

April 2020

PROPERTY MATTERS

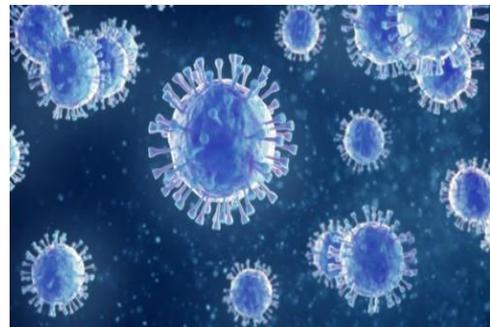
The **Methodist** Church 

Welcome to the April 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](#).

Coronavirus Guidance

There have been new [FAQ's](#) added about looking after property during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some updated topics include:

- [Preventing legionella](#)
- [Looking after church grounds](#)
- [Checklist for weekly inspections of empty buildings](#)



As well, there are new FAQ's on the [Methodist Church Official Guidance](#) including:

- [Remote business meetings](#)
- [Concerns about church finances](#)
- [Funerals](#)

Please check the website for updates as new government guidelines emerge.

Covid-19 Guidance from TMCP

Covid-19 and the 'lockdown' have thrown up a number of potential problems for tenants who are experiencing a reduction in their income. TMCP has listened to the concerns raised with Managing Trustees by their tenants and are sympathetic with a desire to help those in need. Therefore, guidance has been produced on [Payment of rent: Concerns raised by tenants during Covid-19 pandemic](#).



Additionally, there are updates to the list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about residential & non-residential leases during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Emergency Heritage Funding

The [Heritage Emergency Fund](#) is short-term funding to support the immediate actions needed to stabilise operations and manage unforeseen risks. You can apply to us for a grant between £3,000 and £50,000 to cover unavoidable costs you will otherwise be unable to meet for up to four months. You should only apply to us for essential costs and partnership funding is not required. The deadline for applications is on **Tuesday, 30 June 2020**.



[Historic England's Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund](#) provides grants to help organisations,



Historic England

voluntary groups and self-employed contractors

survive the immediate challenges and prepare for recovery. Applicants are invited to apply for grants of up to £25,000 to address financial difficulties arising from Coronavirus. Grants of up to £50,000 are also available for projects and activities that reduce risks to heritage by providing information, resources and skills. The deadline for applications is midnight on **Sunday 3 May 2020** and the funding for successful applications will be awarded from mid-May.

Heritage Alliance (of which the Methodist Church is a member) has produced [COVID-19 Guidance](#) for the Heritage Sector. This includes a [Covid 19 Guidance Hub](#) and [Covid-19 Funding Hub](#) which outlines the advice and sources of national and regional funding to help mitigate the effects of the pandemic.

The
Heritage
Alliance

Inspirational Community Engagement Stories

Here are 2 examples of churches that were on the brink of closing but have been revived due to engagement with community. Click below to read find out more.

- [Reaching Out - the story of St Thomas in Derby](#)
- [Low Budget, Big Impact - Allenton](#)



Charity Commission Annual Returns

Like many organisations, the [Charity Commission](#) is coping with increased demand. It has reassured trustees that it will adopt a 'flexible and pragmatic approach,' to regulation in the coming months.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

For example, registered Methodist charities can request an extension on submitting their annual returns. The Commission has stated that Serious Incident Reports are to be made as normal, but do not expect a quick reply given the circumstances. Click [here](#) to read more.

Buying & Selling Manses Information Videos

TMCP are pleased to provide Managing Trustees with the following [links](#) to three webinars which have been produced by [Anthony Collins](#), a firm on the [Methodist Church's Panel of Solicitors](#).

These webinars have been created in order to assist the Managing Trustees when considering purchasing or selling a manse property.

1. [Supporting with the sale and purchase of a manse](#)
2. [Step by step guide to selling a manse](#)
3. [Step by step guide to purchasing a manse](#)



A Message from Methodist Insurance



Please see below the cover that applies to your church insurance policy.

Church Premises that are Temporarily Closed due to the COVID-19 Outbreak

Church buildings that are temporarily closed are exposed to greater risk than buildings that are open for regular use. It is a condition of your policy that you advise us when the use of a building ceases and we would then apply restrictions in cover, which would normally be charged as an additional premium. **However, we can confirm that temporary closure of your church buildings due to the COVID-19 outbreak would not result in us applying restrictions in your cover or charging any additional premium.** Nevertheless, we do expect that you manage the risks associated with a closed building. Click [here for more information.](#)

Churches that engage in Emergency Community Support Programmes

This work is considered to be part of the usual activities of the church. However, we would expect the individual churches to follow Public Health England/Government guidance at all times and observe any stipulated precautions. There would be no additional premium in respect of these activities.

Click [here](#) to read about policy terms during Covid-19 on the following:

- Employees working from home
- Liability - Health and Safety
- Outstanding Risk Improvements, Periodic & Maintenance Conditions

If you are unsure or have any other questions, please contact us on [0345 606 1331](tel:03456061331).

What to do about Pews?

Remove them? Adapt them? Love them?

Many people including non-churchgoers really love pews. However, as many churches are also trying to use their spaces more flexibly, draw in more community groups and share their spaces, what to do with the rigid rows of heavy pews becomes a real issue. Click [here](#) to read how Terrington St Clement parish church has adapted its Victorian pews to be on mobile metal frames.



Methodist Church Shortlisted for Award

We are pleased to hear that Tenterden Wesleyan Methodist Church in Kent has been shortlisted for the [John Betjeman Award 2020](#).

It is a real achievement to be shortlisted for the award - which was established in 1990 in honour of the writer, conservation campaigner and [SPAB](#) Committee member Sir John Betjeman. The reward celebrates excellence in the repair of places of worship of all denominations and faiths. Tenterden Methodist Church is an unlisted red brick chapel and has been shortlisted following their successful and sensitive repair of the war memorial pipe organ.

We look forward to hearing the outcome when the winner is announced later in the year. For more information, please click [here](#).



New Maintenance Page

There have some updates to the website in that the [Maintenance](#) page has now replaced the Property Handbook. The topics are listed in A-Z format with the aim to help make the information as accessible as possible. There is also extensive guidance on:

- [Quinquennial Inspections](#)
- [Guidelines for Manses](#)



Please be aware that we are currently reviewing and updating the content. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the [Property Support Team](#).

#Picturing Lockdown

We're facing one of the most extraordinary moments in living memory. We are living through history.



[Historic England wants to](#)

[record our collective experience in these extraordinary times](#), spark a conversation about identity and its connection to history and place, and help people navigate their way through with reflection, expression and creativity.

For one week, **starting Wednesday 29 April**, we are asking artists and members of the public to submit photos to express their feelings and record their experience of one week in lock down. From rainbows in windows to star jumps on balconies, show us what lockdown means to you.

Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- 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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