February 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

Following Stephen's message in last month's edition of Property Matters, the next 9 editions of this newsletter will feature the **'Meet the Team Profile Series'** where you will be introduced to the Property Team.

Kicking-off the series is our new **Net Zero Property Officer** - **Anna Newlove**

1. Can you share a bit about your background?
Before starting with the Connexional Team, I worked for the Diocese of Carlisle as their Pastoral and Net Zero Officer.
I supported the work to reduce carbon emissions across churches, church schools, vicarages, Carlisle Cathedral, offices and from staff travel.

I started working on net zero following my MSc in Wildlife Biology and Conservation- reducing carbon emissions has a real, measurable impact on limiting both the climate and biodiversity crises, and this work is a way for me to be a part of that, while also reflecting my Christian faith and care for creation.

2. What is your role within the Connexional Team and what are you most excited about in your role?
I'm the Net Zero Property Officer. As this is a new role in the Connexional Team, I'm excited to shape it but also to hear about what excellent work churches are already doing. If you've got a story to share about your church, please share it in

the Net Zero Survey. The survey is a chance to request resources and share concerns, as well as suggesting case studies, so please do take the time to fill it in. Your answers will help shape my work over the coming months. I'm also excited to see what 2030 looks like! My hope is that every church will have taken ownership of the net zero target and done what works for them- for some that might be a full retrofit of the building, for others it might be making their current system as energy efficient as possible.
I'm here to support you in this target, so please do get in touch.

3. What's the most unusual job/most interesting project you've ever worked on?
I think my most unusual job was as Technician for the Field Studies Council. I know that doesn't sound that unusual but people tend to be quite surprised when they realise this meant I lived and worked on a Scottish island for two and a half years!
I worked with school and university groups coming to the centre for field work and learnt a lot from my time there- mainly, there's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing. I was very grateful for good waterproofs!

4. If you could have any superpower what would it be and why?
Teleportation. I try to avoid flying (both to reduce my carbon footprint and because I don't enjoy it!) but there are lots of places I would love to visit, so being able to get there instantly would be the perfect way around the flight problem.

5. What's your most favourite way to unwind after a busy day at work?
Getting outside for a walk with my dog. Within a few minutes of leaving my house, I can be walking through fields by a river and it's a great way to relax and help my brain stop whirring!

Click here to contact Anna directly for all your Net Zero related enquiries.

A little Inspiration from Aberdeen

Open House – offering a Lifeline Five Days a Week in Aberdeen

Started back in 2020, Open House in the Scottish Methodist District (offering a Warm Space with cold and warm food, is a unique initiative in Great Britain, offering warmth and food five days a week) is a warm space that was established before the Warm Spaces initiative was born.

Click here to read about the initiative, how it all started and the plans for the future from the volunteers who make it happen each day.

Do you have an Inspiration Story to share?

We are looking for more Property Project Inspiration Stories to share from around (and outside) the Connexion. It can be anything from replacing the flooring of a church hall, renovating a church building, building a brand new structure, installing a community garden or re-purposing a current building – no project is too big or small.

Sharing your project experience and the lessons learnt along the way will help encourage other churches who are thinking of embarking on a similar journey.

We have put together a quick questionnaire that will help you to write your inspiration story.

Please click here to access the questionnaire.

Upcoming Events - Have You Registered?

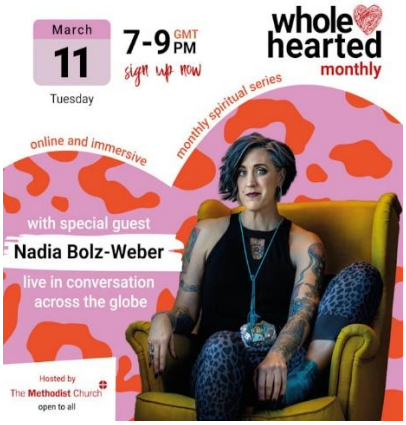
Methodist Homelessness and Housing Gathering Event

The In-Person Methodist Homelessness and Housing Gathering event is less than two weeks away and we are looking forward to hosting you.

Date: **Thursday 27th February 2025**
Venue: **The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX**
Time: **10am - 3.30pm** (Registration & Networking from 10am - 11am)

Tickets are selling fast so click here to get your FREE ticket today!

Wholehearted Monthly



We are very excited to announce that the Property Support team will be running a break-out session as part of the new Wholehearted Monthly online series **hosted by The Methodist Church in Britain and open to all.**

What is wholehearted monthly? Think community organising rally meets immersive spiritual laboratory.

It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between 'Church' and 'World' — and a desire for both to flourish. Each month will feature testimony from local innovators, input from a renowned guest speaker, and wisdom-sharing in networks around Gospel justice, inclusion, evangelism, and growth.

The first three confirmed speakers are **Nadia Bolz-Weber**, **Rowan Williams** and **Chine McDonald**.

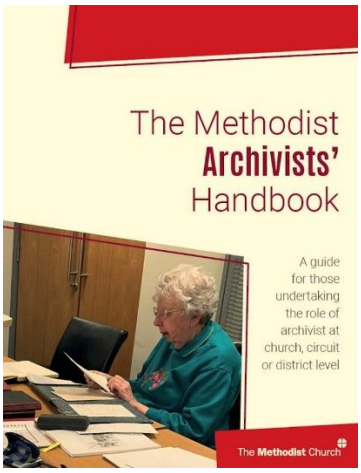
The Property Support team's breakout space will be called **A Space(ious) Place**, a play on the words of Psalms 19 v 18 (NIVUK) - *'He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.*' We will be

encouraging the thinking of property in terms of **Space-shaping** and **Place-making**. It will be a time together in a safe, open and free space to hear, share, discuss and be inspired on themes which focus on property and land, people and community. How we use it presently, and how might we use it in the future? How could it be a tool for mission and community, income and growth?

We will invite people to be free to step outside the 'literal walls that confine us', into a wide-open space, reminding ourselves that in Christ, there is freedom, there is freshness, there is an infinitely wide ground to stand on - there is a **'Spacious Place'.**

Date: **2nd Tuesday of each month (starting 11th March 2025)**
Time: **7pm – 9pm**
Venue: **Online**
Click **here**to register your attendance (*spaces filling up fast so register now*)

Archivists' Handbook Launch



Calling all Administrators and Archivists!

Join us for a special celebration of the work and contribution of volunteers and staff of the Methodist Church working to care for the records
of the Church for the future.

Marking the launch of the new Methodist Archivists' Handbook - join us for presentations, lunch and cake.

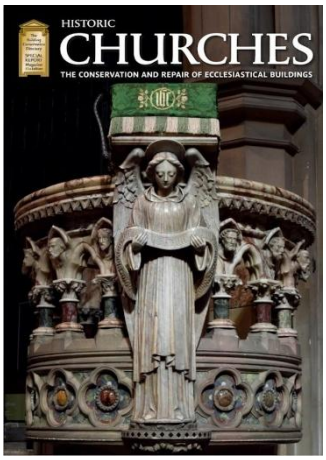
Date: **Wednesday, 12th March 2025**
Venue: **Manchester Central Library**
Time: **11am – 3pm**
RSVP: **archives@methodistchurch.org.uk** (***by Wednesday 26th February, 2025***)

Interesting Reads

Magazine - Historic Churches

This 31st Edition of Historic Churches magazine features articles on church closures, why church doors should be kept open, grant aids and much more

Click here to access the magazine.



INFORM Guide - Damp Gables

This publication from Historic Environment Scotland outlines the symptoms, likely causes, and repair options when penetrating damp is identified in the gable walls and chimneys of a traditional building.

Click here to read the full publication.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Important Reminders & Updates

TMCP - The 2025 Annual Data Protection Checklist

TMCP would like to remind managing trustees that it is the time of the year when they should be thinking about submitting their **Data Protection Annual Checklist to their Districts.**

As with previous years the **deadline for submission of the Annual Checklist remains 31st May 2025.**

Please here to for the full update.

Gov.UK - The VAT Refund Scheme

The UK Government released a Press Release on Wednesday, 22nd January 2025 concerning the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

The scheme has been extended for a further one year from March 2025 with a cap of £25k per place of worship.

Click here to read the full release.
Click here to read the National Churches Trust summary of the update.

Methodist Insurance - Risk Calendar

We are in the 2nd month of the New Year and it's a good time to start drawing up your 2025 maintenance schedule for your Church.

The Methodist Insurance Risk Calendar has key dates throughout the year that you can use as a guide to help you conduct your risk assessments and plan maintenance works as necessary/required.
Click here to access the calendar.

Funding Opportunity

Energy Resilience Fund (ERF)

This fund provides a blended funding package of loan (60%) and grant (40%) to bolster the energy resilience of eligible charities and social enterprises in England. Energy Audits are covered under this funding.

The Fund is delivered by a partnership made up of Social Investment Business, Big Issue Invest, Charity Bank, Co-operative and Community Finance, Groundwork UK, Key Fund, Resonance Ltd, The Architectural Heritage Fund, and The Ubele Initiative. For more information and how to apply, click here

Listed Building Advisory Committee (LBAC)

Meeting Dates:

- **29 April 2025** - Deadline for paper is 8 April 2025
- **15 July 2025** - Deadline for paper is 24 June 2025
- **14 October 2025**
- **20 January 2026**

Supporting the Methodist Connexion

Methodist Insurance has been protecting the property of the Methodist Church since 1872. We are a Public Limited Company owned by shareholders and independent of the Methodist Church. The company operates like a mutual by returning most of our profits back to our community in the form of a significant financial contribution to the Methodist Connexion. Find out more.

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