

October 2020

PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

Welcome to the October 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](#).

Updates on Covid-19 Guidance

As government guidelines continues to change, please refer to the [Coronavirus Guidance for Property](#) for the latest updates, which include:

- [Guide for Harvest Celebrations, Decorations & Donations](#)
- [Guide for Food and Drink](#)
- [Guide for Church Councils and other Church Meetings](#)
- [Guide to using your Worship Space](#)
- [Guide for Other Property Users](#)
- [Guide for Children's Activities & Worship](#)



Risk Assessment

The [Covid-19 Risk Assessment \(Word\)](#) and [\(pdf\)](#) has been updated and enhanced in light of recent updates.

Heating and Ventilation

As winters draws in, we are aware that the government will need to address the current guidance for heating and ventilation. We are monitoring the situation and are waiting for an update. In the meantime, please refer to [HSE's Coronavirus Guide for Ventilation](#) and [CIBSE's Covid-19 Ventilation Guidance](#) for more information.

Vulnerable Workers

HSE has produced a guide on [Protecting Vulnerable Workers](#) which may be useful.

Eco-Church in Baildon

A virtually carbon neutral church hall has opened in Baildon West Yorkshire. Named the Fold, the new building at Baildon Methodist Church is believed to be the first of its kind built on church premises in Britain. [Click here](#) to read more about the story of this church. For more information about how to reduce your church's carbon footprint, please visit the page on [Carbon Reduction Opportunities](#).



Test and Trace Update

TMCP have produced a helpful set of FAQs regarding the legal requirements for Test & Trace and QR codes in response to the government's recent announcements - [read more here](#).



You can also read the government guidance on the following:

In England - [Test and Trace](#)

In Wales - [Test Trace Protect](#)

In Scotland - [Test and Protect](#)

Update to Possession Proceedings

Since the previous publication of the article on Covid-19 Possession Proceedings Update, there have been further legal developments in relation to possession proceedings for residential tenancies.

Click [here](#) to read more.



Maintenance Matters

The SPAB is offering a free online lecture titled *An Introduction to Caring for Your Old Building*, Presented live by James Innerdale on **24 November 2020**



This illustrated talk explores how old buildings are different to new, how and why they can decay, what maintenance is and why it's important. It includes practical advice on getting started and working safely.

Presented by James Innerdale, an architect and historic buildings consultant, who is also the technical officer for the SPAB's recent Maintenance Cooperatives Project. This online lecture is free to attend, but please [register your place](#) in advance.

Statistics for Mission

ONLINE SUITE OF APPLICATIONS

The Statistics for Mission site is now open for data entry. **Submissions are accepted until 31 January 2021**. A brief summary of the main new & improved features is listed below:

- **Due to the ongoing restrictions relating to group gatherings, we are not collecting attendance data in the 2020 statistics collection.**
- The 2020 membership statistics collection follows the same format as last year, but please be aware of the change to the recording of Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) membership which was implemented in 2019: where in previous years, joint or ecumenical members had **NOT** been counted as being part of the Methodist membership figure, they are now **INCLUDED**. Explanatory text has been added on the website.
- A View Details column has been added to the Digital Archive tab (circuit level), which displays the name of the society a church has joined if the closure reason is "Merged" or "Became a Class". Please do [get in touch](#) if you spot any mistakes or omissions and help us make this information as accurate as possible. As this links to the property data, any updates will also ensure better visibility on the [Advanced Webmap](#).

- The statistics guidance manual is now available on each individual church's data entry page, the [Online Suite login page](#) & homepage (welcome page) as well as the [Online Suite Help & Guidance page](#) on the Methodist website.

REMINDER: WEB USER PERMISSIONS

Please note that if you are based in a circuit that has merged 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 latest updates on technical issues for all applications of the online suite can be accessed and downloaded [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

Year-End Statements & The Trust Information System

As we move into the new Connexional Year, the Trust Statements for 2019/20 are now available for download from the Trust Information System (TIS). Treasurers and other users registered on the TIS will have received an email from the system on Friday 11th September to advise the statements were available and that these should be downloaded and checked as soon as possible. [Read more here](#).



Methodist Insurance Fundraising Resources

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 Church Council & Other Church Meetings](#).

Methodist Insurance 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](#)



Managing Trustees' Training Session

TMCP and Capsticks are pleased to announce a training session via Zoom for Managing Trustees on **12th November 2020**. The event will be hosted by Capsticks



and led by TMCP. The session will focus on the way TMCP and the whole panel of solicitors will be working together in the future to further streamline transactions such as the sale and purchases of manses as well as straightforward short term leases. You will note from the '[Save the Date](#)' flyer that not only will you hear from TMCP and Capsticks but also the Connexional Team and Managing Trustees, who will give real life examples of their experiences of the panel. We do hope that you will be able to join us on the day. [Read more here](#).

Church Organs on Offer

We have been approached by 2 separate organisations regarding items on offer for churches.

- A property developer who has church organ (see image) to offer for free to a church. Any costs associated with transportation and restoration of the organ would be covered. For more information, please [click here to send an email](#).



- A housing association in South Wales who acquired a Presbyterian Church in the Bridgend area has internal fixtures and fittings, including an organ and pews that are on offer. For more information, [click here to send an email](#).

Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- 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.

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