

February 2020

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church 

Welcome to the Garden edition of Property Matters with a focus on the outdoor space surrounding Methodist properties. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email the [Property Support Team](#).

The Year of the Burial Ground

Being a custodian of a community's burial ground can be both physically and emotionally demanding. This is why [Caring For God's Acre](#) began – to support people in the task of keeping burial grounds beautiful, accessible and connected to their communities. Resources available include:

- [Conferences](#) (March 2020 in Cardiff & Sheffield)
- Resource Packs including a [Burial Grounds Action Pack](#)
- Useful [videos](#) including [5 Steps to Burial Ground Management](#) and [Learning about Fungi](#)



Also, new guidance about *Burial Grounds Maintenance* can be found on the [Maintenance page](#) on the [Methodist website](#).

Love Your Burial Ground Week 6-14 June 2020

This fantastic initiative can help connect communities and share load of looking after a burial ground. Click [here](#) to view examples of past events and watch the video for inspiration.



TMCP Burial Grounds Guidance

Burial grounds can cause a great amount of anxiety for churches, circuits and those living in the vicinity. The [Burial Ground Guidance](#) is a good place to start to understand Managing Trustees' responsibilities in relation to their burial grounds and what steps to take before closing a burial ground, moving headstones, building on a burial ground or rendering graves inaccessible.



The Ministry of Justice's guide, [Managing the Safety of Burial Ground Memorials](#), also provides helpful guidance on health & safety and general management issues.

If you are considering selling a burial ground, please refer to the [Burial Ground Sale Focus Note](#) - you will need to [contact TMCP](#) for the password as it is protected.

TMCP are currently preparing Burial Ground FAQs to address common queries about burial grounds. Please [contact TMCP](#) with any particular questions.

Not Always a Grave Situation

Read about how [Cross Hills Methodist Church](#) handled two redundant graveyards with care and compliance during a church amalgamation.



Manse Gardens

Are you unclear of responsibilities in relation to a garden at a manse? If so, then new guidance can be found on the [Manse Guidelines](#) page under *Garden Maintenance*.



For those less inclined to garden, companies like Garden on a Roll could provide an attractive and low maintenance solution.

Psalm 23 Garden

Sarah Eberle will be creating a [Psalm 23 Garden](#) for this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. She will be live on [Facebook](#) on **Sat, 29 Feb at 11:30 am** to discuss community gardening for churches and the design for the show.

Watch the video to learn more and click [here](#) for tips on how to create a Psalm 23 garden in your church grounds.



National Churches Trust Survey

The [National Churches Trust](#) are inviting churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the UK to take part in a new online survey to help find out how they are maintained, funded, managed and contribute to their wider communities. Please can you help us to engage with as many of these Christian places of worship as possible?



Click [here](#) to take the survey (approx 20-30 minutes)

Methodist Insurance Church Volunteer Awards

[Methodist Insurance](#) asked you to nominate volunteers who had given up their time and energy to support their church and the wider community – and your response was amazing with over 200 volunteers nominated.

The standard was incredibly high – from helping unemployed people back into work, to building thriving youth theatre projects, to bringing comfort and support to elderly dementia sufferers and their carers.



After much deliberation, the judges whittled them down to eleven Regional winners. Check out who won on www.methodistinsurance.co.uk/volunteerawards.

Year of the Cathedral

A new project, [Cathedrals at Night](#) – the first fully coordinated event including every one of the 42 Church of England cathedrals. For one night only during 2020, every one of these cathedrals will open its doors to welcome in visitors for free to offer them a taste of cathedral life.



As well, the [Association of English Cathedrals](#) has been working with the [British Pilgrimage Trust](#) so each cathedral has at least [one walking pilgrimage route to the cathedral](#). The routes vary from an afternoon or day's walk. Many are based on historic pilgrimage routes but others are new.

If you are interested in Methodist Pilgrimages, they can be viewed on [The Methodist Heritage website](#) or in [The Methodist Handbook](#).



Grants Information

[Get Grants](#) can be a useful resource when applying for grants. They offer training courses on [Bid Writing](#) as well as a [Funding Finder](#).

Grants previously listed:

- [Affordable Housing Funding](#)
- [All Churches Trust Growing Lives](#)
- [Connexional Grants](#) - deadline 4 March 2020
- [Feasibility Study Funding](#)
- [Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust](#)
- [Heritage Fund Directory](#)
- [Listed Place of Worship Grant](#) - CORRECTION - closing date of 31 March 2021
- [National Churches Trust Foundation](#) (urgent maintenance)
- [National Church Trust Cornerstone](#) (essential structural repairs)
- [National Churches Trust Gateway](#) (feasibility study funding)
- [Roof Alarms](#)
- [Severn Trent Community Fund](#)
- [William and Jane Morris Fund](#)
- [Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust](#)

Upcoming Events

[Beautiful Burial Ground Conference 2020](#)

2 March, Cardiff & 26 March, Sheffield

[Faith in Maintenance, Award-winning course](#)

Free workshop from the Diocese of Ely

Saturday 21st March 2020, 10:00am – 4pm, Wisbech, PE13 1HP

Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- 21 April 2020 - Deadline for papers - 31 March 2020
- 7 July 2020 - Deadline for papers - 16 June 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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