

May 2022

# PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

Welcome to the May edition of Property Matters with a focus on property-related updates and guidance.

If you have any feedback, please email the [Property Support Team](#).

## Love Your Burial Ground

[Caring For God's Acre](#) is encouraging churches to join in celebrating their burial ground. Love Your Burial Ground week runs from **Saturday, 4th June to Sunday 12th June**. [Click here to find out more](#).



There has been a trend to encourage wildlife in church graveyards as described in [this article](#) and a campaign called [#NoMowMay](#) has encouragee people not mow during the month of May as it is an essential time for pollinators. Another popular initiative is the [Churches Count on Nature](#), which can be combined with Love Your Burial Ground week. [Click here to view further resources](#).

Additionally, here are some resources to help you in managing burial grounds:

- [Schedule G](#) and the [Quinquennial Inspection Report](#) have been updated
- [Connexional Guidance on Burial Ground Maintenance](#)
- [TMCP's Guidance on Burial Grounds](#)

## Little Changes Make a Big Difference for Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church

In 2012, the Church Council of Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church in Leicestershire discussed their mission in the community and how it could be developed. As the church is over 100 years old, there were access problems with steps, sloping floors, narrow aisles and fixed pews and the heating system was old and the insulation was poor. The Church Council requested the formation of a



Development Group to look into these problems and how they could be solved so we could move forward. [Click here to read the full story.](#)

## Places of Worship Protective Security Funding

[The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme](#) provides funding for places of worship and associated faith community centres that are vulnerable to hate crime. This scheme is intended to reduce:

- the risk of a hate crime happening at a place of worship and associated faith community centre
- the impact of hate crime on the place of worship itself (the building) and people attending the place of worship
- Through the scheme, vulnerable places of worship can apply for protective security measures, such as CCTV, secure fencing, and intruder alarms to be installed at their site for free.



The scheme covers the costs of equipment and installation of all security measures agreed for your place of worship. This includes any maintenance costs for one year from the installation date (such as for CCTV systems or for Monitored Intruder Alarm Systems). You can apply for the installation of up to 3 protective security measures at your place of worship or associated faith community centre. **The application process is open from 19 May 2022 until 14 July 2022.**

[Click here for more information.](#)

# TMCP Updates

## Streamling Update

TMCP introduced a new process (Streamlining Process) on 1 September 2021 to reduce the time that is spent on simple property sale transactions where one of the Methodist panel solicitor firms ('the Panel') are instructed by Managing Trustees. Since the introduction of the Streamlining Process we have been listening to feedback from Managing Trustees, the Panel and the TMCP Legal team. As a result of the feedback received, we have made some changes to the [Check-In One Checklist](#) (Checklist) which will result in a slight re-focus of the Check-In One meeting.

[Click here to read the Check-In One Checklist Focus Note.](#)



## Methodist Insurance Update

### An Interview with the National Methodist Youth Brass Band

We've moved into our 150th year with a spring in our step and a song in our hearts – and very proud to be sponsoring the National Methodist Youth Brass Band.

The band's moto is fun, faith and fellowship. We interviewed some of the members in our recent edition of Dialogue. [Read the interview](#)



### Fundraising - Engaging with Your Community

As you start to hold more fundraising events, keeping your congregation up-to-date and engaged with your activities will help to boost participation and hopefully donations.

Learn more about making the most of your communications

[Engaging with your community](#)



## Grants for your Church

Methodist Insurance is committed to supporting the mission and ministry of the Methodist Church, particularly as it looks to respond to increasing community need in these challenging times. You can find out more about the programme, apply for funding and take a look at some case studies from churches that have benefited. [Methodist Grants Programme](#)



## Aid for Ukraine

£50,000 from Benefact Trust's Methodist Grants Programme has been awarded to All We Can, a charity partnering with the Methodist Church in Britain to provide humanitarian assistance where needed. The Methodist grant will support the charity, which is on the ground helping people through the crisis in Ukraine. [Benefact Trust's commitment to support Ukraine Dialogue](#)



## Events

Events are a great way to engage with your wider community and raise vital funds. It is important though that these are managed properly to ensure everyone remains safe and your event a success. [Find out more](#)





**Protect your home and support your church or charity**

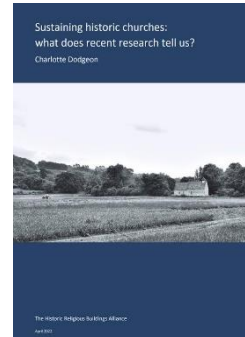
\*Terms and conditions apply.



# Sustaining Historic Churches: What Does Recent Research Tell Us?

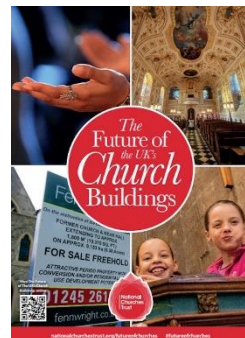
Historic Religious Building Alliance have produced a report on [Sustaining Historic Churches: What does recent research tell us?](#)

This publication summarises a selection of recent research reports directly bearing on the sustainability of historic churches. More research has been carried out on the sustainability of these buildings than any other type of heritage. This is not surprising: the many thousands of listed churches form a substantial proportion of the country's built heritage, yet are cared for by volunteers whose purpose is worship, not heritage, and whose numbers are – on average – shrinking. [Click here to read the full report.](#)



## The Future of the UK's Church Buildings

In November 2021, with the support of Sir Michael Palin, [The National Churches Trust started a national debate](#) to help safeguard the future of the UK's church buildings. Click here to read the report on [The Future of the UK's Church Buildings](#). It includes a range of informative and stimulating articles about why churches matter and how they can be kept open and in use. They asked the public to tell the what they think matters about church buildings in a special online consultation. [Click here to view the results.](#)



## Church Tourism Post Covid

Sarah Crossland, Engagement Manager at the National Churches Trust (NCT), has been interviewed about the impact of Covid on Church Tourism, and learn how one can put one's church on the tourism map. Leading up to March 2020 and Covid-19, Sarah was working on a project funded by Visit Wales which focused on 'working with churches on how to develop bookable experiences' and



she explained that much of what she would say would be based on this. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

## HSE Updates



### **Volunteering: Guidance on how to manage the risks**

HSE has guidance on how to manage the risks to volunteers. The guidance explains how [health and safety law applies to volunteering](#) and provides details on [when to report incidents involving volunteers](#).

There is also advice on including volunteers in your risk assessments. This guidance provides some specific advice for volunteers who manage non-domestic premises such as village and community halls, as well as guidance on charity retail and fundraising. [Click here to read more.](#)

### **Reduce the Risks of Electrical injury**

Electricity is a part of everyday life, but it can kill or severely injure people and cause damage to property. [HSE's electrical safety at work](#) has advice on how to help reduce the risk of electrical injury. The site also has [helpful resources](#) you can access. There are [simple precautions](#) you can take when working with, or near, electricity to significantly reduce the risk of electrical injury to you and others around you.

### **Safe Use of Ladders and Stepladders**

Falls when working at height remain the most common kind of workplace fatality. Make sure that you use the right type of ladder and that you know how to use it safely. Ladders and stepladders can be a sensible and practical option for low-risk, short-duration tasks, although they should not automatically be your first choice. [HSE's website has updated guidance](#) with a wide range of information and advice including:

- how and when to use a ladder at work
- where ladders should be used
- inspecting the condition of ladders

You can also download the guidance document [Safe use of Ladders and Stepladders](#), which has been jointly produced by HSE and the Ladder Association.

### LBAC Meeting Dates:

- **19 July 2022** - Deadline for paper - 28th June 2022
- **11 October 2022** - Deadline for paper - 20th September 2022
- **24 January 2023** - Deadline for paper - 3 January 2023

### 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 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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