

January 2024

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church 

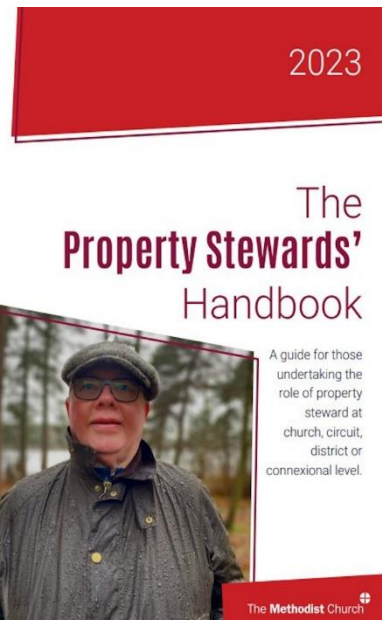
Welcome to the January edition of Property Matters with a focus on property-related updates and guidance. For the latest property guidance, please refer to the [Property pages](#).
[Meet the Property Support Team](#)

Property Stewards' Handbook

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Property Stewards' Handbook!

This handbook is design to be an across-the-board information resource for property stewards at a church, circuit and district level.

It includes the Top 10 Essentials of being a property steward as well as other useful information and links.
[Click here to download a copy.](#)



How to Make a Historic Building Energy Efficient: A Tour of Holyrood Lodge, Edinburgh

How can we make historic buildings energy efficient? Join Historic Environment Scotland for [a tour of the historic Holyrood Park lodge](#) to find out.



The Lodge itself is B-listed and was built in 1857 as part of Prince Albert's vision for Holyrood Park. It was originally built for park keepers however it has been used as a cottage in the past and is now a much-loved Visitor Centre.

The Technical Research team transformed the lodge from Energy Performance Certificate F to Band C, all the while protecting its special historic character.

[The video tour](#) includes a detailed explanation of the upgrade works. For more information on energy efficiency in older buildings, visit the [Engine Shed's website](#)

£25.5m VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme is now open (England)

The £25.5m VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme is now open to help voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in England improve their energy efficiency. It is part of the package of over £100 million of support announced by the Government at the Spring Budget to help frontline delivery organisations.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Church Grants Online Training: Planning for a major church fundraising appeal

On **Thursday 25th Jan 2024, 10.30am- 12.00 noon**, Church Grants will be offering an online training session on fundraising. It will draw on decades of church-related major fundraising capital appeal experience and you will:



- Gain a greater insight if your capital appeal target is feasible or not?
- Hear more about the different income streams available to you and the techniques to get money from these.
- Understand what people, processes and resources you need before you even start fundraising.
- Get to see helpful examples of resources to help and execute your fundraising appeal.

[Click here to register and learn more.](#)

Library of Things in Leeds and in Wales

This is just like a book library but for things that you don't use very often, don't have space for or can't afford. Items available to borrow include gardening and DIY tools, camping equipment and much more. Each library will have its own set of things to borrow, all available at less than you'd expect to pay second hand and with the opportunity to pay with time instead of money. We have learned of two of these libraries that are held on Methodist premises.



Once such initiative is the [Buy Nowt LS6 Library of Things](#) which is renting space in Headingley Methodist Church, Leeds – a Grade II listed building, which also has Mouseman furniture, so well worth a visit!! The Library of 'Things' is a pay-as-you-feel community initiative, created by a group of local volunteers in order to encourage local people to borrow instead of buying the things they need. The service is only available in Leeds at the moment but it is proving handy –

particularly with the local student community! It's a great initiative to reduce waste creation, share resources, meet people in the local area and borrow stuff with a pay-as-you-feel donation, not to mention getting people over the threshold of church. [Click here to learn more about the Library of Things in Leeds.](#)

Another Library of Things initiative is [Benthyg Cymru](#) which has had over 10,000 borrows, saving both money and carbon emissions, and interestingly, the most borrowed item last quarter was a carpet cleaner. We would encourage churches to consider partnering with others in the community to establish such projects, or to support those which already exist.

A similar project – sometimes run separately or in other cases alongside a library of things - is a [Repair Café](#). A growing number of churches host repair cafes, which offer repair of many common items which might otherwise be thrown away – thus reducing waste, sharing skills and bringing the community together. [Click here to find your nearest repair café in Wales](#), or who to contact if you would like to start one.

Community Engagement Resources

[The Growing Good Toolkit](#) is a FREE six session course helping churches explore the connection between social action, discipleship and growth. Through six flexible, interactive small group sessions, we explore how our churches can be faithful and fruitful in our local communities.

[Click here to watch a trailer.](#)



Methodist Insurance Updates

Are you planning a large project in 2024?

Raising large amounts of funding for your church's capital projects may seem like a never-ending task.

To help make the process simpler and more successful, we've pulled together five considerations from fundraising experts.



[Raising funds for capital projects](#)

Heating systems

A well-maintained heating system is important to the efficient running of a church however, a poorly maintained system can present risks to safety.

[Learn more about risks with heating systems](#)



Are you at risk of flooding?

This season's storms have impacted many across the UK. Though it's impossible to completely flood proof a building, being prepared can help limit damage and save precious items.

[Read our flood guidance](#)

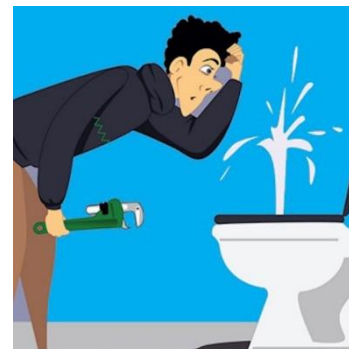


Home emergency cover

Methodist Insurance [home insurance policies](#) include a 24-hour support helpline for emergency repairs.

You won't need to pay an excess and one of our rapid-response contractors will come out to fix the problem before it gets worse.

[See what's included](#)



Read Dialogue online

You can now read our twice-yearly newsletter in a brand-new format. Read stories about Methodists going green, a thought-provoking cross made of knives, successful grants and updates on risk and fundraising guidance.

[Dialogue Autumn/Winter](#)



Over £350,000 to Methodist churches across the UK and Ireland

Benefact Trust's Methodist Grants Programme focuses on helping Methodist churches and organisations to grow, increase their community engagement, and improve the accessibility of their buildings.

Here are a few of the latest projects to benefit from a boost from the Methodist grants.

[Grant stories round up](#)

[Apply for a grant](#)



An advertisement for Methodist Insurance. It features a photograph of an elderly man and a young girl sitting together, holding a stuffed tiger. The text reads: "METHODIST INSURANCE HOME INSURANCE CAN COUNT FOR MORE THAN JUST COVER." A blue circular badge on the right says "20%* DONATED TO YOUR CHOSEN CHURCH OR CHARITY". At the bottom, it says "* Terms and conditions apply. Full details available on our website methodistinsurance.co.uk/charitydonation".

HSE Update

Refreshed Asbestos Guidance Published

[HSE's asbestos pages](#) on the website have been revised to simplify the navigation and remove outdated content. The updated webpages include the following:



- [introduction to asbestos safety](#)
- [the duty to manage asbestos in buildings](#)
- [locations of asbestos and taking the right action](#)

Home working guidance and resources

[HSE's home working guidance](#) has been redesigned and expanded to provide more detail on straightforward actions to manage home workers' health and safety. This includes the risks of [stress and poor mental health](#) as well as working with display screen equipment (DSE). There is also:

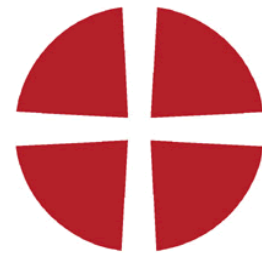
- [advice for home workers](#)
- [a video and practical tips on good posture](#) when working with DSE

Property projects on the Consents website

Are all the projects listed on the Consents website still active?

If managing trustees decide that they are not going to progress a property project, then it should be abandoned. Managing trustees should make sure that all projects that are not going forward have been marked as abandoned on the Consents website. The Abandon Project button can be found on the Project Summary form at the bottom of the Project Details list.

[Click here to view further guidance on this.](#)



TMCP Updates

Template DAR and Instruction Letter Available

Following the reforms to the Charities Act 2011 (brought in by the Charities Act 2022) which came into force on the 14th June 2023, TMCP has been updating our guidance to Managing Trustees. Rather than having a QSR, the DAR (Designated Adviser's Report) is now required.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



What do you need to know about Martyn's Law?

Following the announcement of Martyn's Law in the King's Speech (also known as the Terrorism Bill), the Home Office have produced the [Martyn's Law Factsheet](#). There is also a new dedicated page about [Martyn's Law on ProtectUK](#) which includes information on good security practices.



The property support team are currently reviewing the draft bill and will be working towards producing guidance when further details are released. At the moment, churches are not required by law to act on this.

However, for places of worship and Christmas events, there is some advice about the Counter Terrorism winter campaign 2023/24. [The Winter Vigilance Toolkit 2023/24](#) is focused on keeping the public safe at big events, looking out for each other and being confident to report anything that looks suspicious.

Energy Buying Update

Business Solutions Made Simple!

Proud Partners of the Methodist Church



As Christians we are called to care for God's creation and to work for justice in the world. We are currently living in a climate emergency which threatens much of the life on earth and disproportionately affects those people who did least to cause it.

The Methodist Church in Britain has set a target of net zero by 2030. This will require action in a number of different areas and contexts, but crucial to achieving

this aim will be ensuring that the energy we use is green, renewable energy. Moving to using green electricity not only ensures that the energy we use does as little as possible to contribute to the climate emergency but also allows us to demonstrate collectively that we, as a Church, want to see the building of greater capacity for renewable energy.

As well, we are aware of the concern that churches have regarding rising energy costs. One possible option for managing trustees to consider would be to get in touch with an energy broker who may be able to fix your rates for a period of time. Although it is not always guaranteed that the rate is cheaper, there is a level of security of having a fixed rate. Managing Trustees could also contact other churches in their circuit and/or district to see if they might be interested, as sometimes brokers can offer deals for a cluster of churches. Here is a message from [Switch365](#), the new energy partner for The Methodist Church:

Our goal is to streamline the energy renewal process for all Methodist Churches. Whether your current contract nears expiration or extends into the future, we invite you to reach out.

Our account managers can explore tailored plans designed to meet your specific needs and to introduce sustainable energy practices for your church. Together, we can embark on a journey towards a greener and more cost-effective energy future. [Click here to fill in an online enquiry form.](#)

Listed Building Advisory Committee (LBAC) Meeting Dates:

- **23 January 2024** - Deadline for paper is 31 December 2023
- **23 April 2024** - Deadline for paper is 22 March 2024
- **16 July 2024** - Deadline for paper is 14 June 2024

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. To view the most current content, please refer to the [Property pages](#) on the website. 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 Tavistock Place Road, London, WC1H 9SF 020 7486 5502
methodist.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1132208

[Unsubscribe](#)
[Subscribe to other newsletters](#)
[Change your details](#)
[Click here for a PDF version](#)