October 2026

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

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.

Eco Church

A huge congratulations to all Methodist Churches who have achieved an Eco Church award. Since the last update, there are now 1,346 Methodist churches registered; 530 of these have Bronze awards, 193 Silver and 18 Gold.

This year marks 10 years of the Eco Church programme, and A Rocha have commissioned a report, showing what has been achieved so far, learnings along the way and improvements for the years ahead. The report also shares stories from churches across the UK, including Newport Methodist Church and how they manage their land in an urban site.

Faith. Politics. Planet: An Evening with Ruth Valerio and Andy Flannagan

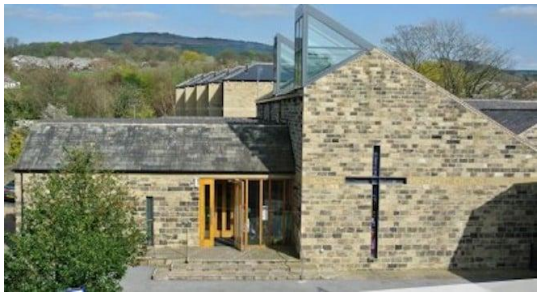
On 10 November at 7pm, marking the opening of COP31, Operation Noah and Greenbelt are hosting Faith. Politics. Planet- Hope in a Divided Age. In an age of

political division, the rise of the far-right, and a growing backlash to net zero policies, how can faith inspire meaningful climate action? You can find out more and book your tickets 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 East Yorkshire

Net Zero Transformation Investment Now Paying Off



For the congregation of Silsden Methodist Church in the Airedale Circuit, Yorkshire West District, installing solar panels and heat pumps is both environmentally friendly and a sound financial investment.

The Gold Eco-Award-winning church was only opened in 2010 after many years of fundraising and quickly took to boosting its green credentials.

Click here for the full article

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. Sharing your project experience will help encourage other churches who are thinking of embarking on a similar journey.

Please click here to access the questionnaire that will help you write your story.

Important Announcements & Updates

Missional Use of Property Consultation



The 2026 Conference received a report on the Missional Use of Property. During the conference helpful feedback was received from Conference members. As this work continues those responsible for the work are keen to continuing to listen and learn from across the connexion.

As part of this listening there will be three opportunities to attend an online consultation event in the autumn. These will be on Zoom at the following times:

- **16 November 2026, 2pm to 4pm**
- **17 November 2026, 7pm to 9pm**
- **26 November 2026, 2pm to 4pm**

Attendance at these sessions can be booked through Eventbrite here

If you feel you have thoughts on this work, please do sign up for one of the consultation events.

Please also share these events with those in your circuit and churches who might be interested.

If you have any queries about this work or the consultation events please contact Revd David Goodall, Director of Growing Churches via email

Martyn's Law 2026 Update

Martyn's Law aims to make public buildings safer by implementing security measures to prevent terrorist attacks and by improving the preparedness of organisations. The legislation is not expected to come into force until at least the spring of 2027. Martyn's Law will apply only to church buildings in which more than 200 people congregate.

Additional guidance has been recently produced for Managing Trustees by the Property Support Team with support from colleagues in the legal team and TMCP. We thought it helpful to provide another update, so you have plenty of time to consider whether any actions need to be taken. The expected requirements for places of worship, like Methodist Church buildings, are centred around simple, low-cost activities with costs relating primarily to time spent.

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.

The updated guidance document can be accessed here: Martyn's Law Guide

Methodist Insurance October E-News

In this month's edition of Property Matters, Methodist Insurance provides guidance on the responsibilities under Martyn's Law and what the new legislation means for churches. As the weather starts to turn colder, it also shares practical advice on ways to make your church more comfortable, welcoming and safe for visitors.

Click here to access the e-news content

A Useful Resource

Love your building!

As temperatures begin to fall and winter approaches, now is the perfect time to take proactive steps to protect our buildings and ensure they remain safe, efficient, and comfortable throughout the colder months.

Simple seasonal checks can help prevent costly repairs, reduce energy loss, and safeguard properties from the effects of frost, heavy rain, and severe weather. To support this important maintenance work, the **S.P.A.B. (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) Maintenance Calendar** provides a practical and comprehensive checklist of tasks to consider before winter sets in. From inspecting gutters and roof coverings to checking heating systems and addressing draughts, the calendar is an invaluable resource for anyone responsible for building maintenance.

Download the S.P.A.B. Maintenance Calendar here and use it as your guide to preparing your property for the winter season.

Listed Buildings Section

Major drive to restore churches and revitalise heritage buildings in communities across England announced

74 heritage and faith buildings including churches, synagogues, town halls and castles will receive support from the Places of Worship Renewal Fund and the Heritage at Risk Capital Fund.

By following this link, you can see the recipients of the Historic England Places of Worship Renewal Fund, which includes four Methodist churches and chapels. These successful and deserving churches have, between them, secured over £1.17m and

can now undertake urgent capital and essential repairs to their building's fabric. We welcome this investment by Historic England which is testament to the importance they place on the significance of our historic built legacy and the good works of the congregants within them. Ensuring our historic fabric is maintained in a good condition is an important part of the mission of these churches, and we congratulate them on their efforts.

Damp: A Practical Guide to Investigation and Diagnosis

Damp is one of the most common threats to historic church buildings.

Excess moisture can damage historic fabric, reduce energy efficiency, and affect the comfort and wellbeing of those using the building. Understanding the causes of damp is essential if problems are to be addressed effectively and unnecessary repairs avoided.

This new piece of guidance from Historic England explains the different methods used to assess and monitor moisture, highlighting both their benefits and limitations. It also offers practical advice on investigating damp in historic buildings, making it a useful resource for property stewards, church officers, and anyone involved in caring for Methodist buildings.

Listed Building Advisory Committee (LBAC)

Meeting Dates:

- **26 January 2027 -** Deadline for paper is 5th January 2027
- **27 April 2027** - Deadline for paper is 6th April 2027
- **20 July 2027** - Deadline for paper is 29th June 2027

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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