August 2025

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church

Welcome to this month's edition of Property Matters
For the latest property guidance, please refer to the Property pages.
Meet the Property Support Team

Meet the Team Profile Series

Meet our **Conservation Administrator** - **Jean Haynes**

1. Can you share a bit about your background?

I have worked for the Connexional Team for a long time and am considered by my colleagues to be a fount of all knowledge. I am able to recall information from the last 40 years and have good memories of some well-known Methodist Ministers that have held senior positions over the last forty years. I have held a number of roles, largely within Property, over this time.

2. What is your role within the Connexional Team and what are you most excited about in your role?

I wouldn't like to say how long I have been working at the Church! A long time! I am currently helping the Connexional Conservation Officer and am employed as the Conservation Administrator. I enjoy being asked questions about past decisions and researching old records as well as explaining why things are done the way they are done!

3. What's the most unusual job/most interesting project you've ever worked on?

I enjoy learning new things but have done some important projects over the years, such as charity commission registration – which was a lengthy and exhaustive project. In order to learn about the work of the Conservation Officer I have been on training courses on cast iron and the use of lime mortar – you're never too old to learn new things!

4. If you could have any superpower what would it be and why?

I don't feel the need to have a superpower as I am happy as I am.

5. What's your most favourite way to unwind after a busy day at work?

I love reading, knitting and spending time with my family, especially my grandchildren – who are growing up too quickly, but handily can now taxi me around, rather than vice versa.

To contact the Conservation Team, please click here to submit your enquiry and a member of the team will be in touch.

Action For Hope Corner

This section of Property Matters is where we share news, resources and events linked to Action for Hope and our commitment to care for creation.

England's Community Forests

There are 15 community forest projects across England, working with landowners to plan and plant new woodlands. Many of the areas cover towns and cities, so don't let the forest title put you off- small pockets of land around your church may also be suitable, as they can act as habitat corridors.

The aims of the forests are to support regeneration and growth, support local communities and create better places. There are benefits for people, such as improving mental and physical health, as well as for nature and the climate.

You can find out more about the 15 different forests here, and learn more about the project as a whole here.

Replacement Projects Criteria

A reminder that the new Replacement Projects Criteria will come into effect on **1 September**. Projects developing existing buildings in response to the Net Zero target are now included, recognising environmental considerations as a missional driver. You can read the new criteria here, and information on the existing Replacement Projects criteria can be found in the Property A-Z.

Case Studies

Summerbridge and Lancaster Methodist Churches have recently shared their experiences of installing solar panels. You can read Summerbridge's here and Lancaster's here. If you'd like to share your net zero work, whether that's solar panels or insulation, heat pumps or LEDs, please get in touch with Anna.

As always, a reminder you can find more about Action for Hope here, guidance on getting your building down to net zero here, and you can contact Anna here for net zero support and guidance.

Inspiration from Yorkshire

A Revolutionised Approach to Church Regeneration

Newmillerdam Methodist Church employed a very audacious approach to church regeneration in the transformation into the Lakeside Creative Arts Centre by embracing artistic activities was able to gain a new space in the community.

Click here to read the entire story

We would love to share your Story?

Is something brewing in your church, circuit or district, we would love to share your Story so please get in touch – no project is too big or small. Sharing your project experience will help encourage other churches who are thinking of embarking on a similar journey.
Please click here to access the questionnaire that will help you write your story.

Funding Opportunities

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme Applications now Open
The scheme gives grants for repairs of over £1000 to listed buildings used as places of worship. Applicants can submit one claim in any 12-momth period that is more than £2500 but less than £1000.

Applicants can apply directly via the website. Click here for more information and to apply.

Heritage Funding Directory – Refreshed and Now Live
This directory is a valued and trusted heritage funding resource. From grants for conservation projects to community heritage initiatives, or organisational development, this resource shows how to unlock new funding possibilities and expand your reach.

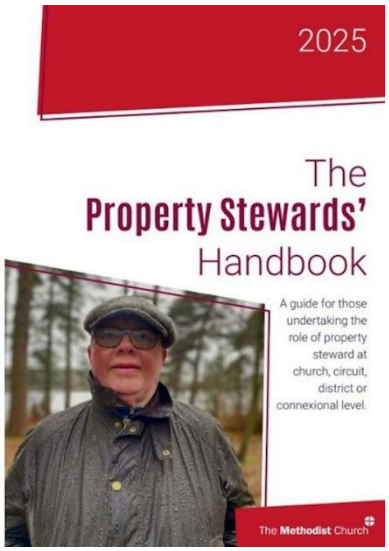
Click here to access the directory

Important Reminders & Useful Resources

Property Steward's Handbook - Updated

Just a gentle reminder that the Property Steward's Handbook has been updated and a 2025 edition is now available to download on the Methodist Church Website.

Click here to access and download the PDF version of the handbook



Methodist Insurance August E-News
(Sponsored Content)

This month, Methodist Insurance share with us their newly redesigned website, offering a fresh look and improved navigation, making it easier to find the information you need.

They also have articles giving timely guidance on key safety topics: ensuring precautions are in place when working at height and the legal requirement for churches to carry out a Fire Risk Assessment - something not to delay if it hasn't yet been done.

Finally, for those planning community activities, it's worth looking at their summer fundraising guide, full of ideas to help churches engage and raise support during the holidays.

Click here to access the E-news content.

Have you Registered?

Exploring Digital Lunchtime Learning

The Methodist Church Digital Training Exploring Digital Lunchtime Learning is back.

Join the team we they dive into the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) exploring the place of AI in life and ministry.

Date of Next Session – **Wednesday, 27th August 2025**

Topic: **AI and the Environmental Impact**

Time: **12noon – 1pm**

Venue: **Online**

Click here to register your attendance

Wholehearted Monthly

Hosted by The Methodist Church in Britain and open to all, the **Wholehearted Monthly** Sessions are back from next month.

As our children and young people go back to school, the special guests for September and October's main sessions will be **Jazz Ampaw-Farr** and **Steve Chalke** respectively – both are passionate advocates for children and young people so be sure not to miss out.

Click here to register your attendance.

Interesting (and Inspirational) Reads

100 Gold Eco Churches

On the 30th of June 2025, A Rocha UK saw the 100th church achieve an impressive Eco Church Gold Award! St Francis Church in High Heaton, Newcastle was the 100tth Church to receive this award.

Hard work, prayer and committed action is the story behind all of the 100 churches with this aware and St Francis Church in High Heaton was no exception.

Click here to read their story on the A Rocha UK website.

Pipe Organs and the Building Environment

This article on the effects of the building environment on pipe organs may interest those considering what measures to implement to reduce their carbon footprint. This guidance offers practical guidance on environmental management both for the building and the organ.

We hope you find it interesting and useful.

Please do remember to contact the Methodist Church's Organ Advisory Service with your organ related queries.

The guidance can be found here: The Building Conservation Directory 2025

Create a Community Space in your Church with Books

Thinking of how to engage with your community as a church? How about a starting book bank? Mildmay St Jude & St Paul's Church, in North London, created a Book Bank to run alongside its food bank and this has created a great sense of community within the church building.

Click here to read the entire story of how it all started on the **National Church's Trust** blog page. The article also has useful tips on the things to look out for if you want to start your own community book bank.

Listed Building Advisory Committee (LBAC)

Meeting Dates:

- **14 October 2025 -** Deadline for paper is 23rd September 2025
- **20 January 2026 -** Deadline for paper is 20th January 2026

Property Matters is a monthly newsletter focused on giving updates on property related guidance and legal updates as well as providing information and links to related subjects. To view the most current content, please refer to the Property pages on the Methodist Church website. 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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