

June 2024

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church 

Welcome to the June 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](#)

Community Ownership Funding available

The Community Ownership Fund is a £150 million fund to support community groups across England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland to take ownership of assets which are at risk of being lost to the community.



Round 4 is the final round of the Community Ownership Fund. There will be two bidding windows in Round 4 to allocate remaining funding. The fund forms part of a substantial package of UK wide levelling-up interventions building opportunity and empowering communities to improve their local places.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Government Grants for Rural Community Buildings (England)

[ACRE](#) are pleased to be managing a grant fund on behalf of Defra to support the modernisation and improvement of rural community buildings.



A £3 million fund was originally launched by government in May 2022 to mark Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and in the 2024 Spring Budget, this was uplifted by a further £5 million. In 2023, over £1 million was awarded to groups with ambitious projects, many of which were concerned with improving the energy efficiency of buildings.

As far as multi-use spaces within Churches are concerned applications are welcome where there is not a village hall or other similar meeting place in the village. Similarly, some Church halls will be eligible. Applications are looked at carefully by the award panel so church applications will be given fair consideration. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Circuit Stewards Community of Practice

Over the past year, the Learning Network have been running [Community of Practice sessions for Circuit Stewards](#). If you were unable to attend, you can watch the videos here. Topics include:

- Property Matters
- Responsibilities of Managing Trustees
- Action for Hope and Net Zero Mission



The 20-20 Vision Project at Glenfield Methodist Church

The last refurbishment of the [Glenfield Methodist Church](#) in Leicestershire took place around 2003, and most areas were looking worn and tired. Because their Playgroup used the hall and lounge it meant that they, as a church, couldn't organise any daytime events other than in the chapel. Their vision was to 'split' the two sides of the church building so that Playgroup could meet in a secure area and other events could take place too, and was about encouraging Faith, having Fun and Fellowship and building for the Future.

[Click here to learn the rest of their story.](#)



Celebrating Volunteers In Churches

Finding volunteers to help keep your church open and able to serve your community can be difficult. But support is out there to help you to not only to recruit new volunteers, but to keep them engaged with your church. Ruth, from St Hilda in Redcar, shares some advice that helped their church attract volunteers.



Click [here](#) to find out more, including useful tips on how utilise volunteer skills and keep them engaged in your church

Stories from Around the Connexion

Celebrating Wesley at Mount Zion Chapel

John Wesley is said to have covered 250,000 miles to undertake his preaching. One of the places he preached was Mount Zion Chapel, located near Halifax, where they recently celebrated the 250th anniversary of John Wesley's first visit.



[Click here to learn more.](#)

A new church to serve the community

After a decade of planning, fundraising and construction, [Emmanuel Church in Eastbourne](#), in the South East District, has finally opened. The Methodist-URC Local Ecumenical Partnership Church will cater to the needs of the community with events and activities every day of the week. *“We want for the life of the community and the church to be blended together. With all those events, there are hundreds of people coming into the building every week.”*

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Clothes Swap

During the Big Green Week, there was a new initiative of a 'Shoe Swap' from the Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Methodist District, their way of helping to care for the community and the environment. *“The concept is to have a table with a range of children's shoes on it. The idea is that as children outgrow shoes a parent can come in, drop off a current size and upgrade to a larger size.”*

[Click here to read more.](#)

How VAT affects Heritage Projects

The Heritage Trust Network are delighted to announce that tickets are now on sale for our upcoming [How VAT Affects Heritage Projects](#) event



Heritage
Trust
Network

on the **25th July between 12pm - 1:30pm**. It's hoped that there will be time for a Q&A session at the end. If you have any questions that you would like us to share with Iain in advance, [click here to send an email.](#)

Your special promo code for the event is: MousleyGrubbs

This will get you free entry to the event. Enter this code when prompted after clicking the 'get tickets' button.

Why should you attend?

If you find VAT confusing, don't know what it means for your project or are considering becoming VAT registered then this is for you. Iain Masterton, Director of VAT & Indirect Tax at CT: Accounts Advisers, will be leading this event looking at the impact of VAT on heritage projects.

The session will cover:

- VAT Reliefs on Heritage Projects
- VAT Recovery on capital costs
- VAT Registration – Timing & Practical issues
- Dealing with HMRC
- Opting to Tax (Pros and Cons)
- Practical issues & What Can Go Wrong

[Click here to sign up](#)

Useful Resources from the Churches Trust for Cumbria

[The Churches Trust for Cumbria](#) has created a series of videos as a resource for churches. There may be a number of Anglican examples but they relay some useful generic examples. Click here to access the videos.

The various topics include:

- [Finding your churches story](#)
- [Understanding your Church building](#)
- [Heritage building and Conservation Specialists](#)
- [Church Governance and managing change](#)
- [Traditional building construction and lime](#)
- [Heritage conservation and stained glass windows](#)
- [Caring for Cumbria's Churches](#)



**Churches Trust
for Cumbria**

Room with a View

The National Churches Trust have put together a brand new interactive map to show you bird nest boxes on churches in the UK. As well as information about the types of birds you might find in one of these boxes, we've included links to live video footage so that you can watch these magnificent creatures in real time.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



John Betjeman Award

Applications for The John Betjeman Award from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) is open. This Award celebrates the repair and conservation of places of worship and is given in recognition of a single scheme of repair or conservation, rather than one that involves general works, extension, re-ordering. **The deadline for entries is 31 July.**

[Click here for more information](#), including details of the previous winners.



Green Church Awards

You are invited to enter the new Church Times Green Awards! Tell us what your church, school or community group is doing to make a big impact in your community through eco projects. The awards aim to celebrate the great work of church communities around the country who are caring for God's creation. **The deadline for entries is 30 June 2024.**

[Click here to enter and for more information.](#)



Methodist Insurance Updates

[Read the latest edition of Dialogue online](#)

Our spring/summer edition is now available to read, download and share with your friends and colleagues.

Read how charities are weathering the current financial storm, managing events over the summer, a spotlight on our 'made simple' guides and much more.

[Read Dialogue](#)



Take your fundraising efforts online

Digital fundraising presents amazing possibilities for your church to grow its giving.

To help you get started, we have answered some frequently asked questions on our fundraising hub.

[FAQs answered](#)



Assessing fire risk at your church

Use our detailed template and guidance notes to assess the risk of fire at your church.

You can also find helpful guidance on [reducing the risk of arson](#) and [electrical installation maintenance](#) arrangements which may support your review of fire safety measures.

[Church fire risks](#)



Churches as local polling stations

If you're opening your doors to voters on 4 July date, you'll need to be prepared for the possibility of a significant increase in visitors, some of which will be unfamiliar with your building.

Take some simple steps to ensure people are safe and property is secure.

- Make sure you're up-to-date with your [fire safety arrangements](#).
- Check the premises are tidy, with no obvious [slip/trip hazards](#).
- Any areas containing valuables should be locked to the general public.



Electric bikes and battery charging

Powered by lithium-ion batteries, e-bikes can become unstable if not used properly, damaged or overcharged. This can lead to the battery catching fire and releasing toxic smoke.

Use our tips to reduce the likelihood of an incident.



- [Learn more about e-bike risks](#)
- [Insuring bikes at home](#)

We're pleased to announce a new addition to the Board

A huge welcome to Revd Ian Rutherford who joins the Board as a Non-Executive Director. Ian is a Methodist Presbyterian and has been a City Centre Minister at Methodist Central Hall Manchester since 2017. He is Deputy Chair of the Connexional Mission Committee, serves on the Law and Polity Committee and is Convener of the Connexional Discipline, Pastoral and Appeal Committee.



[See all board members](#)

Service excellence from our claims team

We always appreciate our customers feedback, which is why we are delighted that our claims team have achieved a strong result in an opinion survey.

99% of customers were satisfied with their claims experience.

The result is from feedback in our Methodist Insurance customer opinion results 2023, 139 responses from customers who had their claim settled.

[Claims information](#)

99%

of customers are satisfied with their claims experience

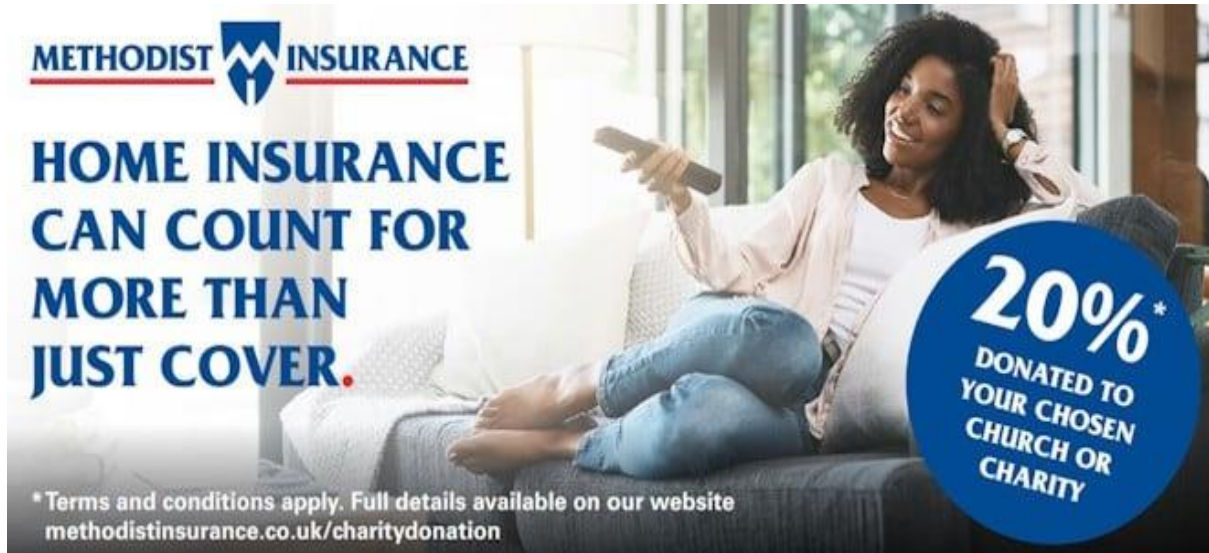
Benefact Trust's Methodist Grants awards Connexional grants to projects at the heart of the Methodist Church

£760,000 has been awarded through Benefact Trust's Methodist Grants programme - funded by donations from Methodist Insurance PLC - to Connexional projects across Great Britain, Ireland, and internationally.



These projects will support communities such as, those living amidst civil conflict in Liberia, children and families seeking inclusive spaces in the UK, and new mission projects reaching out to communities across Ireland.

[Growing impact in the Methodist Church](#)



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HSE Updates

Duty to Manage Asbestos

If you missed the recent asbestos duty to manage webinar by HSE you can watch the recording on demand. The webinar featured HSE expert who touched on topics like:

- why asbestos is dangerous
- where asbestos is likely to be found
- the legal obligation to manage asbestos in buildings
- HSE's Asbestos – Your Duty campaign
- how to carry out an effective asbestos risk assessment
- how to complete an asbestos management plan

Click [here](#) to register to watch the replay for of the webinar free



Is Your Health and Safety Law Poster Fake?

Only HSE can approve a version the H&S law poster. If you employ anyone, the law says you must:

- display an [approved version of the poster](#)

- provide each worker with a copy of the [equivalent leaflet](#).

You must display the poster where your workers can easily read it and you can't print a copy yourself. HSE is aware of suppliers selling fake versions online that haven't been approved. The current version of the law poster includes enhanced security features and is more durable. Read HSE's guidance on [how to identify a genuine law poster](#) and you can order a [HSE approved versions of the poster](#). If you have any doubts, you can [contact HSE](#) to check if the law poster is legitimate.

Trust Training for Managing Trustees

Calling all Treasurers, Finance Stewards, Ministers and anyone else who deals with, or is interested in, trusts that are held with TMCP. TMCP are asked a variety of recurring questions about the trusts which we hold for you and so we are pleased to introduce our planned live and interactive training sessions for Managing Trustees regarding the various types of trusts that they may hold. [Click to find out more.](#)



Matter Management Updates

At TMCP our legal team have now been using the Matter Management System (MMS) for over eight months and are working hard to ensure that we reply to you and your instructed professionals as quickly and efficiently as we can.

Further to our previous article, one of the key things that you can do to help the MMS work effectively for you is to respond to our emails by using the TMCP 'Tag' in the subject line of all ongoing communications relating to your Matters/Enquiries.

[Click to read more.](#)

Reporting a Change in Status

Please remember to report any changes of status, including cessation of worship, via the [Statistics for Mission web page](#).

Go into the church profile and then, click on Report Change of Status at the bottom of the page.

[Click here for further guidance and FAQ's.](#)



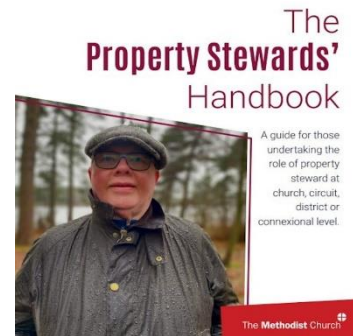
Property Stewards' Handbook

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Property Stewards' Handbook!

This handbook is design to be an across-the-board information resource for property stewards at a church, circuit and district level.

It includes 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:

- **16 July 2024** - Deadline for paper is 14 June 2024

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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