March 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 **Property Development Officer** - **Charlotte Betts**

1. Can you share a bit about your background?

I have worked in the charity sector for most of my professional career, focusing on housing. I was the head of housing for a large learning disabilities charity for 13 years. I worked with local authorities, housing associations and developers to help people with learning disabilities and/or autism have homes of their own.

I had never thought about working for the church. My path to working for the church began on a very hot day in Leicester. Having arrived early for a property handover, I drove round to find the local co-op to buy an ice cream and came upon a Methodist chapel for sale. I immediately thought what a fantastic location for supported housing - with the number of chapels the church is selling, there is a huge opportunity for the church to leave a legacy of good. When I got home, I typed in Methodist and Property into LinkedIn and found Stephen Hetherington, the Director of Property Support.

I wasn't looking for a job but when Steve mentioned the church was looking for someone to join the property team, I thought this may be my time to serve.

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

I joined the team two years ago. The thing that has been most excited to me is all those Methodists I meet doing amazing things in their buildings, having overcome significant barriers and challenges. Working in property where the motivating factor for many of the people I met was money, it has been an absolute joy to meet people whose motivation is to do good and serve their communities.

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

I used to have to make sure properties were developed to meet the requirements of disabled people with complex needs. I had to think of ways to make living environments safe but also minimise risks around damage and violence. It was a challenge to stop properties being made to look like secure units and having being brought up to believe that everyone is of equal value, I was always happy to advocate for disabled people. I used to say to contractors and architects fairly regularly 'if you would not have this in your own home, it's not going in here'. Another thing I love about my job in the church is that I help churches design spaces where factors like beauty, invite, inclusion and hospitality are at the fore front.

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

I think faith is a super power. I have certainly seen managing trustees move mountains!

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

After a busy day, I like to listen to a podcast, usually history to unwind. If I have been out on site, and its been cold, I will unwind with a hot chocolate.

Click here to contact Charlotte directly for property development related enquiries.

How Can the Property Team Help?

Are you a Methodist Church Managing Trustee with involvement in Property related matters? Do you have a question that you would like the Property Support Team to help you with?

If so, please click here to submit your enquiry and a member of the team will be in touch.

REMINDER

Submission Deadline for LBAC Papers is the 8th of April

Methodist Housing & Homelessness Gathering - A Short Reflection

It was lovely to meet up with Methodists from across the country in Birmingham at the Housing and Homelessness Gathering. So many of the people who attended are really enthusiastic about how the Church can work with housing associations to use Methodist buildings to provide housing.

Revd Ian Rutherford welcomed everyone and facilitated people sharing what was happening in their local areas in relation to housing and homelessness. **Rachel Lampard,** Director of Social Justice spoke about the connection between housing and the church's commitment to social justice. **Revd Mike Long** discussed the theology of housing and why Methodists should be involved in tackling the housing and homelessness crisis as part of our mission.

In the afternoon, we had workshops where people shared information and ideas on using Methodist buildings for housing, campaigning on homelessness and funding advice and information services.

Click here if you would like information or support on how to use your building for housing.

A little Inspiration from Lancashire

Committed to Going Green

Kirkham Methodist Church in Lancashire is making significant strides towards sustainability as part of its commitment to becoming an Eco Church.

Their efforts extend beyond the building itself.
They have created a small outdoor space with wildflowers, a bug hotel, planted trees and made a conscious choice in terms of energy.

Click here to read about the practical steps Kirkham Methodist Church is doing towards going green.

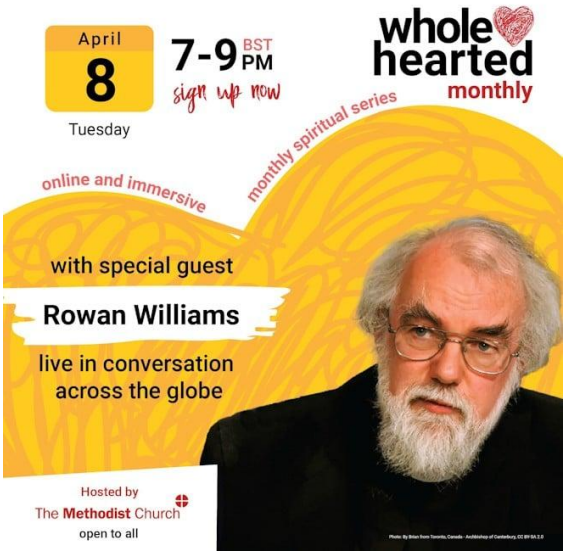
We would love to share your Inspiration Story?

Do you have an Inspiration Story to share, 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.

Upcoming Events - Have You Registered?

Wholehearted Monthly

A big thank you to all of you who joined us on the evening of the 11th of March for the first session of the Wholehearted Monthly online series **hosted by The Methodist Church in Britain.** We hope you found the conversation meaningful and were able to establish the starting blocks of valuable connections with colleagues from around the Connexion and abroad.



The conversation continues next month with **Rowan Williams** (theologian, poet & former Archbishop of Canterbury) as the Special Guest for the main session. You are then invited to join the Property Team for more conversations and networking in our **A Space(ious) Space** breakout area.

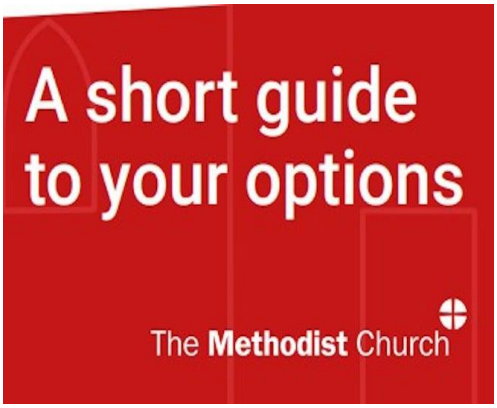
Date: **Tuesday 8th of April 2025**
Time: **7pm – 9pm**
Venue: **Online**
Click **here** **to register your attendance (*spaces filling up fast so register now*)**

Interesting Reads & Resources

What Should We Do With Our Building?

As you perhaps begin to consider the future of your building, here is a short guide which provides an overview of your options.

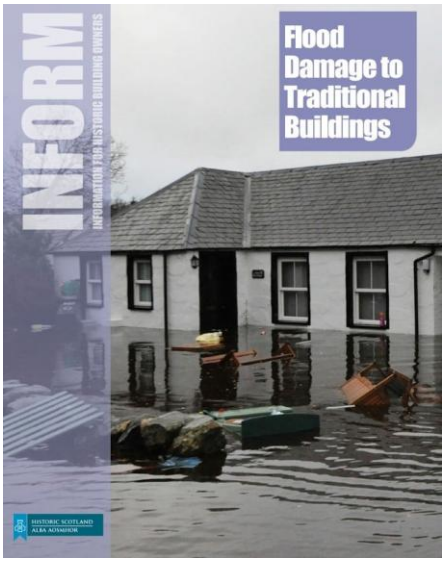
Click here to access the document.



If you would like to discuss any of the options listed in the document with a member of the Property Support team click here to submit your request an we'll be in touch soon.

Flood Damage to Traditional Buildings

This INFORM guidance from Historic Scotland offers guidance on how to protect traditional buildings from flood damage and also how to mitigate the effects if flooding does occur.



Click here to access the magazine.

Protecting Your Property against Flood and Storm

Floods and storms can cause significant damage to your property, but there are several measures you can take to minimise the impact.

Adrienne Whitehead, Senior Underwriter at Methodist Insurance has put together an article outlining some practical steps to protect your church from these natural disasters.

Click here to access the whole article.

Some Guidance on Running a Night Shelter

Every night shelter project is unique and your duties under health and safety law will vary depending on your circumstances.

Whether you're just starting out or want to understand more about hazards and precautions, read our guide.

Night shelter guidance

Important Updates - Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS)

The VAT Refund Scheme - Important Deadline Date for Applications under the Current Rules (without the Cap)

Following the recent updates about the cap on VAT refunds under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS) as of 1 April 2025, a subsequent update has been released.

Click here for full details of this latest update.

Gov.UK - Applications Now Open

The Listed Places of Worship (LWP) Grant scheme has been extended for a further one year from March 2025 with a cap of £25k per place of worship.

The Scheme is run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and managed by EMB limited. Applicants can now complete and submit their application to the LPW Grant Scheme directly online.

Click here to access the Application Form.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme - User Survey

A survey questionnaire has been developed by Harlow Consulting on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, as part of an evaluation of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

This user survey is aimed at people responsible for looking after any place of worship that occupies a listed building and the **deadline for completion and submission is the 25th of March 2025.**

Click here to access the survey.

Renter's Rights Bill - Update

Renters' Rights Bill - what you need to know as a Managing Trustee Landlord

The Renters' Rights Bill (the Bill) is expected to come into law by Summer 2025 and will bring into effect long promised reforms to the way people rent houses.

TMCP has released an update with detailed explanation of the changes that this new bill will bring along.

Please click here for the full update

Training Opportunity

Fundraising Fundamentals with Claire Walker & Ben Sims

Join **Claire Walker** (Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust) & **Ben Sims** (Head of Fundraising) for a **Free Online Workshop** on Fundraising Fundamentals.

Regardless of which stage you are in your fundraising journey, this workshop will offer valuable advice to help you on your journey.

Date: **Tuesday 18 March 2025**
Time: **2pm – 3pm**
Venue: **Online**

Click here for more information and to book a place on the course.

Energy Resilience Fund (ERF)

SPAB in association with the **Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance (STBA)** brings you this lunchtime online CPD course.
This is ideal for not only building professionals but anyone with an interest in heritage conservation.

Date: **Wednesday, 26th March 2025**
Time: **1pm – 2pm**
Venue: **Online (Zoom)**

Click here to read more and to register for the training.

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 -** 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 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