

July 2021

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church 

Welcome to the July 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](#).

Easing of Restrictions

Following the [Prime Minister's announcement](#) on 12 July, we have reviewed the information provided thus far from the government and have made updates to the [Coronavirus Guidance for Property](#) page. We understand that from the announcement, there will be a relaxation of restrictions, which may raise questions from churches about their particular context. We will continue to monitor the guidance over this week and will be providing any further guidance after 19 July as necessary. Please continue to check [Coronavirus Guidance for Property](#) for updated information.



Please note this is for England only, please refer to the links below for guidance in other areas:

- In Scotland, please refer to the [Scottish guidance for the Safe Use of Place of Worship](#)
- In Wales, please refer to the [Guidance for Re-Opening Places of Worship](#)
- Please follow the links for specific local regulations and guidance for the [Isle of Man](#) and Channel Islands ([Guernsey](#) & [Jersey](#))

Property and Mission Roadshow

The Property & Mission Roadshow commenced last month with over 120 people in attendance to hear about the new [Strategic Guidance for the Use of Property in Mission](#). The roadshows are planned to address issues at a local level and build on the work already started by the Connexional Property Strategy 2018-2020. The last roadshow will be held on 21 July for the London, South East & East Anglia. [Full details and registration can be found here.](#)



Methodist Insurance Update

Lightning Protection

A bolt of lightning contains a significant amount of electricity and can cause structural damage to buildings, electrical systems and equipment. If your church is fitted with a lightning conductor you should get it checked annually, repairing any breakages. Depending on the type of system installed, lightning conductor testing should be carried out every two-and-a-half or four years. [Find out more](#)



Digital technology at your church

We've developed our guidance on using digital technology at your church into a [Made Simple Guide](#). Find out more about the technology commonly used in churches, the risks it can pose and how insurance responds. [Read the guide](#)

Tree management

It's important to maintain trees on your church grounds to reduce the chance of property damage or injury. We recommend carrying out maintenance during the summer months when the weather is kinder, you can use our guidance to get started. [Find out more](#)

Dialogue Spring/Summer edition

The latest edition of [Dialogue](#), our twice-yearly newsletter, full of useful articles and information for your church and community is now available online. [Download your copy](#)

Looking for home insurance?

Our website covers some frequently asked questions about our policy. If you are a new customer, we donate 20% of your first year's premium to the charity or church of your choice (Terms and conditions apply).

[Read our FAQs](#)

FAQs on digital fundraising

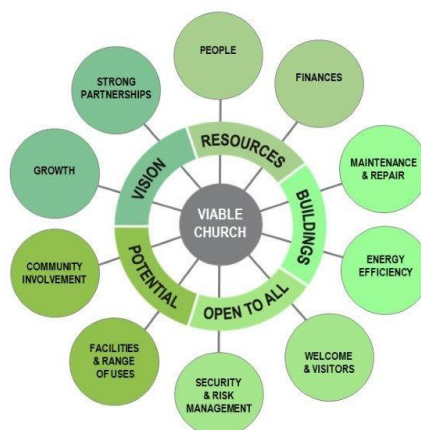
Digital fundraising presents amazing possibilities for your church to grow its giving. To help you get started, we have answered some frequently asked questions on the topic. [Find out more](#)

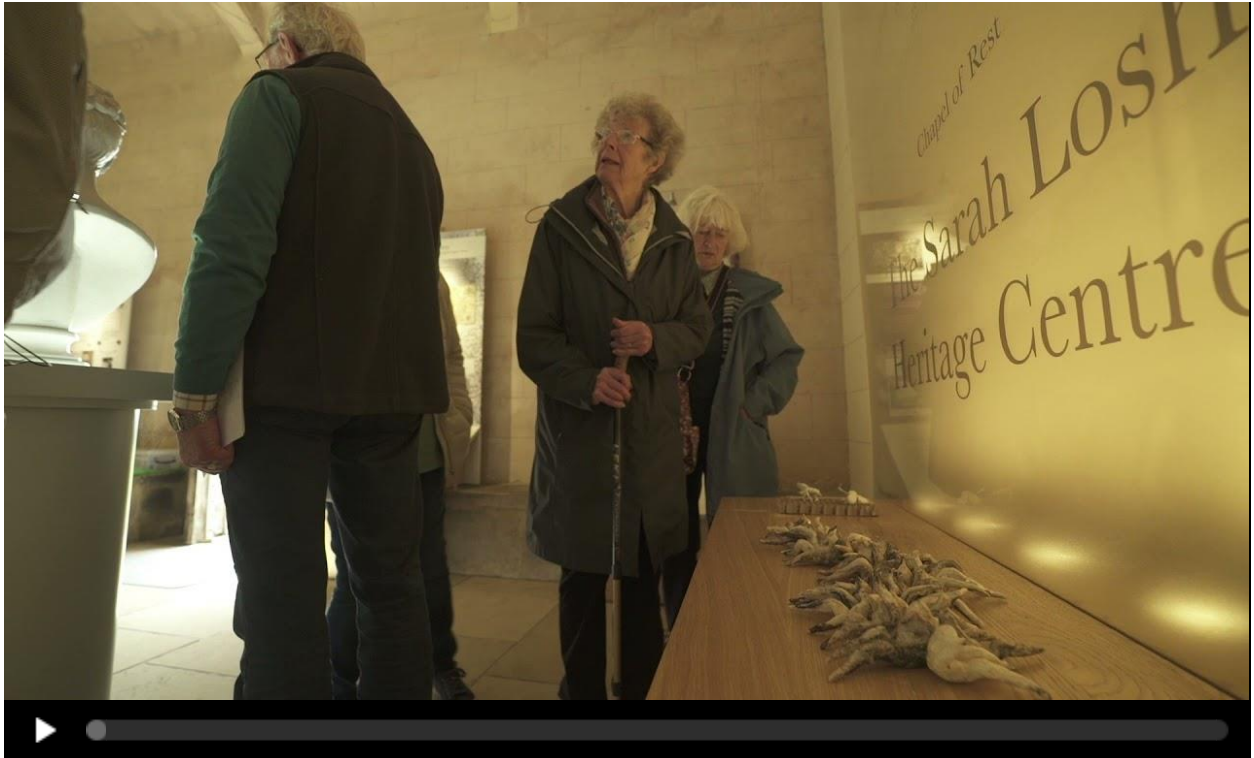
Help your church to make a big impact through the Methodist Grants Programme

In the latest wave of Methodist funding, 10 Methodist churches were awarded grants totalling £187,350 to run inspiring projects focussed on supporting the community. For example, Barnes Methodist Church in London is undergoing an ambitious renewal project to transform the church into a multipurpose community hub with the grant supporting major repairs and eco-friendly improvements to the Edwardian slate roof. [Find out more](#)

Is Your Church Sustainable?

The [Churches Trust for Cumbria](#) has produced an excellent resource called the [Sustainability Rosette](#). The rosette has been designed to help churches review the viability of their church and to provide a framework to make an honest evaluation about the church. The video below explains the 5 key areas that need to be assessed to help a church be more sustainable. The video below explains each of these categories and sub-groups in further depth.





TMCP Updates

Updated Retention Schedule & other new Data Protection Resources

Managing Trustees are advised that there are now three new resources available to them: Updated Retention Schedule for Managing Trustees, The Annual Checklist in a shortened Word version and Guest Wi-Fi Acceptable Use Policy.

[Read more.](#)



Meet the Panel of Solicitors - Sintons

Following our recent article about the open sessions being offered by the [Panel of Solicitors](#) (Anthony Collins, Blake Morgan and Sintons) which Managing Trustees can attend to discuss ongoing or future transactions, we are now pleased to offer four dates to speak with and get to know the team at Sintons Solicitors. [Read more.](#)

Meet the Panel of Solicitors - Blake Morgan

Further to our recent communications, TMCP and the Blake Morgan have now arranged open sessions which Managing Trustees are welcome to attend to discuss ongoing or future transactions. [Read more.](#)

New QSR Template and Streamlining Transactions Flowchart

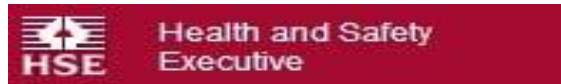
You can read more about these and other new announcements by [clicking here.](#)

Guidance on Church Closures

The Legal & Constitutional Practice team have produced a useful guide with information, checklists and templates regarding church closures in collaboration with Property Support and David Stabler, DPS for Newcastle-upon-Tyne Methodist District. The guide can be found as part of the [Managing Trustees guidance.](#)

HSE Update on Covid

As restrictions are lifted, it is recommended to refer to the HSE website for additional



information regarding the wider health and safety implications during this period. For a full range of COVID-related information and advice visit [HSE's coronavirus pages.](#) There are different dates and requirements for easing of COVID-19 restrictions in [Scotland](#) and [Wales.](#)

Does your Church have a Friend's group?

We are currently looking to write guidance for those churches who wish to set up a Friend's Group. We know there are already established groups, often associated with our historic places of worship, who have set up a group on an informal basis. We are looking for such examples to be featured as case studies in the new guidance note. Please [send an email](#) with any relevant details.

Apprenticeship Funding to Help Save Heritage Construction Skills

Historic England has launched a pioneering new £4.3 million programme to address severe skills shortages in the heritage sector, thanks to funding



Historic England

from [The Hamish Ogston Foundation](#) – the largest one-off investment ever awarded to heritage construction training in England. The scheme will increase expertise in essential crafts including bricklaying, carpentry and stonemasonry, all crucial skills needed to restore England's historic buildings.

[Read more here.](#)

Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- **19 October** - Deadline for paper - 20 September 2021

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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