

March 2020

PROPERTY MATTERS

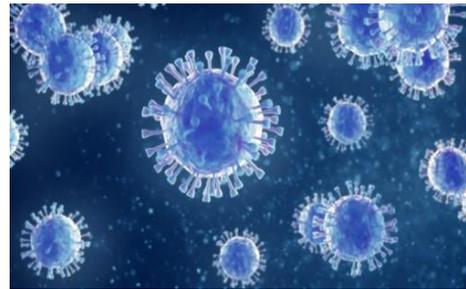
The **Methodist** Church 

Welcome to the March edition of Property Matters with a focus on looking after property during the Coronavirus pandemic.

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email the [Property Support Team](#).

Coronavirus Guidance

In accordance with the [official guidance from the Methodist Church](#), church buildings are closed for the foreseeable future (with the exceptions of food banks, soup kitchens and night shelters, etc). These closures will affect the responsibilities of those who look after them. The Property Support team have developed some [Guidance and FAQ's](#) , some of which includes:



- Inspecting the building once a week, preferably as part of the daily exercise and in accordance with government guidelines.
- Only essential maintenance, such as leaks or vandalism, should be carried out.

To view more and check for updates, click [here](#).

Coronavirus Guidance from TMCP

TMCP have produced a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that explore general practical issues that face Managing Trustees given the impact of Covid 19. These FAQs are to be read in conjunction with the general guidance on [Licenses](#), [Residential Tenancies](#) and [Non-Residential Leases](#) available on the website.



For guidance about ways of working during Covid 19, click [here](#).

Quinquennial Inspections

Updated guidance, including a template for invitation to tender and guidance on costs, for [Quinquennial Inspections](#) has been added to website on the [Maintenance](#) page.



Please note that although inspections are suspended due to the Covid 19 pandemic, it is still possible for some of the preparation in obtaining quotes and selecting an inspector to carry on. Click [here](#) to read more.

A Message from Methodist Insurance



With the advent of the Covid 19 pandemic in the UK and Government advice on avoiding social contact to combat the spread of the virus, churches and other church properties will be temporarily closing.

Buildings, whether temporarily closed or permanently unoccupied can be at greater risk from the likes of arson, antisocial behaviour such as vandalism or squatters, theft, and escape of water.

[Click here to access our guide](#) to the key ways in which you can help protect your church and other properties whilst they are temporarily closed as a consequence of the Covid 19 outbreak.

We would also encourage you to continue to monitor and follow the latest government advice, as the situation is evolving rapidly.

Panel of Solicitors and Panel of Surveyors

Did you know that the [Panel of Solicitors](#) offer a 1/2 hour free advice for Managing Trustees?

And did you know that the [Panel of Surveyors](#) offers 1 hour free consultation for Managing Trustees?



Please note that during the Covid 19 Pandemic, both the panels are available for telephone consultation and by email. As well, they have requested for scanned copies of documents rather than hard copies when possible. Please note that postal queries could have a longer response during this time.

Considering a Property Project?

During these difficult times, it is important to still look ahead and plan for the future. Despite the restrictions imposed on us at the moment, the Property Team are still here to discuss your future property projects.

If you are considering a property project, it is possible to discuss and talk through the initial planning [phases of property project](#).



We are already experimenting with creative ways to have these types of meetings - telephone calls, video calls, etc, and would welcome these sorts of discussions. If you are interested in setting up a time to chat through ideas, please [click here](#).

Conservation Corner

Historic England have produced some guidance for [Cleaning Historic Surfaces](#) in response to the Covid 19 crisis.

As well, there is useful publication about [Insuring Historic Buildings and other Heritage Assets](#).



Coronavirus Advice regarding Data Protection

As we enter these unprecedented times, please be careful to ensure that data protection does not take a back seat when it comes to changing our working practices and dealing with data protection issues in general. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) have released a [useful list of FAQ's](#) many of which will apply to Managing Trustees.



Electronic Signatures

Governance during time of crisis can be tricky but as of September 2019, the Law Commission published its final report stating that electronic signatures are satisfactory with the exception of land transactions and the signing of wills. For more information, click [here](#).



Grants Information

If you have a grant with [All Churches Trust](#), there has an update regarding redirecting monies in response to an urgent need due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Click [here](#) to read more.

As well, All Churches Trust has grants available for churches affected by the flooding earlier this year. To read more, click [here](#).

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 legislation 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.

Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR 020 7486 5502
methodist.org.uk
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