

February 2022

PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

Welcome to the February edition of Property Matters with a focus on property-related updates and guidance.

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

Methodist Insurance Update

150th Celebratory Awards

As part of our celebration of 150 years of protecting and supporting churches and communities, we'll be awarding 15 church and community initiatives a £1,500 donation. We want to support the ideas and initiatives that could really make a difference to your church and community. So, we're asking how you would make the £1,500 donation count. Entries open from 7th February, terms and conditions apply. [Find out more](#)



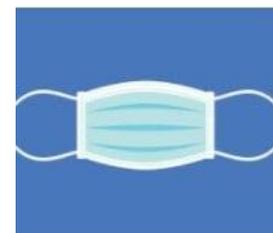
Security

From theft to arson and vandalism, security is key. As every place of worship and its location is unique, a tailored assessment and response, reflecting the individual risks faced, should be undertaken. [Find out more](#)



COVID Secure - for Place of Worship

We understand that keeping people safe at this time will be a priority for you. We've provided some guidance and useful links you can refer to and we will keep this updated as the situation changes. [COVID Secure guidance](#)



Cyber Safety

Technology is a wonderful thing but there are risks to consider when using digital solutions at your church.

Our guide gives an overview of the risks and how to manage them.

[Learn more about the risks](#)



Planning for 2022

Our updated risk calendar gives important reminders on seasonal risks your church might face.

To support you in managing risks, we have a range of guides and templates available on our risk management hub. Our risk advice line is also available to customers for any queries or concerns. Just call [0345 600 7531](tel:03456007531) or email us.

[View the risk calendar](#)



A quarter of a million to Methodist churches

A number of Methodist Churches across the UK and Ireland are starting the year with big plans, after receiving a Christmas boost from the [Methodist Grants Programme](#).

Grants totalling £250,000 will support the Methodist churches to run building and development projects focused on church growth, community engagement and improved accessibility.

[See some of the successful projects](#)



METHODIST  INSURANCE

Protect your home and support your church or charity

*Terms and conditions apply.



20% donation*

Churches at Risk Working Together

[Click here](#) to read a fantastic story of partnership of 4 churches in Camden who are working together to preserve both their buildings and communities. The 4 churches were on [Historic England's Risk Register](#). The Register includes buildings, places of worship, monuments, parks and gardens, conservation areas, battlefields and wreck sites that are listed and have been assessed and found to be at risk. [Click here to find out more about the risk register.](#)



Repairs on Timber Windows

For those of you preparing to carry out maintenance works to your historic timber windows, please see this useful guidance note on [Repair of Wood Windows](#) from the [Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings \(SPAB\)](#).

You can find this guidance as well as further list of [A-Z guidance on the Conservation pages](#).



Covid-19 Update

The [Connexional guidance for Covid-19](#) has been updated in line with the government guidance. The Government has announced that from 24 February 2022 all remaining domestic restrictions will be removed in England. These include:

- Removing the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test;
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those under the age of 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate;



- Revoke The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations;
- Routine contact tracing with also end.

As well, research has been undertaken by the Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture Team at the University of York in order to study the impact of Covid on churches and how they supported their communities during the pandemic. The report was published in April 2021 and [you can read the report here](#).

It all started with the boiler . . .

Many years ago, St Ives in East Anglia started to set aside money to replace the ageing heating system. By 2014 the sum of £9,000 was in the 'boiler fund' when we came to the point of needing to take action. There were signs of damp in many areas of the building and evidence that drains were failing. In short, the building was looking 'tired'. At the same time, they were aware that they needed to update their facilities to meet the needs of today's



expectations and create a more comfortable and practical base for our mission. This was beginning of a successful 3 phase building project.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

Did you hold a Climate Sunday?

Through Climate Sunday, more than 2,200 churches have held climate-focused services, committed to long term action in their community through schemes including Eco Church, and raised their voices to advocate for world leaders to take bold action to address climate change. COP26 may be over, but churches will still have a critical role to play in holding the government to account in the delivery of promises made in Glasgow. But how?

[Read more here.](#)



Rural Rooted

How might being church without a building look in your local community? Come and join a conversation on zoom hosted by: Dave Friswell LN, Yas Finch District Missioner, with Andy Fishburne and Sarah Hulme from the Evangelism and Growth team.



All welcome from across the Connexion on **29th March at 7pm via zoom**, but this is aimed at people looking to pioneer/ reimagine small rooted church in their rural communities. [Click here to register](#).

Grant Opportunities

[Grants of up to £5,000 Available to Support the Performing Arts and the Conservation of Historic Objects](#)

UK registered charities, public authorities or institutions active in the areas of the Performing Arts and Conservation can apply for grants of up to £5,000 for projects that promote excellence in professional



performance in music, dance and theatre. Funding is also available for projects to conserve historic objects, collections and features of buildings and landscapes which date from the Georgian period or earlier, i.e. pre-1830s. The funding is being made available through [the Leche Trust](#) and the **next closing date for applications is the 29th April 2022**. Trustees are inclined to give grants to smaller projects, or specific elements of projects, where their contribution can make a greater impact. In the case of churches, Trustees will consider supporting the conservation of such features as monuments, wall paintings, stained glass, and historic furniture and fittings.

[New £1 Million Pilot Fund to Support Grassroots Social Movements](#)

[The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust](#) is launching a new £1 million pilot fund to support grassroots social movements whose work is vital to systemic change in society. The fund is aiming to provide grant funding, infrastructure and access to

resources and networks to support the sustainability of movement work. The Trust hopes to launch an initial funding round in 2022 and then evaluate the process, with work carried out to develop policy, test out new movement led decision-making processes and participation, and adapt the application process in preparation for a further two rounds in 2023.

Nick Cahill Award for Cornish Ecclesiastical Buildings

The Truro Diocese Advisory Committee and Cornwall Council are inviting entries for a new award established in memory of our friend and esteemed colleague Nick Cahill. Nick was a hugely influential and highly respected member of the heritage community, a scholar and authority who was unfailingly generous in sharing his wealth of knowledge and expert opinion. His expertise left no corner of Cornwall or aspect of our heritage and historic environment forgotten. The award reflects his passion for churches and chapels.



The Nick Cahill Award will recognise excellence in design and craftsmanship in restoration or improvement projects involving ecclesiastical buildings. It will consider both exciting design interventions and more modest conservation, restoration or modernisation projects in ecclesiastical buildings and churchyards across all faiths and denominations.

The Award has been established with the full support of Mary and Joe Cahill. The award is open to projects involving ecclesiastical buildings and their setting and associations (graveyards, cemetery buildings, Sunday schools) of all faiths and denominations. The award criteria will be deliberately wide-ranging, and we will encourage entries across diverse areas of work including, but not exclusively:

- Historic fabric restoration or conservation involving traditional craftsmanship
- Re-ordering schemes, extensions or additions to buildings
- Environmental improvements including renewable energy and habitat creation
- Accessibility improvements
- Community volunteering, training and skills development in conservation or preservation
- Newly commissioned artwork or installations

[Click here to read how to apply.](#)

Guidance on Church Closures

If a church ceases to meet, there is helpful and practical guidance on the [Closure of Churches](#) found under the 'Church Closures' tab on what is now renamed as the [A-Z Property Guidance](#).

Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- **5 April 2022** - Deadline for paper - 15th March 2022
- **19 July 2022** - Deadline for paper - 28th June 2022
- **11 October 2022** - Deadline for paper - 20th September 2022
- **24 January 2023** - Deadline for paper - 3 January 2023

Supporting the Methodist Connexion

Methodist Insurance has been protecting the property of the Methodist Church since 1872. We are a Public Limited Company owned by shareholders and independent of the Methodist Church. The company operates like a mutual by returning most of our profits back to our community in the form of a significant financial contribution to the Methodist Connexion. [Find out more.](#)



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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