

April 2024

PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

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

For the latest property guidance, please refer to the [Property pages](#).

[Meet the Property Support Team](#)

We care for creation and all God's gifts

Flourishing is the theme for this month's Methodist Way of Life and so it seems appropriate to encourage opportunities to engage with nature and God's creation as this often reminds and prompts us to reflect on how we are called to consider our individual and collective response in being called to care for creation and all God's gifts. You can find out more about this station on the discipleship journey.

[Click here to read more.](#)



As April 22 is Earth day, this issue of Property Matters has a focus on all things green. We hope that you will find some resources and inspiration of ways to work towards reducing our carbon footprint and preserving God's creation.

[Click here for more information](#) about what the Methodist Church is doing about climate change.

Love Your Burial Ground Week

Caring for God's Acre annual [Love Your Burial Ground and Churches Count on Nature](#) week has been set for **8th - 16th June 2024** and there is a focus on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and chapel yards. It is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK.



You can read the [Annual Report 2022-23](#), which has some exciting numbers about the number of people engaged in citizen science in burial ground projects and the contributions of churchyards to biodiversity and carbon storage

Over 27,000 wildlife records have been submitted during this dedicated week over the past two years, and many recorders are continuing to submit records through the burial grounds project on [iNaturalist UK](#).

[Click here](#) to find information on how to sign up as well as resources.

Bloomin Beautiful

Churchyards, cemeteries and other types of burial ground are often the oldest enclosed spaces in a parish, town, or city. They host grassland that has remained relatively undisturbed for centuries. The gradual, natural re-seeding over many years has given rise to a diverse ecosystem of grasses, flowers, and animals. This ancient, unimproved grassland, once abundant across the UK, has now become a rarity. We have lost 97 percent of it since the second world war.



Allowing certain areas to grow freely during the summer months enables the flowers to bloom once more. **However, it is important to inform visitors why we are leaving the grass to grow long to prevent any unnecessary concern, so they know that it is active management – not neglect!**

Caring For God's Acre have produced a set of signs that people can download, print, and laminate to place by their wildflower areas. [Simply complete the form](#) to download the sign and help inform CFGA where great work taking place!

New Investment to Rejuvenate Rural Community Green Spaces

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has announced a new Community Green Spaces Fund, which will provide up to £7 million in funding to support communities to create, restore and enhance their green spaces. Grants will be awarded through the fund for initiatives such as community orchards, kitchen gardens and natural play areas.



Further funding will support enhancements to village halls through capital investment projects.

[Read more about the newly announced Community Green Spaces Fund](#)

VAT Relief for Charity Energy Upgrades

Buildings used solely for charitable purposes can now save on VAT for installing eligible energy-saving materials like insulation, solar panels, and heat pumps. This tax break went into effect on 1st February.

[Click here to read more about qualifying buildings, materials and works.](#)



Green Church Awards

You are invited to enter the new Church Times Green Awards! Tell us what your church, school or community group is doing to make a big impact in your community through eco projects.

The awards aim to celebrate the great work of church communities around the country who are caring for God's creation. The deadline for entries is **30 June 2024**. [Click here to enter and for more information.](#)



Pilgrimage: The Peak Wesley Way

The vision for this was born from a small group of local Methodists reflecting on the future of smaller chapels in a changing world. An invitation to small groups of all faiths and none to engage in the ancient practice of pilgrimage along a path connecting six rural chapels in the beautiful Peak District National Park.

[Click here to read more.](#)

If you are interested in creating your own pilgrimage, [click here to read the Arthur Rank Centre guidance on pilgrimages.](#)



The Great Big Green Week

[The Great Big Green Week](#) is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Every year, people come together to unleash a wave of support for action to protect the planet. Tens of thousands of people in



every corner of the country celebrate the heartfelt, brave, everyday actions being taken to stand up for nature and fight climate change.

In 2024, Great Big Green Week will take place between **8th and 16th June**.

[Click here to learn more and find out what's going on in your area.](#)

Silver Award for Trinity Methodist Church and Community Hub

Trinity Methodist Church's Eco Group members are celebrating after receiving an A Rocha Eco Church Silver Award. The accolade follows hot on the heels of the group receiving Bronze in 2022 and has certainly given the team impetus to go for Gold!



[Trinity Methodist Church](#) in Clitheroe started their journey in 2019 when minister, Rev Ian Humphreys, set about addressing some of the critical climate issues raised at the National Methodist Church annual conference. Archie Whymark, one of the older members of the congregation volunteered to be their Climate Action Champion and register for the A Rocha Eco Church Award Scheme. The Trinity Eco Group was then formed with the help of an enthusiastic bunch of volunteers. [Click here to read the rest of the story.](#)

Net Zero in My Neighbourhood

Do you want to be a climate champion in your community? Would you like to help make where you live greener, safer and more pleasant? Are you looking for local ways to act on your environmental concerns? Then Net Zero in My Neighbourhood is just what you're looking for!



These resources will help churches to support their communities in holding councils accountable over their climate action plans. The campaign encourages us to build relationships with our councils and facilitate meeting spaces for our communities to come together and discuss how we can achieve a just transition from fossil fuels where we are.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Webinars on Getting to Net Zero

The Church of England have produced a series a series of webinars is designed to support and equip churches to reach the ambitious target of becoming net zero. They cover everything from forming your team to putting solar panels on your roof, and including low cost housekeeping actions which can pay back quickly.

[Click here to view.](#)



Having Faith in Good Maintenance

The importance of undertaking regular maintenance cannot be stressed enough. Proper and regular maintenance of your church building will help you preserve heritage, save money, be more sustainable, and promote guardianship and community involvement. Hear from our officers with decades of built heritage experience.



The National Churches Trust is offering a **free, online session on Tuesday, 7 March, 2-3pm**. If you're struggling get on top of maintenance, or you are creating or developing your maintenance plan, this FREE session could be what you need to give your building a fresh start for spring. This session is open to anyone, from any church, chapel of meeting house across the UK.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Call for Participants for Heritage Open Days 2024 (England)

Participant registration is now open for the [Heritage Open Days 2024 Festival](#) – the 30th anniversary of England’s largest celebration of history and culture. Taking place from 6-15 September, this year’s festival will focus on the theme “Routes – Networks – Connections”, and is calling for proposals for events that will share important local stories and traditions. Getting involved early will allow your events to be featured in advance promotions.

[Click here to read more.](#)



Methodist Insurance Updates

Unlocking funding to "green" your church's mission

Our latest fundraising article, written in collaboration with the Philanthropy Company, will explore the different types of funding available for sustainability projects and reducing your environmental impact.

Create a campaign around green activity and communicate your story to donors.

[Read the article](#)



Managing trees

Trees form a natural part of the landscape and bring many benefits. However, they can present hazards as they age and careful management is needed.

[Managing trees at your church](#)



How regularly do you value your home and contents?

It's important to make sure your home insurance provides adequate cover for your contents, especially as prices rise.

We recommend checking each year to ensure your sums insured are up to date.

[Download our contents checklist](#)



Conference

We are delighted to be the main sponsor of the 2024 Methodist Conference, on Thursday 27 June until Wednesday 3 July in Leeds at the Royal Armouries and New Dock Hall Armouries Way.

If you are attending Conference this year, come and visit us and say hi. On our stand, you will find lots of useful information, advice to help with the smooth running of your church and a prize draw.

[More about Conference](#)



Benefact Trust awards over £400,000 to 12 inspirational project in the latest round of Methodist Grants.

Benefact Trust's Methodist Grants programme – funded by donations from Methodist Insurance PLC – is helping Methodist organisations across the UK and Ireland to enhance their mission and ministry.

This latest round of grants includes £32,850 to Launceston Central Methodist Church, Cornwall, to help make their building more inclusive, accessible, and eco-friendly – creating deeper connections with their community. As well as a £100,000 grant awarded to Dundrum Methodist Church, Dublin, to help replace the asbestos roof, upgrade the electrics, and create more accessible facilities.

[Read more](#)



METHODIST INSURANCE

**HOME INSURANCE
CAN COUNT FOR
MORE THAN
JUST COVER.**

20%*
DONATED TO
YOUR CHOSEN
CHURCH OR
CHARITY

* Terms and conditions apply. Full details available on our website
methodistinsurance.co.uk/charitydonation

HSE Update



Workplace health, safety and welfare: legal requirements

HSE has [guidance on managing health and safety](#) and controlling risks for businesses. Their managing health and safety pages will help you find the right level of guidance for your business. They include a guide providing an [introduction to managing health and safety](#). This will help you:

- understand what managing health and safety means
- find the right guidance for your workplace
- use the Plan, Do, Check, Act approach to manage health and safety in a way that is simple and proportionate to your risks, while still complying with the law

There are also links to useful resources on the site, including our free to download publication on [Managing for health and safety \(HSG65\)](#).

April is Stress Awareness Month

Use Stress Awareness Month to make it routine to prevent stress and support mental health at work, and encourage others too. [HSE's Working Minds campaign](#) is inviting employers and managers to focus on one of the campaign's 5 steps for each of the 5 weeks:

- Reach out and have conversations
- Recognise the signs and causes of stress

- Respond to any risks you've identified
- Reflect on actions you've agreed and taken
- Make it Routine

[To learn more, watch their video.](#) We have more helpful resources to help you:

- get more information from their [press release](#)
- register for [free bite size learning](#)
- download [HSE's risk assessment template](#)
- read the blog: [Taking an organisational approach to risk assessment](#)

Template Clauses Updates

Template Clause Updates

Following the third tranche of reforms to the Charities Act 2011 (brought in by the Charities Act 2022), which came into force on 7 March 2024, TMCP has updated its various template clauses that are required to be included in transactional documents which involve Methodist property. The following template clauses have been updated:

- [Sale Template Clauses](#)
- [Burial Ground Template Clauses](#)
- [Non-Residential Lease Template Clauses](#)
- [Non-Residential Lease Ancillary Documents Template Clauses](#)

[Click here to read more.](#)

New and Updated Data Protection Resources - Data Retention and CCTV Policies

TMCP and the Connexional Team are pleased to announce that the Retention Schedule was updated in January 2024. (This important document is a table listing all the different types of records commonly held by Local Churches, Circuits and Districts. It confirms how long to keep each type of record and what to do at the end of the retention period.)

[Click here to read more.](#)



Data Protection Annual Checklist

TMCP would like to remind managing trustees that it is the time of the year when they should be thinking about submitting their Data Protection Annual Checklist to their Districts. **As with previous years the deadline for submission of the Annual Checklist remains 31st May 2024.**

[Click here to read more.](#)

Housing for Homelessness

Wed, 8 May 2024 10:30am
The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham

Tickets are now available for the first in person Housing and Homelessness Gathering in a number of years. There will be a range of speakers from within the church and from the housing world who will provide you with inspiration and the knowledge on using church property for affordable and supported housing. The gathering is an opportunity to learn about how affordable and supported housing is delivered and how you can work in partnership with housing organisations. Meeting in person will also give you the chance to meet Methodists from other parts of the country who also wish to play their part in tackling the housing and homelessness crisis. You will also be able to hear about what Methodist churches are doing locally as part of our calling to serve the community.



The event is free. Tickets are limited so [click here to book now.](#)

Mission Planning Surgeries

Get Help with Mission Planning

Perhaps you are not sure how to get started with mission planning. Or you have started working on a plan, but got lost along the way. You may have a plan in place, but you've struggled to put it into action. Or perhaps you need to review your plan so that it fits where you are right now.



The Evangelism and Growth Team, in collaboration with the Learning Network, offer monthly 'mission planning surgeries'. Circuits and churches can book a two-hour slot during which they receive input tailored to their particular context. You could use this time to help you think through a knotty issue, to ask for specific guidance, or to find out about people and resources in your local area who can continue to accompany you in your mission planning. Ideally a few representatives from a circuit or church team would attend together so that the input from the surgery would be shared among the team.

[Click here to sign up.](#)

Chubb Fire Extinguisher Contract

The contract with Chubb for fire extinguishers has been renewed and the details below can be found on the [A-Z Property Guidance](#). Any new premises wishing to participate in this agreement must apply through the below address, via post, telephone, or email. Contact details as follows:

Chubb Fire & Security Ltd
National Accounts
United Technologies House
Shadsworth Business Park
Shadsworth Road
Blackburn BB1 2PR
Email – service@chubbfd.co.uk
Tel - 0344 879 1773

If the following details could be provided to enable them to add your premises to the Churches contract:

- The full name and address with postcode for the invoice
- The name and telephone number of the contact to arrange access to site
- The name and address of the site that is to be serviced
- The due month in which the service is required

On receipt of this correspondence they will arrange to visit your premises. Subsequent to each annual service carried out, any recommendations for replacement or additional extinguishers will be forwarded to you for your approval.

Churches should ensure that when dealing with Chubb they are on the National Account Contract as agreements with Chubb's local offices can be more expensive. [Click here](#) for further information on fire safety that can be found on the Methodist Insurance's website.

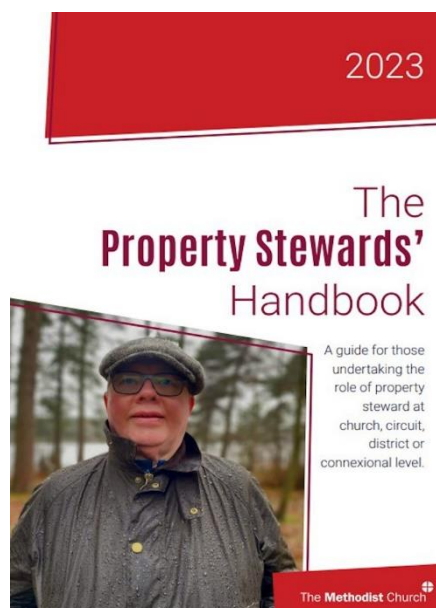
Property Stewards' Handbook

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Property Stewards' Handbook!

This handbook is design to be an across-the-board information resource for property stewards at a church, circuit and district level.

It includes 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:

- **16 July 2024** - Deadline for paper is 14 June 2024

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.

Methodist Church House, 25 Tavistock Place Road, London, WC1H 9SF 020 7486 5502
methodist.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1132208

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Subscribe to other newsletters](#)

[Change your details](#)

[Click here for a PDF version](#)