

October 2024

# PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church

Welcome to the October edition of Property Matters with a focus on property-related updates and guidance.

For the latest property guidance, please refer to the [Property pages](#).

[Meet the Property Support Team](#)

## Inspiration from around the Connexion and Beyond

### **Meon Valley's Repair Café**

Located in a growing Yorkshire village, Sustainable, life-affirming and community building, the [Meon Valley Repair Café](#) in the [Southampton Methodist District](#) is a monthly initiative encouraging people to repair their possessions instead of buying new ones.

Having begun in Amsterdam in 2009, the Repair Cafe movement has thrived and there are now 385 Repair Cafes in Great Britain, including the one in Waltham Chase. The idea is to repair broken items instead of buying new ones. People are encouraged to bring their items in and the volunteers will repair them.



Click [here](#) to read the entire story

### **The Revival of Southfield Chapel: a Rural Methodist Church's Journey of Reinvention**

As with many churches, at [Southfield Chapel](#), the COVID-18 pandemic augmented existing challenges which inevitably led to financial strain and loss of momentum. Emerging from lock down the chapel stepped into a pool of debt coupled with the lack of sufficient resources to operate. Fast-forward to a couple of years down the line, the chapel has undertaken various fundraising initiatives to address their financial challenges



Click [here](#) to read the entire story as narrated by the people behind this great turnaround of events

### **Northern Ireland Church Awarded UNESCO World Heritage Status!**

A church in Northern Ireland has been designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).



This makes it the 34th UNESCO World Heritage Site in the UK and the second in Northern Ireland. This is a good news story for tourism in Northern Ireland. But should other UK churches follow this example to help attract even more visitors to these important buildings?

Click [here](#) to read **Gracehill Moravian Settlement's** story from the [National Churches Trust's blog](#)

For a list of all the UNESCO Heritage Sites in the UK and Overseas, click [here](#)

# Upcoming Free Trainings & Webinars

## **Free Safety Culture Webinar**

HSE is hosting a free hour-long webinar that will be focused on how to successfully and sustainably improve safety culture together with a demonstration of the uses and benefits of HSE's Safety Climate Tool.



Date: **Wednesday, 23 October 2024**

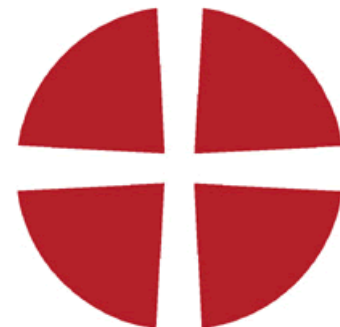
Time: **10.30am**

[Click here to find out more and to register](#)

## **Getting Started Online**

The **Methodist Digital Training** team will be running a training course called Getting Started Online.

This is a dynamic course designed to empower churches and communities to harness the power of digital tools and platforms for mission. Regardless of your digital abilities, this course is your gateway to effectively engaging in the digital mission-field.



Date **Five Monday sessions starting on 4 November**

Where: **Online**

Time: **1.30pm – 3.00pm**

[Click here to register](#)

## **FAITH: Trustee Duties in a Faith Charity**

### **Context**

This **webinar**, hosted by TMCP, will cover what your trustee duties are with regards to managing a faith charity.

It will cover topics like what it means to be a trustee, the six main charity trustee duties, the role of the Charity Commission, (including when things go wrong) and lots more.

Date: **Wednesday, 6 November 2024**

Time: **12noon – 1pm**

[Click here to book your attendance](#)

### **Save The Date**

## **FAITH: Understanding Charity**

### **Structures**

This webinar, hosted by TMCP, will provide guidance on Understanding Charity Structures for trustees and representatives of faith charities, as places of worship who are thinking about incorporating or converting to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) structure as well as tips for registering a CIO.

Date: **Wednesday, 11 December 2024**

Time: **12noon – 1pm**

[Click here to book your attendance](#)



## Historic Religious Buildings Alliance (HRBA)

### VAT REFUND SCHEME - UPDATE

The response to the HRBA's request for beneficiaries of the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (VAT Refund Scheme) to submit a collective request to the government for an extension of the scheme beyond March 2025 was very encouraging and appreciated as well over 100 emails were sent out.

If you intended to take part in this petition but didn't get round to sending your email, you will be pleased to know that it is still worth doing.

[Click here to read the entire update from HRBA and instructions on how to send your email](#)

Historic Religious  
Buildings Alliance

*a group within the Heritage Alliance*

## HSE - Staying Safe When Handling Chemicals

### How Good Are You With Your COSHH Essentials?

A variety of harmful substances are found in your working environments therefore knowing how to control these safely is key to safety and protection from harm.

If you work with hazardous substances, the HSE's [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health \(COSHH\) website](#) can help you understand the actions you should take to stay healthy.



Download HSE's publication [Working with substances hazardous to health: A brief guide to COSHH](#), which explains how to control exposure and comply with the regulations.

The HSE's [COSHH safe handling chemicals poster](#) also provides crucial guidance on how to handle chemicals safely in your workplace, including a useful hazardous signs check.

## The Historic Buildings, Parks and Gardens Event

**The Historic Buildings, Parks and Gardens Event** (HBPGE) is held annually in parallel with Historic Houses Annual General Meeting.

The event has been running for over 35 years. The invitation to this event is open to everyone in the historic buildings, landscape conservation and heritage sectors. Owners, guardians, volunteers, professionals, management

staff and advisers involved with historic buildings (private, commercial. Industrial, Grade I listed buildings, cathedrals, churches, manor houses, windmills, historic town centres), parks, gardens and historic landscapes... All are welcome.



70 HBPGE exhibition stands, 50th anniversary celebrations of Historic Houses, live demonstrations, short talks, 'meet the expert' opportunities and a free SPAB advice surgery all in one place - don't miss it!

When: **Tuesday, 12 November 2024**

Where: **The Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Westminster, London, SW1P 3EE**

Admission: **Free entry** to everyone in the historic buildings, landscape conservation and heritage sectors. Owners, guardians, volunteers, professionals

from all sectors are welcome. To read more about the event and to register, click [here](#)

## Interesting "Must Reads"

### **Cultural Heritage, Creativity and the Creative Economy**



Historic England

Cultural heritage enhances creativity and supports the growth of the creative economy. Heritage, whether tangible or intangible, serves as inspiration for new creative works and innovation that can increase entrepreneurship and foster local economic growth.

Research demonstrates that our shared heritage can inspire curiosity, imagination, critical thinking and new perspectives. This enhances people's innovative capacity; leading to greater productivity and economic growth.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

### **Adapting Historic Buildings for Energy and Carbon Efficiency: Historic England Advice Note 18 (HEAN 18)**



Historic England

In order for our historic buildings to be fit for purpose and continue to contribute to a greater future, they must continue to change and evolve. Buildings are a major consideration in address the climate change crisis and by retaining, using and appropriately adapting our historic buildings they can be a key part of the lower carbon emissions solution.

Historic England has produced an Advisory Note to provide clarity on key considerations and to support consistent decision making

Click [here](#) to read the entire publication.

## **The Latest Edition of the Cytûn Policy Bulletin**

The October/November 2024 edition of the Cytûn Policy Bulletin is out and its packed with interesting articles, stories and updates from various organisations/groups a well as an update on the priorities of the new Welsh government.

[Click here for the English Edition](#)

[Click here for the Welsh Edition](#)



## **Methodist Insurance E-News**

### **Carrying out tasks alone**

Working alone can present hazards, including an increased risk of assault and/or aggression.

Review situations where people complete tasks on their own to check the adequacy of precautions in place to protect them.

[Click here Find out more](#)



### **Demystifying the National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Not to be confused with the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the NLHF is funded by National Lottery ticket

sales and its decision-making process is entirely independent of the government.

Faith-based or church organisations can apply but will need to address NLHF's investment principles.

[Click here to learn more about how to apply](#)





### **Home Emergency Cover Reminder**

What would you do if a pipe burst in the middle of the night? Home emergency cover is included on [Methodist Home Insurance policies](#) and gives you access to our rapid response team of fully qualified and approved contractors.

Keep our helpline number handy and one of our rapid response team will come to your assistance. By fixing the problem quickly, we hope to reduce the impact of the incident and the inconvenience for you.

[Click here to see what's covered](#)



### **Hope After Loss: How Churches Can Support The Bereaved**

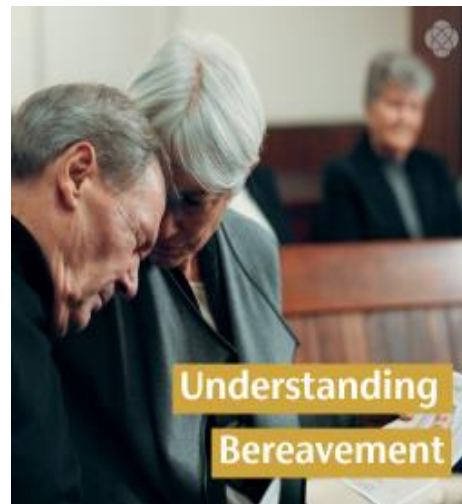
AtaLoss is a national charity dedicated to helping bereaved people find the support and wellbeing they need.

With support from a Benefact Trust [Community Impact Grant](#), AtaLoss is developing the Loss and HOPE project - a project that equips churches across the UK to provide essential bereavement support to their communities.

This project will provide churches with training and resources, as well as equipping them to run The Bereavement Journey®, a 7-week course to support those who have been bereaved.

Want to be involved in bereavement support at your church? In this short video, we sit down with Katy Tutt from AtaLoss to discuss what we need to know about grief and the role of the church in providing bereavement support.

[Click here to watch the whole video](#)



## **Fire Risk Assessment - Have You Done Yours?**

Do you know churches are required to undertake a Fire Risk Assessment by law?

If you have not done yours we recommend conducting an assessment without delay.

[Use our template to get started](#)



**METHODIST INSURANCE**

**HOME INSURANCE CAN COUNT FOR MORE THAN JUST COVER.**

**20%\* DONATED TO YOUR CHOSEN CHURCH OR CHARITY**

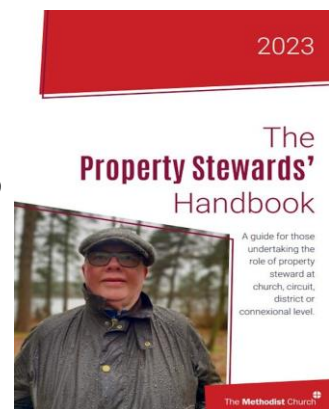
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## **Property Stewards' Handbook**

Remember the Property Stewards' Handbook is designed to be an across-the-board information resource for property stewards at a church, circuit and district level including the **Top 10 Essentials of being a Property Steward** as well as other useful information and links.

[Click here to download a copy.](#)



## Listed Building Advisory Committee (LBAC)

### Meeting Dates:

- **21 January 2025** - Deadline for paper is 31 December 2024
- **29 April 2025** - Deadline for paper is 8 April 2025

### 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 legislation 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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