

June 2020

# PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

Welcome to the June 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](#).

## Covid-19 Guidance

The guidance for property pages has been updated and consolidated to reflect the recently published government guidance on the [Safe Use of Places of Worship](#). Click [here](#) to view the changes or choose a link below:



- [Re-opening a Building Checklist](#) (if a building has been closed)
- [Covid-19 Risk Assessment](#) (it is now mandatory to comply with H&S regulations)
- [Cleaning Churches during Covid-19](#)
- [Opening of Churches for Worship and Prayer](#)
- [Weddings and Funerals](#)
- [Cafes](#)

We are still awaiting guidance from the government on Community Centres. The guidance currently states, *'Meetings or small gatherings, as now permitted in other multi-use settings. (To be published shortly.)'* Please continue to check for [Coronavirus Guidance for Property](#) for updates when new guidance is published.

## Sourcing PPE

Christian Publishing & Outreach (CPO) have offered Methodist churches a [15% discount on PPE](#). CPO have worked to ensure that the products on offer do not affect the supply chain for key workers. Items for sale include:

- Hand sanitiser and stands
- Covid-19 signage
- Face masks and gloves
- Anti-bacterial wipes

Another recommendation for sourcing PPE is an organisation called [Church Buying](#) which works to help simplify the process of purchasing PPE for churches.



## Returning to the New Norm

TMCP are pleased to announce that a new employment webinar produced by Blake Morgan is scheduled for **1 July 2020**. The webinar *Returning to the New Norm: What Challenges We Need to Overcome* may be helpful for managing trustees who employ lay employees. It will explore employment issues relating to Covid-19, with an emphasis on changes to the furlough arrangements and the mental well-being of employees.

Please register for this webinar by clicking [here](#) and you can find further information about the pane of solicitors on [TMCP's website](#).



Other updates from TMCP include:

- [Update on Non-Residential Lease Rent Concessions](#)
- [New template for Burial Ground Closure Notice](#)
- [Updated Covid-19 FAQ's](#)
- [Update on Data Protection & Data Processing](#)

## Grants for Security Measures

The places of worship (POW) [Protective Security Funding](#) provides funding for security measures to places of worship and associated faith community centres that are vulnerable to hate crime. The scheme has been designed in accordance with government advice on Covid-19. The deadline for submissions is **9 August 2020**. Applicants can submit bids for up to 3 protective security measures. Click [here](#) to read more.



## Grants Online

[Grants Online](#) is the UK's most comprehensive and up to date UK grant funding information service. Updated on a daily basis, Grants Online informs you of grant funding opportunities from the European Union, UK Government Agencies, the Lottery as well as Grant Making Trusts & Foundations.



A number of organisations have launched funding schemes to mitigate the effects and impact of the Coronavirus locally. We expect that the number of such grant schemes will increase over the next few weeks. Information on these schemes can be found [here](#).

## Fundraising Support during Covid-19 & Beyond

During this uncertain time, [Ecclesiastical](#) want to provide you with the help and advice that you need to continue to protect your church and its community.



These resources are designed to be helpful both now and into the future as our communities come back together. Topics include:

- [Top tips for fundraising by churches during Covid-19](#)
- [List of Emergency Grant Funders](#)
- [Researches possible donors and Funders](#)
- [Checklist for Grant Applications](#)

## Funding for Volunteer, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE)

The government has pledged £750 million to ensure VCSE can continue their vital work supporting the country during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, including £200 million for the Coronavirus Community Support Fund. Activities such as community support, food support and homelessness are eligible.

Click [here](#) to find out more.

## Methodist Insurance Church Volunteer Awards

Read our [Regional Winners' stories](#) and help us decide our National Winner. From helping unemployed people back to work, to building thriving youth theatre projects, to bringing comfort and support to elderly dementia sufferers and their carers we were both moved by, and humbled by, the accomplishments of our Regional Winners. Their dedication and commitment is a shining example to us all and each has won a £1,000 donation for their church.



We'd now like your help in deciding, of these eleven, who should be crowned our National Winner by voting for your favourite church volunteer. Decide who you feel deserves your vote. The final scores will be combined with the results from our National Judging Panel to determine the winner. The National Winner will win a further £2,000 for their church and will be announced on 15 October. **Voting will remain open until 15 July.**

## Bats and Churches Partnership Project

Our churches are an important part of our cultural & physical landscape and also provide vital roosts for most of the protected species of bat found in the UK. Churches are ideal for bats because they provide permanence and security, provide a large number of potential roosting places, and their design offers many entry points. Although bats often go unnoticed, some churches experience problems which restrict the use of the church and its maintenance. Bats in Churches is a unique partnership made up of [Natural England](#), [Church of England](#), [Historic England](#), [Bat Conservation Trust](#) and [Churches Conservation Trust](#) who are working together to use the latest research to provide innovative solutions that support churches with bats. If you wish to learn more, please visit the [Bats in Churches](#).

## Picturing Lockdown

Picturing Lockdown was launched in April and the public were asked to submit photos that documented their experience of one week in lockdown. After receiving almost 3,000 public submissions from across England, we've selected 100 evocative, informative and inspiring photographs to be added to the Historic England Archive – in addition to 50 newly commissioned works by contemporary artists and 50 more from our photographers. [Explore the collection](#).



Historic England

## Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- 6 October 2020 - Deadline for papers - 15 September 2020
- 19 January 2021 - Deadline for papers - 22 December 2020

**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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