

June 2021

# PROPERTY MATTERS

The Methodist Church 

Welcome to the June 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](#).

## Easing of Restrictions

The government has updated the [Guidance for Weddings & Civil Partnerships](#) in England following the Prime Minister's announcement. It states:

From 21 June, there will no longer be a maximum number cap for attendees set out in law. Instead, the number of attendees at weddings, civil partnerships and receptions will be determined by how many people the venue or space can safely accommodate with social distancing measures in place. This will be based on the COVID-19 risk assessment of the venue or outdoor space, and the measures put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.

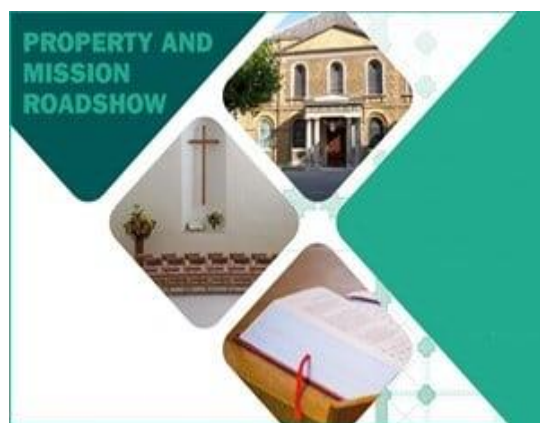


For further information, please refer to the government [Guidance for Weddings & Civil Partnerships](#). COVID Secure rules, including social distancing requirements, continue to apply in the workplace, and in businesses and public venues. Further information can be found on [Coronavirus Guidance for Property](#). Please note that this is only for England.

- In Scotland, please refer to the [Scottish guidance for the Safe Use of Place of Worship](#)
- In Wales, please refer to the [Guidance for Re-Opening Places of Worship](#)
- Please follow the links for specific local regulations and guidance for the [Isle of Man](#) and Channel Islands ([Guernsey](#) & [Jersey](#)).

## Property and Mission Roadshow

The Property & Mission Roadshow commenced last month with over 120 people in attendance to hear about the new [Strategic Guidance for the Use of Property in Mission](#). The roadshows are planned to address issues at a local level and build on the work already started by the Connexional Property Strategy 2018-2020. Remaining dates include:



- 16 June – Midlands
- 14 July – Wales South West, South & Channel Island
- 21 July – London, South East & East Anglia

[Full details and registration can be found here.](#)

## Methodist Insurance Update

### Open churches

If you're starting to reopen your church, it's worth considering keeping your doors open during daylight hours.

As well as making your church welcoming, there are security benefits but it is still important to take some sensible precautions. [Find out more](#)



### Slips, trips and one-way systems

One-way systems are becoming common as a means of managing social distancing.

If you are directing people via routes / entrances you wouldn't usually use, it's important to check they are safe and any slip or trip hazards are appropriately managed. [Find out more](#)

### **Boost your funding applications**

Applying for grants can be a great source of fundraising income for your church. There is no magic wand for creating a successful application, but we do have some top tips to help. [Read our top tips](#)

### **Church security**

Though your church is unlikely to experience a serious attack, knowing how to react can minimise the impact and keep people safe. When looking for ways to minimise security risks, it's important to remember that each church is unique and to take a balanced and proportionate approach to planning. [Find out more](#)

### **Speed matters when dealing with fires alone**

When a blaze caused the partial collapse of the church roof, we were quick to respond to ensure emergency actions were taken to protect the church building. . [See what happened](#)

## **Electrical Safety Update**

The statutory requirements placed on Landlords of residential property are ever changing. We would like to draw your attention to a recent legislative update which will impact Managing Trustees who let out residential property. In accordance with the [Electrical Safety Regulations](#), landlords must take care to ensure that all electrical installations at the property are inspected and tested at least every five years by a person who is qualified and competent. **This includes both a change of occupancy and current tenants.**

[Click here to read more.](#)



For information on carrying out inspections, please refer to the section on Electrical Inspection on the [Maintenance page](#).

## TMCP Updates

### New Template QSR and Instruction Letter

To assist Managing Trustees and their surveyors, TMCP have prepared a template QSR (Template QSR) and template letter of instruction to surveyors (Template Instruction Letter).

[Click here to read more and download the documents.](#)



### Streamlining Transactions Summary Flowchart

TMCP is moving forward with the plans we outlined at a number of recent presentations to streamline transactions (manse sales and purchases, church sales and short term commercial leases). The new streamlining process will apply to those transactions where Managing Trustees have instructed one of the firms on the Methodist panel of solicitors.

[Click to here to read more.](#)

### Changes to the Panel of Solicitors

The Methodist Church's Panel of Solicitors has now been in place for three years and over this time the Managing Trustees have been able to instruct each of the firms for advice in a number of areas of law. Following the quarterly review, some changes have been made. [Click here to read about the updates.](#)

## From Near Closure to a Bright Future - despite Covid-19

[Syke Methodist Church](#) in Rochdale has, for much of its 150 years, been the thriving hub of the community. Currently, the church works in what may be a unique partnership between a Methodist Church and an independent community charity, under the name Syke Connexion. Syke Community Base is a small local charity with a big heart and a local feel. However, five years ago, the church faced closure and Syke Community Base was about to be made homeless. [Click here to read the story.](#)



## Places of Worship Security Funding

The [places of worship \(PoW\) protective security funding scheme](#) is a government commitment in the 2016-2020 hate crime action plan. This scheme is intended to reduce the risk and impact of hate crime at places of worship and associated faith community centres.

The scheme provides funding for protective security measures, such as CCTV, fencing, and intruder alarms, to places of worship and associated faith community centres that are vulnerable to hate crime. **You can submit an application for the installation of up to 3 protective security measures until 2 July 2021.**

[Click here to find out more information.](#)

## Covid-19, Churches & Community Project Report and Findings

[The Churches, COVID-19 and Communities research project](#) was set up to provide detailed data from a wide range of respondents to support national and local policy and decision-making in the face of COVID-19 through:

- Examining the impact of closing church buildings and restrictions on activities provided or hosted by churches on the lives and wellbeing of individuals and communities
- Exploring how churches have been able to respond creatively to COVID-19 challenges and adapt to meet new circumstances and needs
- Assessing the potential of church buildings and networks to support recovery and community resilience in the future.
- Identifying the key resources needed to mobilise these assets fully

**COVID-19, Churches,  
and Communities**  
Current needs and planning for recovery



[Click here to read the summary of recommendations.](#)

## Works on Listed Buildings

Following notification of works carried out without permission to one of our listed chapels, we wish to offer a brief reminder that all works of alteration (which may include some repairs) to a listed building require listed building approval.

Details of any alteration should therefore be submitted to [Joanne Balmforth, Connexional Conservation Officer](#) and approved before the works commence. Failure to do so can be a serious offence and is subject to enforcement action under the relevant Standing Orders. Please also note that the listing covers the whole of the building, not just the exterior.

Please contact [Joanne Balmforth](#) at if you have any questions.

## Listed Building Advisory Committee

Meeting dates:

- **13 July** - Deadline for papers - 14 June 2021
- **19 October** - Deadline for paper - 20 September 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.**

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