

January 2022

# PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

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

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

## Methodist Insurance Update

### Celebrating 150 years

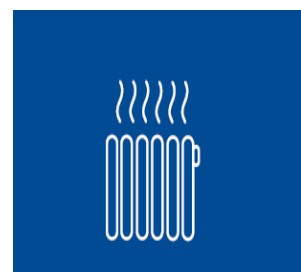
Methodist Insurance is celebrating its 150th anniversary, that's 150 years of making it count. 2022 will be a year of celebration, including our latest awards which we will announce next month. Stay tuned to see what we have in store. We will be sharing updates and you can [follow us on Facebook](#).



### Water Pipes and Heating

A well-maintained heating system is very important to the efficient running of a church however, a poorly-maintained system can present risks to safety. Most churches will have a system powered by either mains gas or fuel oil, stored in an external tank. Both require an annual service by a suitably qualified engineer.

[Find out more](#)



## Preparations for a Wet Winter

The Met Office has warned that this winter could be wetter than usual. Our flood guidance gives information on how to check the risk in your area, how to protect buildings and what to do if you experience flooding.

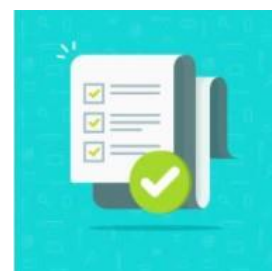
[Read flood guidance](#)



## Helping you understand your insurance policy

We understand that insurance is probably the last thing on your mind most days so to support our church customers we have a range of Made Simple guides available. They cover a wide variety of topics from legal expenses insurance to when you need to contact us.

[Church Insurance Made Simple](#)



## Dialogue is now available online

The Autumn/Winter edition of our twice-yearly newsletter is available to download from our website.

Read about our latest research with churches, dates to add to your diary, topical updates and successful grants.

[Read Dialogue](#)



## New beginnings for a Methodist church in County Durham

It's a fresh start for 'Blackhill and Shotley Bridge Uniting Methodist Church'. After years of planning, and with funding support from the Methodist Grants Programme, work is finally underway to demolish its crumbling building and replace with a multipurpose church and community hub.

[Read their story](#)



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

\*Terms and conditions apply.

**20% donation\***



## Grants for Urgent Structural Repairs to Churches

Listed and unlisted Christian places of worship needing urgent structural repairs can apply for grants of £10,000 - £50,000. Funding is also available for projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use. Grants can cover up to 50% of project costs. The funding made available through the [National Churches Trust's](#)



[Cornerstone programme](#) and applications from the Trust's priority areas of the North East of England, Northern Ireland and Wales are encouraged. **The next deadline for applications is midnight on the 7th March 2022.**

[Click here to read more.](#)

## Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme - Three Year Extension

Some very good news – following an recent announcement, we are pleased to announce that the Government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has been extended for another three years until 31 March 2025 (this is the scheme that gives a grant to cover the cost of VAT on repairs etc. to



listed places of worship).

[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](#)

## Maintenance Matters

Monitoring the fabric of your building and carrying out regular maintenance tasks are key to preserving important buildings for future generations. That's why the SPAB, the National Churches Trust and Historic England have



compiled a places of worship [maintenance checklist](#) and a [video series](#) to help volunteers and guardians organise regular maintenance checks.

Volunteers or wardens on site are likely to be the first to notice changes that could indicate defects, so this checklist and video series are aimed at making regular maintenance checks easier for them.

The checklist is divided into five sections: roofs, rainwater goods, exteriors, interiors and building services. There are also helpful walk-through video guides that correspond to each section so volunteers know what signs of damage to look out for and when to call in a professional. [Click here to read more.](#)

## Reminders issued on the Dangers of Emergency Tree Work

Fallen trees and branches have caused a lot of disruption, but it's important to remember that emergency tree work is dangerous and should only be done by experienced professionals. HSE is warning property owners to avoid carrying out the work themselves without the necessary experience.



In the past year, eight people have been killed by falling branches or trees. This sort of emergency work is complex with many risks, including the tree moving unexpectedly, or the need to carry out work in difficult conditions. The planning and activity itself must be done by a competent person with the necessary training in emergency tree works such as assisted felling, windblown and part blown trees and emergency planning. [For more information and guidance on carrying out tree work safely visit the HSE website.](#)

## TMCP Updates



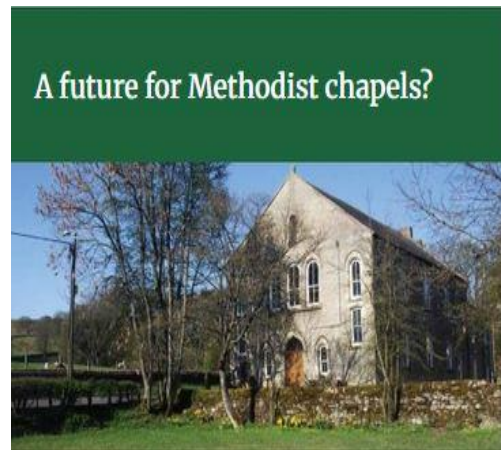
## New Streamlining Page

We would like to take this opportunity to announce the launch of the [new streamlining page](#) on TMCP's website together with a suite of resources to help Managing Trustees follow the new streamlining process. [Read more here.](#)



## Heritage Now - A Future for Methodist Chapels

Please see the recent article on [The Future of Methodist Chapels](#) which features in the first edition of the new Heritage Now e-newsletter of Historic Buildings and Places (formerly the Ancient Monuments Society). The article was written by Dr Peter Forsaith, Research Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, and a member of the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee and Heritage Committee.



The article focusses on the challenges faced by our historic chapels as well as how we are using our older buildings to develop innovative forms of mission and ministry. [The article can be found here](#) and starts on page 8.

## Onwards and Upwards!

It all started when three Churches amalgamated ten years ago in September 2010 - there were two



Methodist Churches and one United Reformed Church. We looked around for a new site but as costs continued to rise, we decided to refurbish the Church Central Methodist Church, which is now Trinity URC Methodist Church.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

# National Debate on the Future of UK's Churches

*'With an increasing number of churches and chapels facing closure, 'The Future of the UK's Churches' debate highlights the community, economic, heritage and spiritual benefits of churches'.*



The National Churches Trust launched a national debate to help safeguard the future of the UK's local churches. [You can join the debate here](#). As well, NCT has published a [church buildings manifesto](#) in which an impressive 16 leading figures make the case for their future in order to highlight the importance of churches.

## 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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