to the circuit about New Places for New People, the church replant programme. The existing congregation can still worship in the building.**

**If your building is a historic place of worship or in a rural area there may be local interest in helping to fundraise and look after it. There may also be the possibility to generate income from tourism.**

## Selling the building

Sometimes selling a Methodist building is the right thing to do.

**A Methodist church is the people, not the building.**

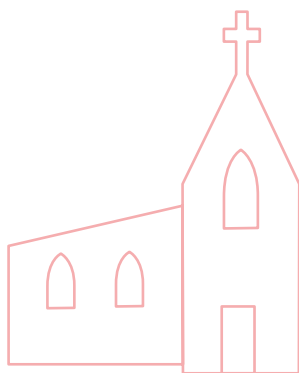
Churches can rent rooms in community buildings for worship and fellowships can also meet in people's homes or cafés.

The use of social media can also help members stay connected.

A Methodist church may also decide to merge with neighbouring Methodist churches or become a class in another church.

You can also buy a new building that meets your needs better in terms of size, condition and location.

If a place has several Methodist churches, coming together and selling the buildings that there is no need for may be a better way of securing and investing in a shared Methodist future.



## Is there information for our church to consider its options?

Yes, visit [methodist.org.uk](https://methodist.org.uk) for a range of resources to help you including:

- ⇒ Community Audits
- ⇒ Mission Planning
- ⇒ Property Development Projects
- ⇒ Connexional Feasibility Grants
- ⇒ Conservation

Guidance on sales, leases, development projects and sharing your building can be found at: [tmcp.org.uk](https://tmcp.org.uk)

## Can we speak to someone about our options?

Email [property@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:property@methodistchurch.org.uk) to arrange a call to discuss your options. The earlier you get in contact the more options there may be available, particularly if you want to keep your building open.

You can also contact Evangelism & Growth ([evangelism@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:evangelism@methodistchurch.org.uk)) and your District Property Secretary.

If you would like to request this resource in an alternative format, please contact us to discuss your needs at [publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:publishing@methodistchurch.org.uk)

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# What should we do with our building?

## A short guide to your options

The **Methodist Church** 