

September 2024

# PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church

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

**Reminder - LBAC Papers are due on 1 October 2024 latest**

## Urgent Notice - Please Read

The following is a message from the **Historic Religious Buildings Alliance** and relates to the **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (VAT)**

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

Dear Colleagues,

We're writing about the government's VAT grant scheme. This gives grants covering the VAT on repairs or alterations over £1000 to a listed place of worship. The official name of the scheme is the **Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme**.

**The Scheme is currently set to run only until the end of March 2025.**

As you will know from media reports, the government is looking very carefully at its patterns of expenditure in the run up to the late October budget. We therefore think it would be sensible to confirm to the government how important and valued this grant scheme is, and ask them to continue it.

To read the entire notice and for details on how to take part, please click [here](#)

## Methodist Homelessness and Housing Event

In advance of Homelessness Sunday, the **Methodist Homelessness and Housing Gathering** will take place on Zoom on

**Friday, 4 October 10am to 12 noon.**

The gathering will include updates on leasing manses to refugees and the use of modular units on spare land or empty church buildings to provide temporary accommodation for homeless people.



There will be a session on leasing manses to refugees where you will hear from [TMCP](#) and LCP on the process and from [York Circuit](#) about their experiences of working with refugees.

Click [here](#) to register your attendance. Tickets are free.

## Some Inspiration from around the Connexion

### From a Gazebo to a Warm Hub

Summer or winter, every Thursday since November 2020, the Take & Make stall of [Kirkham Methodist Church](#) in the [Lancashire District](#) is out at the entrance of the church. Under a gazebo, volunteers have fruits, veggies and non-perishables available for anyone to take and make the meal of their choice.

An initiative that started during the pandemic has evolved and now offers a warm hub for people to sit, have a drink and chat.

Click [here](#) to read how it all started.



### **Making New with Old - Killinghall's Journey towards become a Carbon Neutral Church**

[Killinghall Methodist Church](#) has a small but mighty congregation that have worked hard to modernise its building and decrease carbon emissions.

At first glance, the small chapel appears to be a charming rural church like many others.

However, a different story is told by the south side of the building with the roof covered by photovoltaic panels amongst other things and the electric car charging station is a statement to Killinghall's commitment to achieving net zero.

Click [here](#) to read about Killinghall's incredible journey towards being a net zero church.



### **Bringing Hope in Hull One School Uniform at a time**

Located in one of the most deprived areas of Hull, [Trinity Methodist Church](#) in the [Yorkshire North & East Methodist District](#) is at the centre of the largest RE-uniform project in Yorkshire. A community outreach project that has become missional for its congregation.

The **Re-Uniform Project** started in 2019 led by Susie Steel and Emma Hardy, Labour MP for Hull West and Hessle. The project is in part to reduce the waste in landfills but mostly to help families.



Click [here](#) to read more about this incredible community project.

# Maintaining Your Buildings

## CONSERVATE - a Heritage Skills Conference

The National Trust is holding a conference on the sustainability of heritage skills – their loss and decline, and the ingenuity and innovation of individuals and organisations keeping them alive through business modelling, education and engagement.



Training Date: **Friday 20 September 2024 from 10am - 4pm**

Venue: **Heritage and Rural Skills Centre, Swindon, Wiltshire**

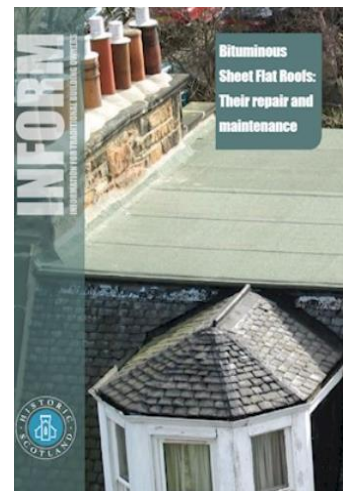
For more information and how to register, click [here](#)

## Flat Roof Maintenance & Bird Control

Historic Environment Scotland have produced two pieces of guidance that would help managing trustess who look after historic buildings.

Click on the link to learn more about:

- [Bituminous Sheet Flat Roofs](#)
- [Bird control on historic buildindgs](#)



## HSE Campaign on the Risk of Asbestos

Asbestos remains in millions of homes and buildings today and it can become dangerous when disturbed or damaged. HSE is currently running 2 asbestos campaigns to highlight the risks of having and/or dealing with Asbestos:



**Asbestos and You** - This campaign is more for tradesperson and it highlights the risks they need to watch out for especially when carrying out building works on buildings built before 2000. Click [here](#) to access the resources for the 'Asbestos and You' campaign.

**Asbestos – Your Duty** - This campaign raises awareness of the legal [duty to manage asbestos](#) in buildings. The HSE website guidelines include information on

- what the legal duty is, and steps required to comply with the law
- who the duty holder is (depending on the type of building) and what they must do
- new templates of an asbestos management plan and asbestos register
- examples of how asbestos can be managed etc.

You can also listen to the podcast on the duty to manage asbestos by clicking [here](#)

### **Resilient Rainwater Systems**

Rainwater systems collect and/or direct rainwater away from buildings. They comprise rainwater shedding details (such as projecting eaves); rainwater goods (eaves, valley, box or parapet gutters; outlets; hoppers and downpipes); gullies and below ground drains.



Historic England

Rainwater systems are essential to keep a building in good condition and prevent its deterioration. If rainwater systems fail and water penetration occurs, this can cause fabric decay, such as timber rot. The increase in winter precipitation, and more frequent intense rainfall events are causing rainwater systems to fail.

[Click here to read Historic England's full article on Resilient Rainwater Systems and top 5 tips on how to keep your systems in good working order.](#)

## Join the Journey with Jesus for Disability Awareness Week

Disability charity and member of Cytûn, Through the Roof, is inviting churches to celebrate Disability Awareness Week by including local disabled people and holding a service on **Sunday 22nd September 2024**, or a day of their choice.



Disability Awareness Week begins on **Sunday 15th September** with a launch service live-streamed on YouTube, led by Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference. **Access a Free Disability Awareness Week 2024 Resource Pack [here](#)**

Find out more about this and other important updates by reading the **CYTÛN Policy Bulletin Summer Edition**.

Click [here](#) for the English Version

Click [here](#) for the Welsh Version

## Funding Opportunities

The government's **Community Ownership Fund Round 4**: Prospectus has been recently updated and available.

This Fund is available for projects that are focused taking ownership of assets that are at risk of loss in a particular community.

The Capital funding available is at the tune of up to £2 million of all asset types but the fund expects that most awards will be for up to £250,000 of capital funding.





[Click here](#) for more information about funding goals, who can apply and how to apply.

**Save The Date - National Lottery Heritage Fund (Update)**

There will be a Zoom briefing from the National Lottery Heritage Fund on **Tuesday 24 September at 2pm** with information on the Fund's new ten-year strategy (Heritage 2033) including the development of a revised National Lottery Heritage Grant programme, and recent developments relating to historic religious buildings.

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

Click [here](#) for more information.

## Free Training

**National Churches Trust - Smarter: Volunteer Recruitment**

Working alongside your existing team, new volunteers can bring fresh energy and potential. However Churches and other community groups seem to struggle to recruit and retain new volunteers.



If this is you then this FREE Online training session will help introduce you to different ways to attract new volunteers and other forms of support for your church/community group.

Training Date: **Tuesday, 24 September 2024 from 2pm - 3pm**

Click [here](#) to register

## An Interesting Read

**Caring for Churches and Chapels in England: the Long View** by Trevor Cooper is a paper that identifies five long-term pressures which causes difficulties for those working to secure historic churches and chapels in England whilst at the same time showing that there are ground for optimism despite the difficulties highlighted.

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Click [here](#) to read the entire paper.

## Methodist Insurance Updates

### Avoid Injury!

Our claims data shows that slips and trips are the most common cause of injury in churches. Simple precautions can make a real difference. For example, cleaning spillages up promptly or checking there are no trailing electrical cables.

[Preventing slips and trips](#)



### Home Insurance That Gives Back

Buy a new buildings or contents policy with Methodist Insurance, and we'll make it count by giving 20% of your first year's premium as a donation to a church or charity of your choice. In doing so, your home insurance policy not only protects your home but also supports the Methodist community.

[Terms and conditions apply](#)

[Find out more about home insurance](#)





## Disability Inclusion: breaking down barriers in the church with Through the Roof.

In a recent episode of their podcast, Benefact Trust is highlighting the expertise and insights of charity and beneficiary, Through the Roof.

Through the Roof educates and equips churches across the UK to be more inclusive with their Roofbreaker project. In this episode, Through the Roof's Katie Mobbs and Amanda Say highlight their own unique stories and experiences as wheelchair users and disability advocates, and how churches can play a leading role in modelling inclusivity.

Watch on [YouTube](#) or listen on [Spotify](#)



## Looking to increase the accessibility of your church?

While accessibility is just the start (see Through the Roof's [ABC Journey of Disability Inclusion](#)), it is an important step towards building an inclusive church. For funding to increase your church's accessibility, why not apply to [Benefact Trust's Methodist Grants Programme](#) - funded by donations from Methodist Insurance PLC.

## Drum Roll Please...

We are delighted to announce that Rev Stephen Radford (Superintendent Minister) was the winner of our Free Summer Draw, held during the Methodist Conference in June!

This week, Stephen pictured left was presented with a £350 donation voucher by Adrienne Whitehead from Methodist Insurance at the Kirkby Stephen Methodist Church in Cumbria. He was joined by Church Stewards, Mrs. Cath Thwaites and Mr. John Thwaites.

Stephen said, ***"We are delighted, thank you for your wonderful generosity, and for all of the help you give to the Methodist church. We will be putting the money towards the costs of hosting a Methodist Modern Art Exhibition at the Church next Easter."***



## Risk Assessment For Churches

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.

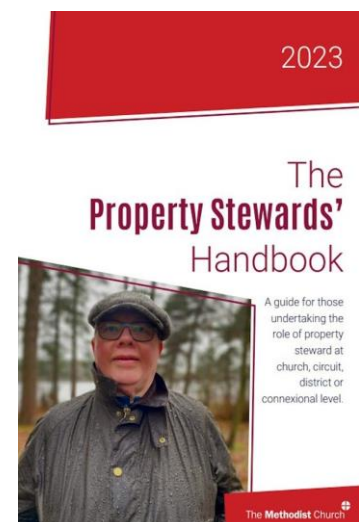


[Use our template to get started](#)

## Property Stewards' Handbook

Remember the Property Stewards' Handbook is designed to be an across-the-board information resource for property stewards at a church, circuit and district level including 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:**

- **8 October 2024** - Deadline for paper is 1 October 2024
- **21 January 2025** - Deadline for paper is 31 December 2024
- **29 April 2025** - Deadline for paper is 8 April 2025

#### **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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