

April 2022

PROPERTY MATTERS

The **Methodist** Church 

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

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

Net Zero Guidance



As part of working towards our goal of becoming net carbon zero, we will be focusing on various guidance and initiatives to help support churches. We have created [Net Carbon Zero Guidance](#) for churches as well as a practical [checklist](#) for reviewing your building(s). The guidance is broken down into 4 key steps:

1. [Assess Your Building](#)
2. [Take First Steps](#)
3. [Make a Bigger Impact](#)
4. [Down to Net Zero](#)

For more information about the wider issues of environment and climate change: [Click here to learn more](#).

EPC Ratings

EPC (Energy Performance Certificates) measure how a building performs in terms of energy efficiency and can be valid for up to 10 years. These certificates are required for sales and lettings but can also be a useful starting point when reviewing a building's energy efficiency. [Energy Savings Trust](#) offers further energy advice for homes and has a Guide to [Energy Performance Certificates](#)

Energy Efficiency Rating		
	Current	Potential
Very energy efficient - lower running costs		
(92-100) A		
(81-91) B		
(69-80) C		73
(55-68) D		
(39-54) E	37	
(21-38) F		
(1-20) G		
Not energy efficient - higher running costs		

The guidelines on manse provision (CPD, Book VII, Part 2.3) state that an incoming minister should be provided with a current Energy Performance Certificate, and that 'Circuits should seek to provide manses to meet a minimum of a 'C' energy efficiency rating.' Thus, if a manse does not have a valid EPC certificate (ie, more than 10 years old), then arrange to get a new EPC certificate. [More information can be found here.](#)

In April 2020, new legislation stating that all new residential tenancies must have a minimum EPC rating of E came into effect. In April 2021, this legislation will extend to require existing residential tenancies to have a minimum EPC rating of E. [Click here to check the EPC rating for a property.](#) As well, TMCP have produced [useful guidance on MEES \(Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard\).](#)

Lastly, the government have published a progress report for their plan for updating the Energy Performance Certificates. [Click here to read the report.](#)

Historic England's Guide for Energy Efficiency

This guidance acts as a starting point for devising an energy efficiency plan. It sets out our 'whole house approach' which considers context, construction, condition, historic significance and an understanding of all the factors that affect energy use. Checklists of potential improvements are included with their

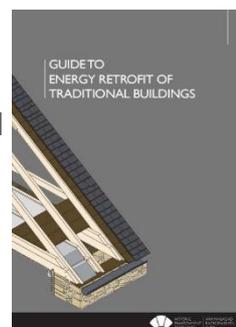


respective benefits, comparative costs and technical risks.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Guide to Energy Retrofit of Traditional Buildings

Historic Environment Scotland have published this handy guide for any pre-1919 church tackling climate change, and can be used nationwide. It looks at different retrofit options as well as material compatibility and building regulations. Although, it also mainly focuses on domestic buildings, there are some of the overriding principles can be applied to any church of traditional construction [Read more here.](#)



Electrical Vehicle Charging Point

We have received more queries about installing an electrical car charging point. Some things to consider are:

1. It's important to remember that electric vehicles only really help deliver carbon reductions when the charge points are supplied with renewable energy, either purchased from a 'green' tariff or from onsite solar panels.
2. It would be worth ensuring that the charging point can be used for a variety of electric cars, rather than being specific to one brand.
3. If it is for a manse, how easily could the point be adapted to other types of cars when/if this minister moves to a different manse?
4. Lastly, it is best practice to get a minimum of 3 quotes from different contractors.



[Click here to read some other practical tips](#) when considering installing electrical car charging points.

New Scheme for EV Charging Points

The Government has introduced a new Workplace Charging Scheme that will provide grants for organisations to purchase and install electric vehicle (EV) charging points – applicant can receive grant funding of up to £350 per socket (with a limit of 40 sockets across all sites per applicant). [Click here to find out more](#) about guidance for charities and small accommodation businesses applying to the scheme.

EcoChurch Updates

EcoChurch have updated their resources library, which includes a section on buildings, land and lifestyle. As well, there is a new section for Youth and Welsh translations. [Click to find out more.](#)



If you are interested in becoming an EcoChurch, [click here to read how.](#)

As well, you can:

- [Read about Strathmore Road Methodist Church's journey](#) towards becoming an EcoChurch
- Learn how [Lindley Methodist Church became the 4,000th EcoChurch](#) last year.
- Listen to this podcast about the [Award-Winning EcoChurch in Yorkshire](#)

A New Eco-Friendly Church & Centre for Barry's Waterfront Community

Porthkerry Road Methodist Church and Barry United Reformed Church used to worship in two large traditional Churches on opposite sides of the same road. A vision that the two Churches could join together and move to the newly developing Waterfront at Barry was to be 20 years in coming to fruition.



The vision for the new building was to spread God's mission and create a fit-for-purpose, Eco friendly building, that would offer community-based activities as well as enabling local community members, whatever their background or beliefs, the chance to experience the life and care of our church family. [Click here to read the full story.](#)

Methodist Insurance Update

Ukrainian Guests

We understand that individuals and organisations across the UK may be seeking to play a part in helping people affected by the crisis in Ukraine and wondering how this affects your insurance. [Find out more](#)



150 Years Comes to Life

See 150 years come to life via our short video. Watch how Methodist Insurance has made the last 15 decades count. Follow our journey from the steam age to the twenty-first century. [Watch the video here.](#)



Read our Special Edition of Dialogue

An extra special 150-year edition of Dialogue is available to read online. Learn more about our history, how Methodist Insurance customer Sheila has raised £5.5million for charities and some helpful tips for your church. [Read Dialogue](#)



Tree Management

Trees form a natural part of the landscape and bring many benefits. However, they can present a number of hazards as they age and careful management is needed.

[Find out more](#)



Event Safety

Easter can mark the beginning of pleasant spring weather so many churches take the opportunity to hold fundraising activities such as sales and fayres.

Our guide to managing safety at events will help you prepare.

[Read out Event Guidance](#)



A Meaningful Community Space at Perry Hall Methodist Church

With the support of the [Benefact Trust](#) (formerly Allchurches Trust) Methodist Grants Programme, Perry Hall Methodist Church has completed phase one of its Church Growth Project.

This includes making the outdoor space safer and more accessible for the congregation and wider community. The church grounds have been a valued space for local people during a challenging few years. [Find out more](#)



150th Awards Reminder

What would your church do with £1,500? Let us know your ideas and initiatives and the difference they could make to your church or community in 300 words.



Our favourite 15 ideas will each receive £1,500 towards bringing that idea to life.

[Terms and conditions apply](#)

[Read more about the awards](#)



METHODIST INSURANCE

Protect your home and support your church or charity

*Terms and conditions apply.

20% donation*

The advertisement features the Methodist Insurance logo on the left, a large blue circle with '20% donation*' on the right, and a photograph of a modern living room with a sofa and a coffee table.

Grant Opportunities

[Grants for Churches for the Conservation of Decorative Features and Monuments \(UK\)](#)

Grants of between £500 and £5,000 are available to churches, chapels and other places of worship built before 1896 to carry out small programmes of conservation work to decorative features and monuments. All work funded must be directed by a

professional architect or established conservator and completed according to the principles of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). The funding is being made available through the William and Jane Morris Fund. Applications can be submitted at any time however the next closing date for applications is the 31st August 2022.



Homes for Ukraine Scheme

TMCP and the Connexional Team understand Managing Trustees are keen to do what they can to help as part of the Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme (Scheme). Under this Scheme, individuals are asked to provide a spare room in their home, or separate accommodation e.g., an annexe, to Ukrainian people, rent free for a minimum period of six months. [Click here to read the guidance notes from TMCP.](#)



Additionally, you can refer to the [Toolkit for Churches responding to the crisis in Ukraine](#).

Meeting dates:

- **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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