

December 2024

# PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church

Welcome to this year's last edition of Property Matters  
For the latest property guidance, please refer to the [Property pages](#).  
[Meet the Property Support Team](#)



Everyone in the Connexional Property Support Team extend their very best wishes to all our readers for a blessed and peaceful Christmas. During this season of advent and Christmas, as we gather together in our church buildings, many of us will meet people visiting for the first time this year or perhaps the first time ever.

For many, it will be to bring their family or community together, while for others it may be to seek a place of refuge, a warm space, a place to avoid isolation, or perhaps a place to **'Hush the Noise'**. We pray that whatever the reason someone is visiting your church building this year, it enables them to [hear the Good News and connect with the God who loves them unconditionally, no strings attached.](#)

**Stephen Hetherington**  
Director of Property Support, The Connexional Team

[Click here to watch the Methodist Church's Hush The Noise 2024 Advent and Christmas Campaign film entitled "Hey, I've been trying to reach you"](#)

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**Deadline for LBAC Paper Submission is 31 December 2024**

## **Save The Date!**

### **Methodist Homelessness and Housing Gathering Event**

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



**Date: Thursday 27th February 2025**

**Venue: The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX**

**Time: 9am onwards**

More information about the event and registration details will be made available in the New Year. For now, **Save the Date in your diaries**

## **Warm Spaces Inspiration Stories**

### **Reaching Out to the Community in Pontefract**

**Pontefract Methodist Church's Warm Room** is open to the local community every Thursday from 10am – 2pm. This warm space offers tea, coffee, biscuits and a reflection at noon and lunch to over 30 people on a weekly basis.



Pontefract's Warm Room started in November 2022 and has grown ever since.

Click [here](#) about how it all started, the wonderful work that is taking place in the space and the lovely people, volunteers and organisations behind it all.

### A Warm Space within the Llandudno Community

The Warm Space at **St John's Church in the town of Llandudno**, part of the Conway & Prestatyn Circuit, began in January 2023 in response to the government's request for worship and community spaces to provide warm places for people.

St John's received funding from Community and Voluntary Support Conway for their Warm Space initiative. This was supposed to be a six week's project but they hit the ground running and it's still going strong. Click [here](#) to read the entire story.



## Upcoming Free Training Events

### Circuit Stewards Training

Are you a new circuit steward, or have been one for a while and are looking to dive deeper in to your roles & responsibilities and develop your skills and knowledge?

Then look no further as the **Learning Network Team** will be running a 6 session Circuit Stewards Training in the New Year.

Dates: **14th January - 18th February 2025 (Tuesday Evenings)**

Time: **7pm - 9pm**

Location: **Online**

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the course



### Renting Your Space For The Benefit of Your Community

Most successful community hubs generate income from diverse streams, with space rental often providing both community value and unrestricted funding.



This webinar, hosted by Plunkett UK, Locality and Kett's Books will help community organisations maximise the potential of space rental.

Dates: **Tuesday 28th January 2025**

Time: **10.30am - 12noon**

Location: **Online**

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the course

## Essential "Must Reads"

### How To Recycle a Church

Retrofit is, and will continue to be, a priority in heritage and other sectors - but what does it mean? Deputy Head of PCAS [Steven Robb](#) looks at some examples of the reuse of historic churches.

Click [here](#) to read more

**Historic Religious  
Buildings Alliance**  
*a group within the Heritage Alliance*

### Historic England: 2024 Heritage at Risk Register



Historic England

In November, the Heritage at Risk Register for 2024 was published. It finds that over the past year, 124 historic sites across England have been rescued and their futures secured by dedicated teams of volunteers, community groups, charities, owners and councils.

There are 969 places of worship on the register, 23 had been taken off (for positive reasons) and 55 added. In total, there are 4,891 entries on the Register this year – 20 more than in 2023.

Click [here](#) to access the report

## **England's Church Heritage 'Danger Zones' Revealed**

A new map, from the National Churches Trust, shows that Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Devon, Cornwall, Inner and Central London, parts of Manchester and the East Midlands contain the largest numbers of historic churches on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.



Is your church or local community meeting places on the map? Click [here](#) to find out.

## **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
- **15 July 2025** - Deadline for paper is 24 June 2025

## **Methodist Insurance Corner**

### **Maintenance of Church Buildings**

Maintaining church property is one of the varied responsibilities of managing trustees and having the right kind of insurance policy in place goes a long way in making things a lot easier when faced with unforeseen circumstances.



[Click here to read an article by Philip Rawson](#) (Technical Underwriter, Methodist Insurance PLC) on the various maintenance policies available and how they can be accessed.

## E-News

### **Church Christmas Prep and Ladder Safety**

Make sure you have a glance over our guidance for safety at your festive events this Christmas. A few extra considerations can help your event run smoothly and keep your attendees safe from harm.

Please take extra care with ladders! Injuries from falls can be severe. Read our guide on the safe use of ladders.

[Read the guidance](#)   [Ladder safety](#)



### **Providing Warm Spaces**

Your church may provide a Warm Welcome merely by advertising your existing church services as a warm space or extending your service to leave the building open to visitors. Whatever you have decided to do, here's some simple guidance to keep everyone warm and safe this winter.

[Warm space risk guidance](#)



### **Festive Fundraising**

Discover our seasonal fundraising guidance, written in collaboration with Philanthropy Company.

Get top tips on raising funds right through to the New Year.

[Festive fundraising](#)   [New Year – new ideas](#)



### **Christmas Scams and Winter Woes**

Christmas can be the most wonderful time of the year – but it doesn't always come stress-free. As thoughts turn to celebration and relaxation, check out our list of common risks to help you on your way to a Happier Christmas.

[Christmas risks](#)



### **From Chaos to Calm: how this 200-year-old Methodist Church is transforming its Belfast Community**

Belfast is a city with a rich history. Having played an important role in the shipbuilding trade in the 19th century, many locals worked in shipyards and built families and communities in East Belfast. However, in the mid-20th century, the decline of Belfast's shipbuilding industry led to widespread job losses and economic hardship which, exacerbated by the Troubles, resulted in long-term poverty, division, and lack of opportunity.



East Belfast Mission is a Methodist church and charity transforming the lives of their community. Supported by funding from Benefact Trust Methodist Grants Programme (funded by donations from Methodist Insurance PLC) and a Benefact Trust Community Impact Grant, towards their Hosford Homelessness service, East Belfast Mission applies a holistic approach by offering many services to alleviate the many challenges their community faces.

[Find out more about their incredible work](#)

## **Fire Risk Assessment**

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](#)



[Click here for our Christmas Office Opening Hours](#)

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## **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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