

May 2021

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church 

Welcome to the May 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

The government has updated the [Safe Use of Places of Worship](#) to include details of how restrictions will be lifted for churches in England. The key changes involve:



[Step 3 - 17 May 2021](#) (link to poster)

- Most other significant life events can resume, limited to no more than 30 people. This will include events such as private baptisms, and naming ceremonies. Limits at weddings, wedding receptions, wakes and other commemorative events will be increased to 30 people.
- Funerals will have no legal cap on the number of people who can attend. The number of attendees will be determined by how many people the venue can safely accommodate with social distancing measures in place.
- Outdoors most legal restrictions on meeting others will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal unless otherwise exempt.
- Support groups and parent and child group gathering limits will increase to 30 people (not including under 5s).

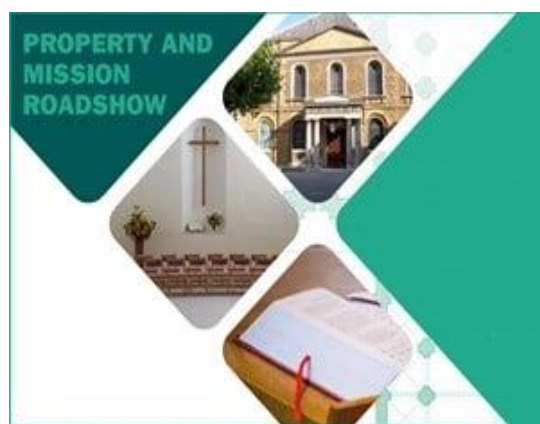
COVID Secure rules, including social distancing requirements, continue to apply in the workplace, and in businesses and public venues. Further information can be

found on [Coronavirus Guidance for Property](#). Please note that this is only for England.

- 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 week with a focus on the North West region and Scotland. Over 60 people attended 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. Remaining dates include:



- 19 May – North East & Yorkshire
- 16 June – Midlands
- 14 July – Wales South West, South & Channel Island
- 21 July – London, South East & East Anglia

[Full details and registration can be found here.](#)

Methodist Insurance Update

Fetes and Events

With an end to lockdown restrictions in sight, you may be thinking about planning events, such as a summer fete, to help raise funds and bring your community together.



It's your responsibility to ensure that any event you organise is properly managed so people remain safe. Aside from Health and Safety considerations, some events may require a license from your local authority. [Find out more](#)

Reopening your Church

Many organisations will be starting to plan how they will reopen.

You can read our guidance on the considerations you might need to make at your church. [Find out more](#)

Engaging with your Community - Church Fundraising

It can be difficult to reach out to your wider community for support. Identifying and engaging with different groups can be a good place to start. Follow our key steps to help you develop strong fundraising communications with your community and congregation. [Find out more](#)

Protect your Home and Donate to a Charity

When you take out a Methodist Insurance Home Shield policy we'll give you back 20% of your first year's premium for the charity or church of your choice.

[Find out more](#) or call our team on [0345 606 1331](tel:03456061331) to get a quote.

Terms and conditions apply.

HSE Update

As the economy reopens, businesses should continue to follow the relevant government guidance on working safely

and put in place measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Their page on [keeping workplaces safe as restrictions are eased](#) provides the latest information on any changes related to workplace safety.



Love Your Burial Ground Week

Caring for God's Acre are asking churches to use [Love Your Burial Ground Week](#) on **Saturday 5 June to Sunday 13 June** as a springboard to start recording the wildlife within their churchyards. So, if you fancy running a wildlife spotting event in Love Your Burial Ground Week then please join in with [Churches Count on Nature](#) so that we can see how popular this is. Please [fill in this form to register your activity](#) and we will send you a link to a page where you can download various resources to help.



Marlow Methodists Break New Ground

Often described as a “hidden gem” [Marlow Methodist Church](#) will soon be a lot less hidden. Building work has begun to create a community hub and café for the town and transform the existing church facilities. The Spittal Street site already provides meeting spaces for many of the town’s organisations in the Wesley Hall – one of the most popular halls in Marlow – but church members have identified a need for more modern spaces which can be used by outside organisations, particularly advice agencies. [To find out more, click here.](#)



Resources for a Green Church

Join JPIT Yorkshire's local group on **Saturday, 12 June, 9:30am - 3:00pm** for an online day conference on the Climate Emergency. You will hear inspiring keynote speakers to stimulate your imagination, develop your understanding of the Bible and reinvigorate your worship life.

[Click here to register here.](#)



TMCP Updates

TMCP are pleased to draw the Managing Trustees' attention to a complimentary zoom session entitled 'Legal Clinic for Managing Trustees' hosted by Sintons LLP, one of our panel solicitors, on **Thursday 3rd June 2021**. [Click here to read more.](#)



Data Protection Checklist Guidance & Update

The first District Data Champion Forum took place via Zoom on Thursday 22nd April 2021. We are very grateful to all those District Data Champions who were able to join members of the TMCP Legal team and our colleague Georgina Crowhurst from the Connexional Team. [Click here to read more.](#)

Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- **13 July** - Deadline for papers - 14 June 2021
- **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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