

March 2022

# PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

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

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

## Ukraine

The Government have established the Homes for Ukraine scheme, giving the chance for individuals within churches and communities to host a refugee or family from Ukraine. The scheme is currently for individuals to sponsor a person seeking sanctuary to enable them to live in the UK. There will be a scheme for groups (including churches) to sponsor a person or family, which will be announced at a later date.



Keep an eye on the Methodist Church website for advice and guidance on hosting refugees and what that means for property. TMCP and the Connexional property team will be releasing a toolkit next week which will be accessible on the TMCP website. [Find out more information and keep across updates here.](#)

# Methodist Insurance Update

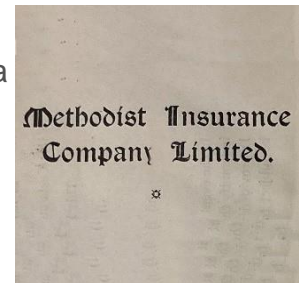
## Ladders

Ladders and stepladders are commonly used in churches and they offer a practical option for low-risk, short duration tasks. However, ladders can pose a significant risk of injury if they are not used properly. Check that they are right for the job, free from defects and appropriately positioned and secured. [Find out more.](#)



## 150 year of Making It Count

From the steam age to the twenty-first century. A century and a half ago, a small group of Methodists met to form an insurance company to protect their churches and to support their community. [Take a look back with us over the last 15 decades!](#)



## Fundraising Tips for Rural Churches

Our latest fundraising blog focuses on rural churches that may have small congregations and few volunteers. Learn more about making the most of fundraising opportunities that could give your church a boost. [Read our fundraising tips.](#)



## Home Insurance that gives back

If you take out a new home insurance policy with Methodist Insurance, we give you 20% of the premium back to donate to a church or charity of your choice. You can also save 10% off your premium if you buy your contents and home insurance together. Just call our team on 0345 606 1331 to find out more and to get a quote. Minimum premiums and terms and conditions apply.

[Read about our home insurance.](#)



## Planning a Project in 2022??

Since its establishment, the Methodist Grants Programme has awarded just over £11million to churches and we want to do more. If you have a project that will make a positive impact and improve lives in your community – you can find information on how to apply for a grant on our website.

[Find out more about the Methodists Grant Programme.](#)



## 150th Celebratory Awards

Our 150th Celebratory Awards, in which we'll be awarding 15 church and community initiatives a £1,500 donation, are now open. We want to support the ideas and initiatives that could really make a difference to your church and community. So, we're asking how you would make the £1,500 donation count. Entries are open until **29 July 2022** and please note, [terms and conditions apply](#).

[Learn more about the awards.](#)



**METHODIST INSURANCE**

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

\*Terms and conditions apply.



## Does 5 Members and No Money = No Hope?

Malham Chapel have 5 members, 2 regular attenders and no budget, but what did they achieve with their outside space? These two inspiring 5 minute videos are taken from 'Dreaming Beyond', an event for small and rural churches

- [Interior Re-ordering](#)
- [Sensory Garden](#)



## TMCP Updates

### Data Protection Annual Checklist

It is that time of year again when all local churches, circuits and districts need to consider their data protection responsibilities and the way in which they use and protect information relating to other individuals.

[Click here to read more.](#)



### Blake Morgan expands Methodist Church Team

As one of the firms on the Methodist Panel of Solicitors, Blake Morgan has recently further invested in the team supporting Managing Trustees who need legal advice in the work they undertake on behalf of their local church, circuit or district.

[Click here to read more.](#)

## The Journey for Strathmore Church

Around 7 years ago now, members and friends of [Strathmore Road Methodist Church](#) in Tyne and Wear started to talk about redevelopment of our premises and of the refurbishment of buildings which had stood the test of time but had been built so long ago that now sadly, were no longer fit for purpose. Our Church Council appointed a small group of interested individuals to

draw together thoughts and ideas as to what redeveloped premises could look like - the floor levels were not conducive to accessible use, storage facilities were filled to overcapacity, the kitchen would benefit from a total makeover, the heating system required upgrading, thermal insulation properties of the buildings were almost non-existent and the toilets were badly in need of total refurbishment.

[Click read to read the rest of their journey.](#)



# HSE Updates



## First Aid Guidance

HSE have extensive guidance and information on First Aid at work. It includes information for employers, employees and first-aiders. As well, there are several free First Aid related publications. [Click here to read more.](#)

## Electrical Safety

Electricity is a part of everyday life, but it can kill or severely injure people and cause damage to property. Our [electrical safety at work site](#) has advice and resources on how to help reduce the risk of electrical injury. 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. [Click here to read more.](#)

## Health & Safety Law Poster

The poster explains British health and safety laws and lists what workers and their employers should do.

If you employ anyone, you must either:

- display the health and safety law poster where your workers can easily read it
- provide each worker with the equivalent health and safety law leaflet

There are various versions of the poster, so you can select the most appropriate for your business. [Click here to learn more.](#)

# Health Check Tool for Churches

[The Churches, COVID-19 and Communities research project](#) was set up to provide detailed data from a wide range of respondents to support national and local policy and decision-making in the face of COVID-19 through:

**COVID-19, Churches, and Communities**  
Current needs and planning for recovery

- Examining the impact of closing church buildings and restrictions on activities provided or hosted by churches on the lives and wellbeing of individuals and communities
- Exploring how churches have been able to respond creatively to COVID-19 challenges and adapt to meet new circumstances and needs
- Assessing the potential of church buildings and networks to support recovery and community resilience in the future
- Identifying the key resources needed to mobilise these assets fully

As part of the report, a [Health Check tool for Churches](#) was created. [Click here to read more.](#)

## Community Engagement Resources

[Empowering Design Practices](#) is a five-year collaborative research project exploring how community-led design can help empower those who look after historic places of worship to create more open, vibrant and sustainable places that respect and enhance their heritage.

The Outcome of the Open University research project (on involving communities in using places of worship) is a free online course. [Book a place and learn more details here.](#)



You can also use these [Resource Booklets](#) to learn more about the following topics:

1. [Transforming Historic Places of Worship Through Community Engagement](#)
2. [Tips for Your Community Engagement Strategy](#)
3. [Making Community Engagement Count](#)
4. [Testing Ideas for Your Community Building](#)

# Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- **5 April 2022** - Deadline for paper - 20 December 2021
- **19 July 2022** - Deadline for paper - 20 December 2021
- **11 October 2022** - Deadline for paper - 20 December 2021
- **24 January 2023** - Deadline for paper - 20 December 2021

## 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. 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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