

May 2020

# PROPERTY MATTERS

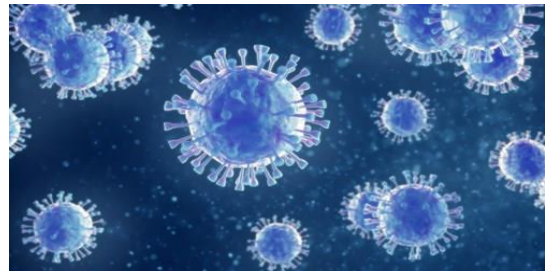
The Methodist Church

Welcome to the May edition of Property Matters with a focus on updates on guidance during the Covid-19 pandemic. If you have any feedback, please email the [Property Support Team](#).

## Coronavirus Guidance

There have been new guidance added about opening up church buildings for designated uses as stated in recent government guidance. Some updated topics include:

- [Re-opening a Building Checklist](#)
- [Covid 19 Church Risk Assessment](#)
- [Construction Advice during Covid-19](#)
- [Early Years Guidance during Covid-19](#)
- [Other Property Users Guidance](#)



Please continue to check for new FAQ's as new government guidelines emerge.

## Covid-19 Guidance from TMCP

TMCP would like to draw Managing Trustees attention to the new guidance available on [residential conveyancing transactions](#) during the COVID-19 crisis. The Government has issued guidance for the public and industry in relation to home buying and this has prompted the Law Society to follow suit and provide guidance for Solicitors.

Guidance for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic is evolving on an almost daily basis. The effect of COVID-19 is wide reaching and may affect ongoing works for

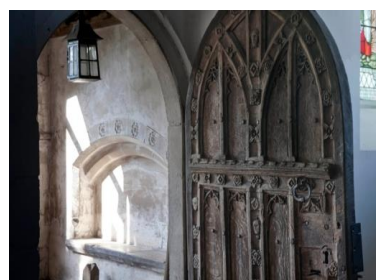


some time to come, including but not limited to those logged as property projects on the property Consents Website for some time to come. To assist Managing Trustees, TMCP have produced a guidance note [COVID-19 and its effect upon Building Contracts and works to Methodist Churches](#).

Additionally, there are updates to the list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about residential & non-residential leases during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Resources for Life in Lockdown

The Churches Conservation Trust have produced [Resources for life in Lockdown](#). Whilst their historic churches are currently closed you can still enjoy them and learn something new.



## Covid-19 Funding

The Civil Society has collated a list of grant funding for charities during the outbreak. Click [here](#) to view the details.



[The Community Fund](#) is prioritising projects and organisations supporting communities through the COVID-19 pandemic. Priority will be given to projects that focus on:

- organisations supporting people who are at high risk from COVID-19
- organisations supporting communities most likely to face increased demand and challenges as a direct result of COVID-19
- organisations which connect communities and support communities to work together to respond to COVID-19



Heritage Alliance (of which the Methodist Church is a member) has produced [COVID-19 Guidance](#) for the Heritage Sector. This includes a [Covid 19 Guidance Hub](#) and [Covid-19 Funding Hub](#) which outlines the advice and sources of national and regional funding to help mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

The  
Heritage  
Alliance

[The Arts Council](#) has announced the availability of grants up to the value of £35k to help with urgent operational costs following loss of income. Projects must address one or more of the three strategic priorities:

- bringing people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
- improving the places and spaces that matter to communities
- helping more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage.



[Heritage Emergency Fund](#) is short-term funding to support the immediate actions needed to stabilise operations and manage unforeseen risks. The deadline for applications is on **Tuesday, 30 June 2020**.



Historic England

## A Message from Methodist Insurance



We're here if you need us. We would like to assure you that we are closely monitoring the situation and have robust plans in place to ensure that we can continue to provide you with the services, help and advice that you need.

[Learn more.](#)

**Policy enhancements during COVID-19**

To try to provide additional peace of mind during this period, with immediate effect, we are applying automatic enhancements to all church and home insurance policies. Follow the links below to find out more:

- [Church insurance policy temporary changes](#)
- [Home insurance policy temporary changes](#)

### **Take a moment to vote for your favourite**

Help us decide on the National Winner in our Church Volunteer Awards. Read our Regional Winners' stories and vote for your favourite. The winning volunteer will win a further £2,000 for their church.

[Vote now](#)

### **Grant uncovers links to John Wesley's open air preaching**

In July 2019, Methodist Insurance Fund awarded Chapel-en-le-Frith a grant of £4,000 towards the establishment of the Townend Community Garden in a field purchased by the church in 1960. The Project Coordinator has uncovered records that show John Wesley was preaching in a field very close by, on the present church site. [Learn more](#)

## **Join the Online Debate!**

[Historic England](#) is facilitating an online debate on the topics uppermost in their minds. Follow the links for a lively exchange of views for and by those interested in understanding,



Historic England

presenting and caring for England's rich and diverse historic environment. This Edition looks at the [Impact of Covid-19 on the Heritage Sector](#) and includes a number of interesting articles on the challenges and opportunities that have arisen from the pandemic for those involved in ecclesiastical heritage. They also outline the support they believe is required to help the sector through the current crisis.

You can view these here:

- [Cathedrals, Craft Training and Covid-19](#)
- [Impact of Covid-19 on Rural Churches, Contractors and Professional Advisers](#)
- [The Churches Conservation Trust in Lockdown](#)
- [People Place and Time](#)

- [From Foreshore to Armchair](#)

## Pewlets

It's pews vs space. The age-old problem, now more pressing than ever. While some churches have put their pews on wheels, a church in Suffolk has created innovative and – to my mind – beautiful Pewlets! The beautiful, carved bench ends are kept, but the pew shortened to form a chair. [Read more here.](#)



## Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- 7 July 2020 - Deadline for papers - 16 June 2020

**Property Matters is a monthly newsletter focused on giving updates on property related guidance and legislation as well as providing information and links to related subjects. 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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