January 2025

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church

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

Welcome to the first Property Matters of 2025 and Happy New Year from all of us in the Connexional Property Support team.

At the start of this year we wanted to introduce you to new colleagues in the team, and reintroduce you to some of us who have been with the team for a little while, as we meet the increasing demand for our help and support on a variety of property matters. Our support is available to everyone across the Connexion nationally to enable the Methodist Church to fulfil Our Calling to be an inclusive, justice seeking, evangelistic, and growing church through the effective and sustainable use our properties.

Through these changes, we are further engaging with all those interested in and responsible for Methodist Church properties through implementing the Church's Strategic Guidance for the Use of Property in Mission.

I am **Stephen Hetherington**, Director of the Property Support team and have been with the Connexional team for 5 years, and work closely with **Joanne**

Balmforth as the Connexional Conservation Officer who has been in her role for over 12 years. She is ably assisted by **Jean Haynes** as the Conservation Administrator.

We are now joined by **Ayeshea Stapleton-Forde** and **Daniel Hekel** as Property Support Administrator and Property Resources Officer respectively, the two new members of our office based team in London.

Alongside these, we have our nationally based property support team who provide direct support to trustees in the circuits and districts. **Charlotte Betts** our current Property Development Manager is now joined by **Andrew Hornsby** and **Nathan Green** as our new Property Development & Asset Managers.

We are also being supported by **Anna Newlove** as the new Connexional Net Zero Property Officer, who is working with **Hamish Leese** the Director of Environmental Engagement on helping the Methodist Church achieve its net zero 2030 target for property. Anna will be writing articles for forthcoming Property Matters and saying a little more about her role.

Over the coming months, we will profile all our team colleagues in more detail. For now though, we are pleased to let you know that we have an increased mix of skills and knowledge in the team, to provide property support in so many different ways, so if we can be of help to you, please get in touch with us at property@methodistchurch.org.uk

Once again, a very Happy New Year and we look forward to hearing from some of you over the coming months.

Stephen Hetherington – Director of Property Support
January 2024

Registration is now Open

Methodist Homelessness and Housing Gathering Event

The In-Person Methodist Homelessness and Housing Gathering event is coming your way next month and we are looking forward to hosting you all.

Date: **Thursday 27th February 2025**
Venue: **The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX**
Time: **11am - 3.30pm**

More information about the event and to register, please click here

REMINDER

The next LBAC Meeting Date is 21 January 2025

Upcoming Free Training Events

Advanced Canva Training

The Methodist Church is delighted to be working with Hannah Fleming- Hill from HF Digital who will be facilitating this series of learning opportunities about Canva.

Join us for this **ADVANCED** session about Canva - the easy to use design tool perfect for creating beautiful and engaging content.

Dates: **21st January 2025 (Tuesday Evening)**
Time: **7pm - 8:15pm**
Location: **Online**
Click here for more information and to register for the course.

Tax Issues on Trading for Churches

“Is your church aware of the hidden complexities in tax laws that might impact its trading activities?” This course gives insights into the complexities of tax laws affecting church trading activities. This course, hosted by ACAT is designed for church treasurers, trustees, finance managers, and anyone involved in managing church finances, especially if your church trades or is thinking of trading.

Dates: **Thursday, 23rd January 2025**
Time: **6.00pm - 9.00pm**
Location: **Online via Zoom**
Click herefor more information and to register for the course

Essential Reads

How to Protect Your Old Building From Winter Weather

Regular checks and maintenance tasks can make a huge difference to a building’s condition, lifespan, and energy efficiency.
S.P.A.B has put together tips and useful advice on how to take care of old buildings during the cold weather.

Click here to access the article.

The Net Zero Challenges of Retrofitting our Historic Buildings

Solutions encouraged by government retrofit grant schemes, such as wall insulation and double glazing, are often unsuitable for older buildings.

It is hoped that the consultation which was announced in December 2024 will pave the way for improving the energy performance of a wider range of building types as it is widely accepted that the

current Energy Performance Certificate regime lacks the nuance needed to provide sound advice for improving the energy performance of older properties.

Click here to read the full Blog post on this topic

Important Information from BT

UK landlines are going Digital and all calls will be moved from the current analogue system to a new digital network called **Digital Voice**.

The deadline for this move is January 2027. For more details about this programme and all the relevant Government/Ofcom links and timeline information, 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

Methodist Insurance E-news

Kick-Start Your 2025 Fundraising Plans

Fundraising is front of mind for many churches, but finding the time to wrap your head around the logistics can be tricky.

Having a clear vision and structured approach can set you up for success, so we broke the process down into small chunks to make it all a bit easier to digest.

Church fundraising

Not Sure Where To Start With Risk Management?

Use our church risk calendar to start tackling relevant risks month by month.

Each topic has links to guides and templates to help manage the risk. Customers are also supported by our Risk Advice Line, a direct line to our expert risk team for any queries.

Download our updated risk calendar

Tackling trees

Trees can present hazards as they age.

From unruly roots to broken branches, read our guidance to understand your responsibilities when managing trees at your church.

Managing Trees

Making Home Insurance Count

When you take out a new buildings or contents policy with Methodist Insurance, we'll make it count by giving 20% of your first year's premium as a donation to a church or charity of your choice. In doing so your home insurance policy not only protects your home but it also supports the Methodist community. Terms and conditions apply

Learn more about home insurance

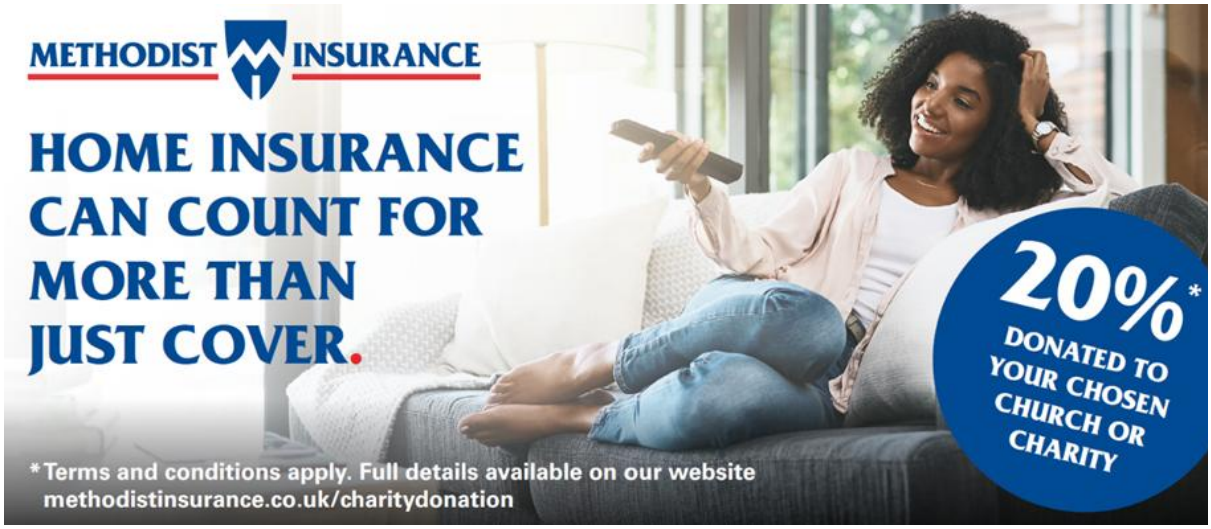
Funding to Support your Church this New Year

The new year is a great opportunity to evaluate what your church is doing, and what projects you might need support for in the coming year. Benefact Trust's Methodist Grants Programme, funded primarily by donations from Methodist Insurance PLC, seeks to enhance the mission and ministry of the Methodist Church in the UK and Ireland.

The programme provides grants to Methodist churches to run building development projects that focus on church growth (both numerically and spiritually), community engagement and improving accessibility. Grants are also available for repair and maintenance projects that are essential for the ongoing mission and ministry of an organisation.

See the latest projects to receive funding

Find out more about this grants programme



Methodist Insurance PLC (MIC) Reg. No. 6369. Registered in England at Benefact House, 2000 Pioneer Avenue, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4AW, United Kingdom. MIC is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Firm Reference Number 136423.

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.

Methodist Church House, 25 Tavistock Place Road, London, WC1H 9SF 020 7486 5502
methodist.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1132208

Unsubscribe
Subscribe to other newsletters
Change your details
Click here for a PDF version