October 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 Support Administrator** - **Ayeshea Stapleton-Forde**

1. Can you share a bit about your background?

For well over two decades I have always worked in customer focused/administrative and management support roles in various sectors such as hospitality, banking, higher education, health & social care, the charity sector and community based projects. Prior to this role I served in the Ministries Team as Supervision Administrator (maternity cover) and then as a Receptionist/Administrator in Front of House.

Before life in the Connexional Team I worked in the Methodist Church, The Gambia and here in the UK on a Church & Circuit level as Church/Circuit Administrator. I also worked at the Langley House Trust and the CoE as Housing Project Administrator and Property Administrator respectively.

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

I joined the Connexional Team in August 2022 as Supervision Administrator within the Ministries Team. I later joined the Property Support Team early 202
as Property Support Administrator.

My responsibilities ranges from supporting the team with administrative tasks, monitoring and managing the team email inboxes, responding to general enquiries and triaging queries, processing invoices/expenses, producing and circulating Property Matters and co-managing the Connexional manes with the Property Support Director. I also support Front of House and Facilities collogues as and when needed.

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

Between 2013 and 2017 I was involved in handling the daily administrative tasks of a £1m+ building renovation project that happened in the local Methodist church where I was employed at the time. During this same time I also, singlehandedly managed the Women's Community Project that was run by the church as the Community Project Development Worker (2015 - 2017). Both experiences exposed me to a whole new different side of administration and project management. The community project most especially took me down the corridors of town hall buildings and set me on the same table with Executives and Directors of Commerce Boards, Community Forums, Funding Organisations (e.g. The Big Local, National Lottery) and major Domestic Violence/Mental Health and Family Support Organisations/Charities (e.g. Heista, Mind, Victim Support, Home-Start, NHS England Clinical Groups etc). I really enjoyed this role and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to have been able to bring lasting positive change to so many lives.

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

I deal with a diverse range of queries, enquiries and conversations - no two day is the same for me and because the core of what I do is more of relationship management than transactional processes, I will say **wisdom** (to be able to have good judgement) and **understanding** (to have the right awareness and tolerance to execute my tasks and responsibilities without fault). In other words **Proverbs 4:7** is my superpower prayer.

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

Hmm...this is a tricky one. I am known to be a busy bee as I am always up to something. I am a Worship Leader (in song) so when I am not working I spend time writing gospel songs, prepping for Sunday worship sessions and working on my ministry (a community space where worship leaders and choir members connect, learn and grow together in their calling) . I also spend quality time with my family.

To contact Ayeshea directly with a general enquiry please click here

To contact the rest of the Property 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.

Net Zero for Manes

A big thanks to David Blount and Nottingham North East Circuit, who have shared how they're working towards Net Zero with their manses. You can read about what they've done so far here, as well as finding other resources and case studies on this page. Our Net Zero Property Officer, Anna Newlove, is here to support circuits with their manses as well as churches, so please get in touch for a conversation if you're thinking about what is possible for your manse.

Webinars

Caring for God's Acre are running an autumn series of webinars, including one on the importance of churchyards to some of the UK's rarest fungi. You can see all the topics here, with links to book, and you can book on to the webinar for up to a week following session to gain access to the recording and catch up at a time which suits you.

The Methodist Church's Eco Community Network will next be meeting on Tuesday 21 January 2026, focusing on making our buildings more eco friendly. Future sessions include grant funding opportunities and outdoor worship. You can find more information and book to join here.

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 the Yorkshire North & East District

Building a Sustainable Hope

'Building Sustainable Hope' has enabled 20 churches in the Yorkshire North and East District to significantly reduce their carbon footprint through the installation of sustainable technologies.

To mark the occasion, a special service was held on the 26 of September at Northallerton Methodist Church.

To read more about this £1.1 million decarbonisation project that has been running alongside the wider Methodist Church's commitment to climate justice and net-zero by 2030 - click here

We would love to share your Story?

Do you have an Inspirational Story to share, please get in touch – no project is too big or small. Click here to access the questionnaire that will help you write your story.

Upcoming Events

'For Goodness Sake!' Conference 2025

Are you a justice seeker, or just plain tired? A petition signer, or an action taker? A self-professed politics geek, or a church member searching for a way to make your voice count? Then don't miss the **'For Goodness Sake!' Conference 2025**

For Goodness Sake!' is a gathering being organised by the Joint Public Issues Team on behalf of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church, and in association with the Church of Scotland and Iona Community. It is a gathering of people who long for justice.

Date - **Saturday, 8 November 2025**
Venue – **Reach Conference Centre, Derby, DE24 8JN**
Time – **16.30pm start**

Click here for more information about this conference and to book your ticket

Manchester Meet The Funder Event

National Churches Trust: Cherish Project is holding a training day themed - **Resilient & Sustainable Church Buildings.** This event is open to all churches, chapels and meeting houses of all denominations and its an opportunity to meet major church funders.

There will be opportunities to speak with funders, book 1-1 support sessions, and connect with other churches throughout the day.

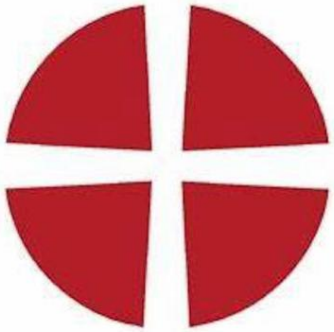
The whole day is free of charge and is provided as part of the Cherish project.

Date: **Wednesday, 19 November 2025**
Time: **10am - 4pm**
Venue: **St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green N, Manchester M12 6FZ**

For more information and to register, click here

Important Updates

Martyn's Law Guide



You may have already heard about Martyn's Law which received Royal Assent in April this year. It aims to make public buildings safer by implementing security measures to prevent terrorist attacks and was brought in after the bombings at the Manchester Arena in 2017. It won't come into force for another two years and will only apply to those buildings where more than 200 people meet.

The attached guidance has been produced for Trustees by the Property Support Team with support from colleagues in the legal team and TMCP. We thought it helpful to share it now so you have plenty of time to consider whether any actions need to be taken. The Property Support Team are aware that there is a lot of false information being shared and we know that companies have been in touch with some organisations offering training and products which are simply not needed.

The Connexional Team and TMCP are actively monitoring the guidance the Government releases about Martyn's Law and further information will be shared with the Methodist Connexion. If you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Here is a link: Martyn's Law Guide

Guidance to SO 054

Following this year's Conference, **Standing Order 054 has been updated** to ensure that it complies with UK GDPR and Data Protection legislation. Guidance has been created to assist managing trustees with these updates to Standing Order 054 and the document can be found here

If they have any questions about this update you can contact the Connexional Team's Legal Counsel here

Statistics for Mission

The Statistics for 2024 have been uploaded and can be viewed here. As we are currently upgrading the Online Suite, data entry for the October 2025 count will not open until January 2026.

We apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

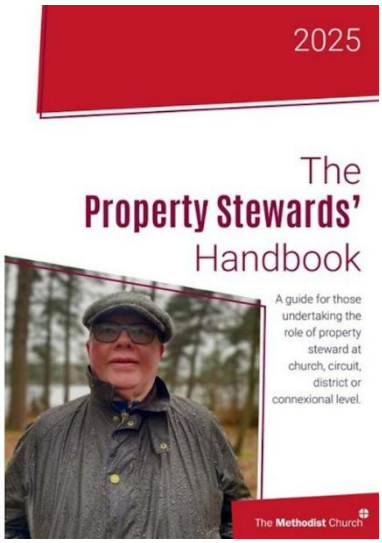
If you have any further queries, please contact Online Support Suite here

Useful Information, Reminders & Resources

Property Steward's Handbook - Updated

The update 2025 edition of the Property Steward's Handbook is available to download on the Methodist Church Website.

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



Getting Your Buildings Ready For Winter

We are approaching that time of the year when the focus of all those who are involved in property management will be on getting their buildings (being manses or church buildings) ready for the winter season.

Routine building maintenance is very important most especially during the cold weather and our colleagues at S.P.A.B have developed a very useful resource called **'Faith in Maintenance Calendar'** which provides prompts and tips to help anyone involved in building management stay on top of all aspects of their routine maintenance checks all year round.

Click here to access this resource.

Amersham Methodist Church in the Northampton District have done an amazing job of like for like replacement of their windows. Click here to see the before and after picture of the windows. Amersham is in a Conservation Area and their Church Treasurer Teresa Game was kind enough to share these pictures.

Opening Up Your Church Buildings

As our team visits church buildings and meets with managing trustees to explore missional uses for their properties, the importance of church buildings in a local community is mentioned often. Much of the time, discussions will always focus on what can 'be done' or 'what do we have to do' in our building for the community.

However, in some cases, simply opening the building up to people to come in can make a difference - perhaps those who need a place of calm or peace is just as important as physical activities. Many churches may feel this is a risk, or may require additional resources, so we thought it helpful to share guidance which is produced by Methodist Insurance on this topic. This gives some very helpful and positive guidance for churches who might be considering this, and it can be found here

Methodist Insurance October E-News

(Sponsored Content)

This month, our sponsors at Methodist Insurance share articles on winter storm protection, safe charging of electric bikes and tips for digital fundraising.

They also highlight how a £50,000 grant from the Benefact Trust Methodist Grant Programme is transforming Oreston Methodist Church into a vibrant community hub.

Click here to access the e-news content.

Connected Together: Support with the Digital Switchover

Landlines are changing and the UK's telephone network is going digital. These changes will affect everyone who has a landline they'd like to keep using.

For more information about the switch, please click here

An Interesting Read

Told by the Dial: Stories in Stone

Told by the Dial is an ongoing school and community project, which focuses on the exploration and re-telling of the stories of people and events, as evidenced in the buildings and grounds of Mount Zion Methodist Heritage Chapel.

Fifty-four Year 5 children (aged nine and ten), from St Augustine's and Abbey Park, two very different primary schools, worked independently and together on the project at Mount Zion across the Summer term of 2025 and Dr Diane Hadwen, Heritage Worker at Mount Zion Methodist Church was kind enough to share this work with us.

Click here to read the amazing stories.

Listed Building Advisory Committee (LBAC)

Meeting Dates:

- **20 January 2026 -** Deadline for submissions is 20th January 2026
- **21 April 2026** - Deadline for submissions is 31st March 2026
- **14 July 2026** - Deadline for submissions is 23rd June 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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