

September 2021

PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

Welcome to the September 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 Update

As the end of summer nears, the Government has set out plans for tackling the COVID-19 virus during the autumn and winter periods. At this stage, the Methodist Church does not see a need to change its overall guidance as outlined on the 22 July 2021. This saw a move towards making more informed decisions locally. Full details of the Government's statement can be in the [Autumn and Winter Plan](#).



We are continuing to monitor Government guidance on a monthly basis, and will communicate any changes as needed through the usual communication channels.

You and your leadership teams may want to start preparing in advance for the changing seasons. [Click here](#) to read some key considerations to help with these preparations.

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](#))

Webinar Invitation from the Cabinet Office and NHS Test & Trace

Community leaders have played a vital role during the pandemic. Before the colder months set in, the Cabinet Officer are holding a webinar on [Keeping Communities Safe During Winter](#) to support

community and faith leaders, voluntary and community groups with their ongoing engagement and communications. All community leaders are encouraged to attend. The webinar will include updates on:

- The latest Government COVID-19 guidance
- Vaccine uptake and effectiveness
- Face masks and fresh air
- Testing and isolation

The webinar will be held via Zoom on **Monday, 20 September 2021** from **3.00pm – 4.00pm**. [Click here to register](#).

This is an opportunity to:

1. Keep up-to-date with the latest information on COVID-19 from Government officials
2. Ask questions and discuss ideas for effective engagement
3. Inform the Government about challenges, barriers and experiences in communities

There will be ample opportunity to ask questions. To submit a question in advance or if you have any questions about the webinar, contact [Obaayaa Asantewaa](#) or [Pascoe Sawyers](#). Additionally, If you require British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation, please email community.resources@dhsc.gov.uk by Thursday 16th September so that this can be provided.



Cabinet Office

HSE Update on Covid

HSE is supporting businesses to reduce the risk of coronavirus as more people return to the workplace. Alongside cleaning, hygiene and handwashing, good ventilation is one of the best ways to reduce the spread of coronavirus in the workplace.



As coronavirus spreads through the air, the virus can build up in poorly ventilated areas, increasing the risk of infection. It is a legal requirement for employers to ensure an adequate supply of fresh air (ventilation) in enclosed areas of the workplace. Maximising the fresh air in a space can be done by:

- [Natural ventilation](#) which relies on passive air flow through windows, doors and air vents that can be fully or partially opened
- [Mechanical ventilation](#) using fans and ducts to bring in fresh air from outside, or
- A combination of natural and mechanical ventilation

Our [updated guidance](#) looks at how to identify poorly ventilated areas and steps you can take to improve ventilation. It includes a [video](#) to help you.

For all the latest information and advice, visit [HSE's coronavirus pages](#). You should make sure the measures identified by your risk assessment take account of the public health regulations and guidance for the nation you are working in. Please refer to your relevant guidance in [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#).

New £1 Million Fund Launched to Help Faith Groups Support Communities (England)

Faith groups in England can apply to a new [£1 million pilot fund to support innovative projects combating loneliness and isolation](#), providing debt advice and helping those who were unemployed during the pandemic get back to work.



The funding is being made available through the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's new Faith New Deal pilot fund.

Funded pilots will be innovative projects to strengthen engagement between local and national government and faith groups - testing what can be achieved when they work together. The programme will fund projects to tackle social issues, including those arising from the impact of COVID-19, to support the recovery efforts of communities. Applicants must demonstrate how they will support one or more of the following COVID-19 recovery objectives :

- mental wellbeing and loneliness
- debt advice
- employability
- food poverty
- increasing community engagement through volunteering

Organisations can bid in their own right or as part of a consortium of organisations and the maximum grant available is £200,000. Bids up to £125,000 will need to demonstrate in-kind match (non-cash) commitment from their own or wider sources (venues, volunteers or staff hours). Larger bids for grants over £125,000, will require a match donation from a philanthropic funder

The closing date for applications is the 7th October 2021.

Methodist Insurance Update

Working Alone

The personal safety of your employees and volunteers should be paramount. As the nights begin to draw in, it is important that you review situations where people work alone to ensure adequate precautions are in place to protect them. While incidents of assault are thankfully rare, physical or verbal attacks can have a serious impact on those involved. [Find out more.](#)



Researching Possible Funders and Donors

It's all in the research! Time spent on researching donors and funders can save time on wasted grant applications. [Find the right fit using our helpful guidance.](#)

Grant to Ledbury Methodist Church has helped Transform its Future with a New Home

The Methodist Grants Programme has provided £30,000 to Ledbury Methodist Church to help it move into a new building in the centre of this vibrant market town. The new building will be the foundation for the church and congregation for missional and community outreach work in 2021 and beyond.

[Find out more.](#)

Monthly Update to help Protect you & your Church

Could you benefit from receiving regular updates from Methodist Insurance? Our monthly e-news contains useful information and guidance to help you better protect your church, staff, volunteers and visitors plus other news and stories.

[Sign up here.](#)

TMCP Updates

Training Sessions for Managing Trustees – Streamlining Processes

We would like to take this opportunity to announce the launch of the [new streamlining process](#) which has been introduced by TMCP to reduce the time that is spent on simple property sale transactions. This new streamlining process is being rolled out from 1st September 2021.



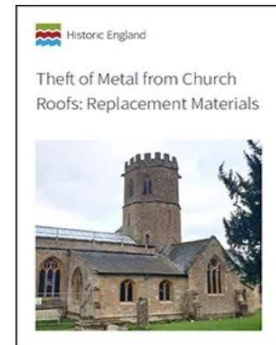
TMCP have arranged these 45 minute training sessions where they will be able to go through the process and what is involved in detail. [Click here for more information.](#)

- **Tuesday 12th October 2021 – 1pm**
- **Wednesday 27th October 2021 – 11am**
- **Wednesday 3rd November 2021 – 11am**

Metal Theft Guidance from Historic England

[Historic England](#) have updated their metal theft guidance. The three guidance notes are:

- [Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Replacement Materials](#)
- [Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Prevention and Response](#)
- [Church Roof Replacement Using Terne-coated Stainless Steel](#)



The revised note does not change HE's policy. It seeks to articulate our understanding of the emotional, social and financial cost that metal theft imposes on congregations and the reasons why we don't consider like-for-like replacement of lost lead or copper to be reasonable in most cases. It supports the use of long-lasting appropriate alternatives such as terne-coated stainless steel, and explains why we don't support the use of synthetic plastic-based materials as roof coverings.

The note aims to give clear information to congregations, Diocesan Advisory Committees and Chancellors, architects, surveyors and local authorities. It focusses on church buildings, as these are the primary targets for thieves, but the information is also applicable to other listed buildings and places of worship. The note sets out the difference between emergency coverings, temporary coverings and permanent replacement materials.

The Story of the First Methodist Church in England to Host a Shop

A friendly store with over 1000 products on sale, the Buckland Brewer community shop operates from the vestry of the Methodist church - and has done since 10th December 2012. The shop premise is leased from the Methodist church at a market rent. Primarily staffed by volunteers it offers a range of goods including a wide



variety of local produce, and services for parts of six days a week and prepaid for newspapers can be picked up on Sunday mornings.

It is the first Methodist church in England to host a village shop. The idea came about when the previous village shop closed in 2009. A village committee identified the church, in the centre of the village, as a potential site and chapel members were keen. [Click here to read the full story.](#)

Make Do and Mend Webinar

Historic Places of Worship is hosting a [Make do and Mend Webinar](#) on **23rd September 2021** from **10-12:30am**.



This is a FREE event to support people who look after all types of historic places of worship. It includes:

- Hints on how to read Quinquennial reports
- Funding advice
- Stitch-in-time projects
- Advice on developing effective websites and social media platforms

Places are limited so early booking is essential. Further details, including an agenda for the morning can be [found here](#). To confirm your place, [send an email](#).

A Rocha Resources

Individual Christians and congregation members play a crucial role in engaging their churches and are having an ever greater impact. It is often an individual member of the congregation, or small group who 'get' the



environment, who are behind a church inviting an outside speaker to help them explore caring for creation. You can [request an A Rocha UK speaker](#) at your own event or church service but please note that at least two months' notice is needed.

To support and inspire you along the way, A Rocha now have a number of videos available on their YouTube channel to help your church engage with the Christian mission to care for God's earth. Videos include:

- [Introduction to A Rocha](#)
- [State of Nature](#)
- [Support for Eco Churches](#)
- [Why should Christians care for the environment?](#)

Action for Children

[Action for Children](#) are looking for suitable properties with the potential for a family home feel to use for a residential children's homes. It is preferably that the properties is without restrictions and there is a particular need in the south. If you know of a property and would wish to discuss further, [send an email to Action for Children](#).



Online Suite of Applications

ANNUAL RETURNS

The Annual Returns for the year ending 31 August 2020 need to be submitted by **31 August 2021**. No late submissions are accepted.

Please contact your local Property Secretary if you have any concerns about meeting the deadline.

STATISTICS FOR MISSION

The statistics for mission site will re-open for data submissions in October. More information will be sent out in due course.

CONTACT

Help and guidance documents for all applications of the online suite can be accessed and downloaded via www.methodist.org.uk/online suite.

Latest updates on technical issues can also be found on that page.

Any questions about the main applications of online suite (property consents, statistics for mission, annual returns) should be sent to our shared support email address: OnlineSuiteSupport@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- **19 October 2021** - Deadline for paper - 20 September 2021
- **18 January 2022** - Deadline for paper - 20 December 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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