

February 2021

PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist Church** 

Welcome to the February 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](#).

Covid-19 Updates

The government guidance for singing in places of worship was updated in January for churches in England. [Click here](#) to read more.



Please note this is for England only and please check the websites for [Scotland](#), [Wales](#), [Isle of Man](#) and the Channel Islands ([Guernsey](#) & [Jersey](#)).

Could you host a Vaccination Centre?

To host a Covid-19 vaccination centre in England, your building needs to meet the following requirements.

1. 350m² (3800ft²) of space (this could be in one large hall or several smaller rooms)
2. Wi-Fi connection
3. Toilets
4. Separate entrance and exit



5. Available for the exclusive use of the NHS until at least September 2021
6. Wheelchair accessible
7. Well ventilated
8. Good local transport links

Cost and cleaning

The NHS would consider paying a room hire rate and/or contributions towards running costs but this would be subject to a value for money assessment and benchmarking. If accommodation could be provided free, it could offer significant benefits to the public purse. The NHS could use existing cleaning services, or bring in its own cleaning service.

Next steps

If you have a building which meets these requirements and are able and willing to accommodate a vaccination centre then [please send an email](#) with the subject line: POW Vaccination site query.

NHS will then undertake an assessment of your venue in advance. This will include size, location, availability, suitability and will include an assessment around accessibility (aligned to the Equality Act 2010).

Vaccinations - What Others Have Said

This edition of the Methodist Podcast explores vaccination and faith. The podcast includes an interview with a Methodist working in an A&E unit and reflections from a Methodist Church that has become a vaccination hub. There is also a discussion about the science behind the vaccination as a theologian explores the relationship between God and inoculation. [Listen here](#).

As well, you can read how Trinity Methodist Church in Codsall is offering faith, hope and love as part of the national vaccination programme. [Click here to read more](#).

Methodist Insurance Update



You should review your health and safety arrangements to ensure they remain adequate and are compliant with relevant legal requirements. Any measures you take to improve health and safety should be proportionate, reflecting the size of your church; the number of employees, volunteers or visitors you have; and the nature of any activities.

Methodist insurance has produced some tips and tools to get you started.

[Find out more](#)

Digital Technology Risks and Rewards

We've seen some amazing examples of churches embracing technology to engage with their communities during lockdown. As such, we wanted to share some advice on risks and considerations your church should make when using digital technology.

[Find out more](#)

Risk Advice

Our risk management team are experts in their field. If you have a question regarding risks at your church, all you need to do is give them a call.

You can contact our risk specialists to ask a question on [0345 600 7531](tel:03456007531).

Alternatively, visit the Methodist Insurance website where you'll find a whole range of helpful guides and templates.

[Find out more](#)

Methodist Home Insurance Charity Donations

When you take out a Methodist Insurance Home Shield policy, [we'll give you back 20%](#) of your first year's premium for the charity or church of your choice.

[Find out more about home insurance](#)

HSE Update

The guidance on disinfecting premises during the Covid-19 pandemic has been updated to include joint

advice on risks to health that can be created by using walk-through spraying or misting systems. [Click here to read more about the joint advice.](#)



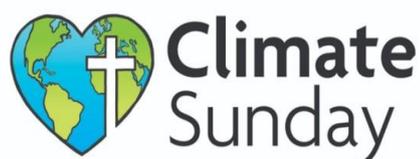
Guidance for the Church Closures

The Conference Office, the Property Support Team and Newcastle District Property Secretary, David Stabler, are putting together a guidance note for managing trustees dealing with church closures.

It is hoped that the guidance will be made available on the Methodist website in May, once approved by the Property Development Committee. If you have been involved in the closure of a church and would like to share your experience and any practical tips you may have, please [send an email](#) with any comments by **Sunday 28 February** at the latest.

Climate Corner

Churches are being encouraged to hold a [Climate Sunday](#) to think about ways of reducing CO2 emissions. Resources can be found [here](#) and there is a [Climate Sunday Coffee morning](#) on **Thursday, 18 February, 11:30am-12pm**.



[A Rocha](#) has useful information about becoming an [eco-church](#) and there is a new tool called [360 Carbon](#) which measures a church's carbon footprint. [Click here to read more](#).

Online Suite Update

STATISTICS FOR MISSION

The initial submissions deadline for the 2020 membership count has now passed. In order to accommodate those who have not yet managed to enter their data, **the submissions period will be extended until 28 February 2021**.

Here is a reminder of a few things to look out for:

- 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**: 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.
- Your statistics have been successfully submitted when you have clicked the **SUBMIT AND SAVE button** and all editable fields are green and have a tick in them. You will not receive a confirmation message.
- Please ensure that your church has the **correct pastoral contact** listed. Changes can be made in the Church Profile tab.
- Societies that have ceased to meet, become a class or otherwise changed their status before 1 November 2020 must report this via the **REPORT CHANGED STATUS** button also found in the Church Profile tab.
- Now is also a good time to check the **accuracy of the office holders' data** appearing on the website, as these are the contacts that the Connexional Team uses to get in touch with church officers such as treasurers, administrators or property secretaries. However, please note that this information can be updated throughout the year.

NEW FEATURE: It is now possible to download a list of all web users in your area if you have web user management permission for your circuit or district. The relevant link appears at the top of the list of contacts in the **MANAGE USERS** section.

CONTACT

Up-to-date help and guidance documents for all applications of the online suite can be accessed and downloaded via www.methodist.org.uk/online-suite/. Latest updates on **technical issues** can also be found on that page.

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.

Impact of Covid-19 on Places of Worship

The University of York is conducting a research paper on what impact of Covid-19 has been on places of worship and they have requested images which show how churches have been managing Covid-19, either within or outside their buildings. Some examples could include social distanced seating, signage, activities impacted by Covid-19 or any creative new initiatives. If you would contribute an image, [click here to send an email](#).



Empty Buildings

If a church building will be empty over the next few weeks, it is important to remember to continue to conduct weekly inspections and run the water in order to prevent legionella. There are 10 safety checks as well as tips for maintaining organs - all this can be found on the [Empty Properties](#) section of the [Maintenance page](#).

Churches should also be aware that metal theft is on the rise and churches with a metal roof are reminded of the benefits of Smart Water. [Click here](#) to read more.

Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- **22 March 2021**- Deadline for papers - 26 February 2021

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
Registered charity no. 1132208

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Subscribe to other newsletters](#)

[Change your details](#)

[Click here for a PDF version](#)