

September 2020

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church 

Welcome to the September edition of Property Matters with a focus on updates relating to property, including relevant Covid-19 guidance.

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

Covid-19 Guidance Updates

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government provided us with further clarification on the government announcement this week of changes to permitted social interaction which come into place on **Monday 14 September in England only**. We understand that the full regulations will be published soon and we will update our guidance accordingly. In summary:



- **Places of Worship and Communal Prayer can remain open** for services. As before, the limit on the number of people is based on the risk assessment with attendees divided in multiple groups of no more than 6 people.
- **Weddings, Wedding Receptions and Funerals are still allowed** and maximum numbers remain at 30 with people divided into multiple groups of no more than 6 people.
- **Community Halls remain open** and activities are allowed as before but within each activity, participants are divided into multiple groups no more than 6 people.

The government has emphasised that venues must be Covid-19 Secure and contact details must be left for Test and Trace. More information can be read [here](#).

Please continue to check [Coronavirus Guidance for Property](#) for further updates.

Annual Returns

The Annual Returns site is now open for submissions for the Connexional year ending 30 August 2020. Submissions are accepted until **31 August 2021**. A brief summary of the main new & improved features is listed below:

- Property Information reports from previous years (starting in 2018) are now accessible via a drop down menu, similar to annual returns from previous years.
- Conditional questions are now recognisable as such on the downloadable reports.
- Quinquennial inspections for non-model trust properties can be recorded if available (optional).
- The map display will now only appear for properties recorded as being churches or worship sites.
- Various questions regarding Conservation, Insurance and Documents have been made clearer and/or updated.

STATISTICS FOR MISSION

The Statistics for Mission site will open for this year's data entry in October 2020. More information to come in next month's issue.

REMINDER: WEB USER PERMISSIONS

Please note that if you are based in a circuit that has merged with another, or are a minister who has moved stations, your online suite permissions may need to be updated.

CONTACT

Up-to-date help, guidance documents and updates on technical issues for all applications of the online suite can be accessed [here](#).

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

Mission Planning Toolkit

As we start a new Methodist year, you may be considering being more intentional with your mission planning. The Evangelism & Growth team have created a toolkit of resources and a step by step guide to help you. The details are [here](#) and you can hear more about the resources on this [podcast](#).



Churches, Housing & Building - Has Our Relationship with Property Changed?

The latest blog from the Archbishop's of Canterbury's Commission on Housing, Church and Community tells the story of the Ambleside Methodists, who took the brave decision to give up their own building to go on a new journey with St Mary's parish church. This allowed their old building to be turned into social housing, while creating a new community centre and keeping both churches going. [Find out more here.](#)



Re-Opening Churches Posters

A range of posters to assist with the re-opening of churches can be download to print from [here](#).

Welsh language versions will be available shortly.



TMCP Newshub

TMCP have recently circulated several updates on their [Newshub](#). To find out more, click on each link below:

- [Test and Trace Update](#)
- [Potential Trustee Liability When Re-Opening Churches during Covid-19 Podcast](#)
- [Possession Proceedings Covid Updates - What do Managing Trustees need to do if they need to regain possession?](#)
- [Non-Residential Leases Podcast](#)
- [Focus on Manse Sales Training Session](#) via Zoom, **6 October 2020**
- [Methodist Property: How to Streamline Transactions & Improve Efficiency](#) training session via Zoom, **12 November 2020**



To subscribe to the Newshub mailing list, click [here](#).

Conferring and Decision Making

As we move into the autumn, and prepare for the usual round of local church meetings and councils, the Legal & Constitutional Practice team have created a short, accessible resource to guide and inform local churches and those who lead them about how to approach this work in the current situation. You can read the resource [here](#).



For information about the practicalities of using a building for these meetings, please refer [Guide for Other Community Users](#).

Conservation Update

The Conservation team have been working hard to update their pages on the website. Read more on the links below:

- [Listed Building FAQ's](#)
- [How do I make changes to a listed building?](#)
- [Maintenance and Repair of Historic Places of Worship](#)
- [Listed Building Guidance Notes](#)
- [News, Funding & Training](#)
- [Conservation & LBAC Annual Report](#)



Methodist Insurance E-News



New fundraising resources

Discover help and advice that you need to continue vital fundraising to protect your church and its community. We hope that you will find these resources helpful both

now and into the future as our communities come back together.

[Visit the Fundraising Hub](#)

Risk advice line

Do you have questions about risk management? Our dedicated Risk Advice Line would be delighted to receive any enquiries. We are committed to responding to you by the next working day of your enquiry. Contact can be made by calling [0345 600 7531](#) 9am – 5pm - Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays or by emailing your enquiry to [Risk Advice Team](#)

[Learn more about risk management](#)

A message from our claims team

We're really pleased that some churches are now able to start reopening their doors. When returning to your church, if you notice any damage please call our claims team straight away so we can help you as soon as possible.

At this time, we understand it may take longer to gain estimates, so please contact your claim handler if you need any assistance.

[Contact us](#)

Emmanuel Church: 4 churches become one to serve Eastbourne in the 21stC

Methodist Insurance Fund is proud to have awarded a significant grant towards building the new Emmanuel Church in Eastbourne, Sussex. This exciting ecumenical partnership has given rise to a new church comprising the four congregations, with a new building and re-imagined vision of unity and service.

[Find out more](#)

Voting has now closed

Thank you to everyone who voted in our church volunteer awards.

Our National Judges will now come together to make their decision, with the results from your votes added to their scores to determine our overall National Winner announced in October. Make sure you follow us on [Facebook](#) to stay up-to-date with the results!

New funding in response to COVID-19 from Allchurches Trust

[Allchurches Trust](#) has launched a new grants programme called Hope Beyond.

Grants of up to £50,000 are now available to support churches and Christian charities to meet changing needs within their communities in response to COVID-19. [Find out more about Hope Beyond](#)

Cultural Recovery Fund in Wales

On 1 September, the Welsh Government announced the [Cultural Recovery Fund](#) — an £18.5 million fund to support the Welsh cultural sector's recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. **The scheme will launch on 14 September and close on 30 September 2020.**

Heritage sites and attractions in Wales, heritage organisations operating or employing staff in Wales and freelancers working in heritage will be able to bid for support from the fund if they have been adversely affected by the pandemic. The fund's aim is to help eligible organisations recover from the economic impact of COVID-19 and become financially viable in the future so that they can continue to support the management of the heritage of Wales.

The Welsh Government has launched an [eligibility checker](#) and Cadw has produced [application guidance](#) to explain the scheme and what you can apply for.

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 home. It is preferable that the properties are 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](#).



Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- 6 October 2020 - Deadline for papers - 15 September 2020
- 19 January 2021 - Deadline for papers - 22 December 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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