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November 2025

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church

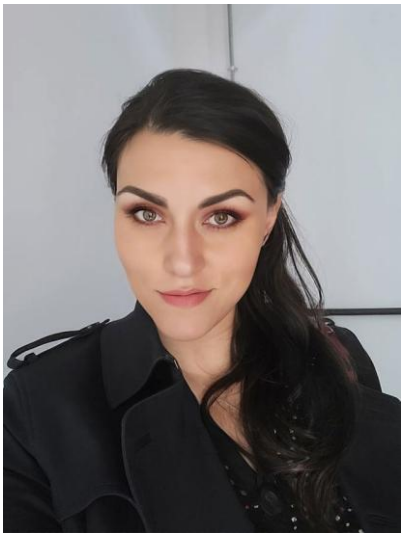
Welcome to this month's edition of Property Matters.
For the latest property guidance, please refer to the Property pages.

Meet the Property Support Team

Meet the Team Profile Series

Meet our **Building & Facilities Manager** - **Dana Cherneva**

1. 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 2024 as the Building and Facilities Manager for United Reformed Church House and Methodist Church House. My role focuses on ensuring both buildings run safely, efficiently, and sustainably – everything from managing contractors and planned maintenance to resolving defects and supporting colleagues across two very busy sites.

What excites me most about this role is the variety. No two days are the same – one moment I might be reviewing a fire safety report, the next coordinating a refurbishment detail or finding new ways to make our operations more energy-efficient. I enjoy bringing structure and calm to what can often be a very fast-moving environment.

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

The most satisfying project I have worked on so far was taking MCH as newly refurbished building through mobilisation and defect management — essentially turning a construction site into a fully functioning workplace. It was challenging, unpredictable, and deeply satisfying to see it come together.

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

If I could have a superpower, it would be teleportation. It would save me hours of commuting and let me check both sites, suppliers, and perhaps a beach in Spain — all before lunch.

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

After a busy day, I like to unwind by dancing tango. It reminds me to slow down and be in the moment after the day's logistics and deadlines.

To contact 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.

Switching your Energy Supplier

One of the quickest changes that churches can make to reach Net Zero is to switch to a green energy tariff. Though it may seem like a small change, it is an important one and can make a real difference to your carbon footprint before you make any material changes to your building. It also demonstrates to energy companies that the

demand is there, encouraging continued investment in renewable energy generation.

The Church of England is running The Great Switch for Creation campaign, encouraging churches to make the pledge and switch to a green tariff. Whilst Methodist Churches can't join the pledge campaign, there are lots of resources you can use. There's a simple guide to switching to a green tariff, which includes possible suppliers, as well as a video on how green tariffs are defined. Eco Church also have a guide to Buying Greener Energy.

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 Newcastle

A Methodist Church Market

A Methodist church Market is transforming local food access in Newcastle.

What began as an emergency response to pandemic shopping difficulties has evolved into a thriving weekly market and pay-as-you-feel café at **Strathmore Road Methodist Church** in Newcastle, serving nearly 50 people each Monday morning whilst tackling both food waste and food poverty.

Click here to read more about this project.

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.

We Need Your Feedback

Methodist Property Webpage Survey

To help us continue to deliver property webpages that are relevant to your needs and interests, it will be greatly appreciated if you can spare a few minutes to give us some valuable feedback.

The deadline for completing the survey is Wednesday, December 17th.

Please click here to complete the feedback form

An Upcoming Event

A Future for Your Church: Promoting Your Project

We know the wonderful work that community groups are doing to ensure the future of local churches for the benefit of the community – but are these powerful stories being told to their full potential?

Whether you are fundraising for capital works or seeking to engage new communities in your activities, good storytelling and marketing may be the overlooked keys to your success.

Join us online this November to hear from the Heritage Network's own Marketing and Communications Officer, Beth Crockett, as well as community group Guthrie Heritage Foundation, as they explore how church projects can develop promotional strategies that harness the power of marketing for community good.

Date - **Thursday, 27th November 2025**

Time – **10am - 11:30am (online)**

Click here for more information about this event and to book your free spot.

This event is funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland and is run in partnership with Historic Churches Scotland.

Important Updates

Guidance for Managing Trustees

The Charity Commission provides guidance to help support charity trustees along with information for anyone looking to find out more about trusteeship.

The 5-minute guide series linked below gives short and clear advice on key topics and are a quick read to help you increase your knowledge and understanding. Click here to learn more.

Grants/Funding Scheme

Government Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme - Funded Grants

The Home Office are inviting funding applications for increased protective security measures for Churches/places of worship that have problems with hate crime vandalism. **Applications close on 8th December 2025.**

For more information and to apply - click here

Useful Information, Reminders & Resources

HSE - Preventing Slips, Trips & Falls

As the evening gets darker and the weather gets colder, the risks of trips, slips and falls gets higher in the workplace and our places of worship.

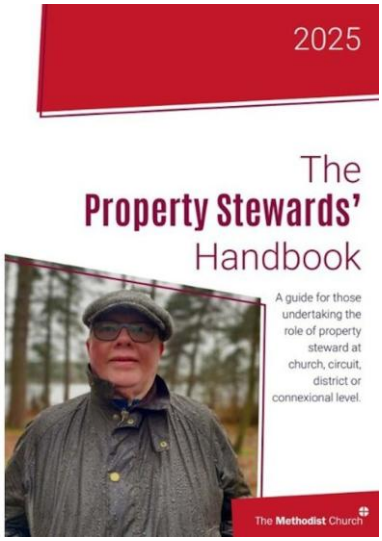
The HSE website has a lot of information on the cause and prevention of slips & trips with dedicated pages on the topic.

Click here to access these 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



Circuit Steward's Training

If you've recently been appointed as a Circuit Steward, the Circuit Steward Training is an excellent starting point to help you settle into your responsibilities.

This free, self-paced course (offered by our Learning Network colleagues) provides an opportunity to reflect on your role and responsibilities.

Simply click **Enroll** on the registration page, and the course will appear on your dashboard ready for you to begin.

Caring for Our Sacred Spaces

Our church buildings are more than just physical structures - they are places where we gather in worship, fellowship, and service. Maintaining these spaces is a vital part of our stewardship, ensuring they remain safe, welcoming, and spiritually uplifting for all who enter.

Regular upkeep helps preserve the beauty and integrity of our church, honours the legacy of past generations, and prepares the way for future ones. Our property pages have a host of **practical and technical resources** to help managing trustees look after the buildings under their responsibility.

Click here to access the page.

S.P.A.B: Practical Tips for Property Care

As part of their Maintenance Week campaign, SPAB, in collaboration with partners, has created a series of short, practical videos to help you care for church buildings.

Topics include: Church Roofs, Rainwater Goods, Interiors & Exteriors, Building Services …and more!

Click here to access the videos and explore additional maintenance resources.

Methodist Insurance November E-News
(Sponsored Content)

This month, Methodist Insurance share articles which includes their support for the recent 3Generate event held for young people at the NEC.

They explain how the Methodist Grants programme provides vital support for church projects, offer useful information on how to start a night shelter and also provide guidance to ensure your Church Fire Risk Assessment is fully kept up to date.

Click here to access the e-news content.

Listed Building Advisory Committee (LBAC)

Meeting Dates:

- **20 January 2026 -** Deadline for submissions is 2nd 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.

Methodist Church House, 25 Tavistock Place Road, London, WC1H 9SF 020 7486 5502
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