

PROPERTY MATTERS

ISSUE 11 – June 2015



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PROPERTY MATTERS

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INTRODUCTION

Greetings!

A warm welcome to this edition of *Property Matters* – and, if we are to believe the weather forecast, we will all experience a very warm summer.

It has been a busy time recently as we have settled into a 'post Julie' era. Now I have had time to reflect it is only right to record my thanks to Julie Robinson-Judd for all she accomplished over the time she held the post of Connexional Property Coordinator, and hope that we can build on her good work with properties.

In this issue you will see a report on the Resourcing Mission Forum. Those who attended were universally inspired by the tireless work going on in God's name throughout the districts. We are already in planning for next year and any suggestions for talks would be gratefully received, especially if you are willing to do the talking!

Inspiration also abounds at the Joint Property Strategy Group roadshows, and in this issue you will find a little more information. The first event has already taken place in Newcastle (thank you Brunswick). By the time you get this, Birmingham will also have passed – but there is still time to book for others. The Manchester show is already full, but there is a waiting list.

You will also find here some thoughts about the new CDM regulations and how they will affect anyone about to start a project. Lastly, there is also a warning on fraud and how some nefarious people are trying to obtain money by deception.

As always, I welcome your feedback, either by email or in person at one of the JPSG roadshows.

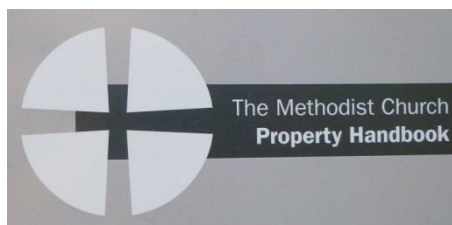
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Front page photographs: © Methodist Heritage

CONNEXIONAL TEAM UPDATE

PROPERTY RESOURCES AND EVENTS

The Property Handbook



The *Property Handbook* is now available on the Methodist Church website and can be accessed via the following link - www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/property/handbook.

There are a few pages that will be uploaded shortly, however the majority are online and can be viewed and/or downloaded.

If you have any queries, please contact Kim Medford-Vassell, Executive Support Officer (Property) via medford-vassellk@methodistchurch.org.uk.

The Joint Property Strategy Group roadshows: People, places, possibilities



The roadshows are currently taking place in churches around the country, please do visit the registration web page for information on the events that are due to take place within the next few weeks: www.jpsgroadshows.eventbrite.co.uk.

Please also visit the JPSG website via www.jpsg.org where you can access a copy of the road show programme and find more information on the group and its work.

There are still some places available for participants, so for further information – including a paper registration form – contact Kim Medford-Vassell, Executive Support Officer (Property) via medford-vassellk@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Resourcing Mission Forum 2015: Report and reflection

What is the Resourcing Mission Forum?

A highly successful Resourcing Mission Forum (RMF) took place at Kings Park Conference Centre in Northampton from 14-16 April.

This two night event has been held annually for some years, and the main focus of the event is to enthuse, envision and equip those working with our properties at circuit and district level to help the Church to make best use of its resources in furthering mission and developing discipleship. It is an opportunity for district chairs, district and circuit property and grants officers and treasurers to talk, network and discuss their roles within their churches and communities. It also provides opportunities for relaxation, socialisation which inevitably leads to the sharing of ideas for furthering mission.

The event is organised by the Mission Resources Team within the Support Services Cluster of the Connexional Team, with the help and guidance of others such as TMCP, Governance Support and Discipleship and Ministries.

What took place this year?

The programme provided delegates with a number of enticing sessions. David Westhead, DPS for the Chester and Stoke District, started the event with his devotions on being part of God's mission which set the theme for the three days. It was then a real pleasure to welcome Martyn Atkins, the General Secretary, who reflected on '7 levers, Missional Strategies for Conferences' by Robert Schnase.

Malcolm Jones and Sam Beazley started us off on Wednesday morning, and we learned about the linking of young people to church through the Launceston Skatepark. It caught everyone by surprise that even though it had been a great success, it was about to close. However, it was explained that it was a necessity by the ending of a lease and already big plans were afoot to move it onto a larger and even more exciting ministry. The thought of all those young people skating and then stopping for a prayer and bible reading really showed how engagement can take place in the unlikeliest of circumstances. It really wasn't about thinking outside the box, more about scattering the box to the four winds!

After a short break to recover our wits there were still more fresh expressions to come, both involving pubs. It seems somehow fitting for Methodists to be replacing the pub's usual role with church, in Stoke with the West End Methodists team showing how a pub can become a café and a serving church for all the community, and quickly followed by Alistair Sharp and the White Swan Pub in Rotherham and his very fresh expression of church. Roger Munday from Living Stones then talked about *Thinking Outside the Holy Box* – resourcing mission without fit for purpose buildings. After that, we all took a well earned lunchtime break and conversation flowed over that period.



Networking at the Resourcing Mission Forum. (© V Thim)

At the start of the afternoon we had a non-Methodist interloper! However, it was Joanna Booth, the education officer at Blackburn Cathedral who talked with great authority on welcoming and the visitors' experience.

There were some great tips on how to engage visitors without being pushy or too forward. Andrew Slim then reminded people about the aims and objectives of Methodist Chapel Aid Limited, and how it can help, whether with wheelchair access or a new building. Methodist Chapel Aid helps churches make a real impact in the community by making loans at the lowest practicable rates of interest.



Daleep Mukarji speaking about Connexional Grants and One Mission. (© V Thim)

After tea the rest of that day was devoted mainly to grants with both Helen Woodall (Chair of the Connexional Grants Committee) and Ex-Vice-President of the Methodist Conference Daleep Mukarji (now Chair of the World Church Sub-Committee) speaking. Workshop sessions on grants and property were held concurrently.

Connexional Grants Officer Valerie Lovett and Executive Support Officer Kim Medford-Vassell facilitated the District Grants meeting, which included an update by Research Officer Hamish Leese. David Westhead was the facilitator for the District Property Secretaries' meeting, which saw Louise Wilkins (Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice) and Laura Carnall (Legal Operations Manager at TMCP) giving advice and guidance for delegates. Consents Web Officer Tom Lee spoke about standard forms of accounts. Those in attendance also learned that the *Property Handbook* had now 'gone live' on the website.

The next day opened with the sun shining and inspiration from Peter Turnbull and Rachel Holliday who talked from the heart about the Time to Change, West Cumbria project – and starting a social enterprise within a former police station. This mainly revolved around the need to address homelessness and particularly homelessness within leavers from the Armed Services. After a break for tea, Connexional Director of Scholarship, Research and Innovation Stephen Skuce enthused everyone with the question ‘Mission or Evangelism?’

The conference finished with communion celebrated with the help of colleagues from Kingsthorpe Methodist Church.

Feedback and thanks

As always the role of the facilitator for each day is critical, and thanks must go to Connexional Team staff Nick Moore, Doug Swanney and Kim Medford-Vassell for their skill and careful timekeeping – sometimes not the easiest of tasks!

The feedback received was very encouraging and included comments such as these:

“Being a DPS can be like being a law enforcer and sometimes seem a lonely place. At times you wonder whether you are doing the job correctly and so sharing with colleagues in similar positions is always helpful.”

“It shows what is possible, when we often think it's impossible.”

“Thought-provoking and practically useful, inspirational, informing and uplifting.”

“Good mix of practical examples/background theological thinking and information-giving which suited my needs and kept my interest.”

I was also encouraged to see many suggestions for next year’s event, including having some shorter practical sessions amongst the inspirational stories, information on the legal aspects of social enterprises, CIC and limited companies in respect of incorporation into Methodist model Trusts and charity law together with information on VAT. We will try to incorporate as many suggestions as possible. If you have had time to reflect since the event and have an idea that you feel should be shared, please don’t hesitate to get in touch via fpc@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Thanks are due not only to the facilitators, but to those who provided help to the delegates, to David Westhead who provided thought provoking (and Easter egg eating) devotions, to the staff at Kings Park and to Anne Goodman, TMCP’s Chief Executive, who led some fine singing throughout the event. Lastly, thanks must go to Mission Resources Administrator Verena Thim who organised the event and did much to ensure everything went very smoothly.

Where is the RMF taking place next year?

Next year’s event will be held again at Kings Park Conference Centre in Northampton, as this venue was appreciated and liked by a large number of participants. It will follow the same format and run from **Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12 May 2016**.

Information on the programme will be sent to District Chairs, property secretaries, grants officers and treasurers as soon as it is available, and uploaded onto www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/property/events.

We look forward to welcoming you all again next year. To those who were unable to attend this year: you missed a real treat and we hope you will join us in 2016.

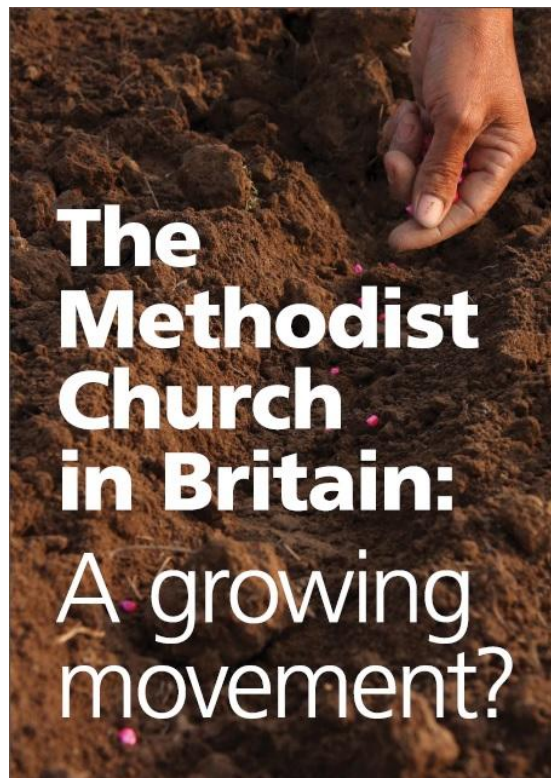
STRATEGIC RESEARCH:

The Methodist Church in Britain: A growing movement?

In the Parable of the Growing Seed, Jesus says: "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how." (Mark 4:26-27 NIV). Given that God grows the Church, where can growth be found within the Methodist Church?

A significant research project is being undertaken looking at growth; understanding what growth looks like within the broad spectrum of the contemporary Methodist Church, and investigating the role that we can play in God's work of growing the Church.

1 Corinthians 12 tells of the different parts of the body and their importance in the body of Christ. Similarly, we are seeking to understand the full breadth of activities, forms and contexts of the Methodist Church with an awareness that not all are the same but all are important.



We are looking to get your opinions and experiences through an online questionnaire, and this is an important component within the research. Everything submitted in this questionnaire will be treated and stored confidentially and all findings will be presented anonymously. If you wish to take part in the research beyond the confines of this questionnaire please include your email address in the optional question at the end, or contact the Strategic Research Team (research@methodistchurch.org.uk).

It is up to you how many of the questions you answer and how much information you share with us - all questions are optional. We appreciate your participation in this research project.

To complete the questionnaire please visit
www.methodist.org.uk/growingmovement

PROPERTY CONSENTS: Update

> PROPERTY CONSENTS

In September this year, we will be updating the Consents website. This update will feature a number of improvements that will make the site easier to use.

Some of the improvements we are making are:

Authorisations section

The authorisations section (found towards the bottom of the Project Summary tab) will now be moved to its own tab. This new tab will be the right-most tab on the screen so you know that this is the section you should be doing once you've completed all the other sections.

Sharing agreements

We're also changing the way sharing agreements are handled by the Consents system. This is more of a back end change, so you probably won't see anything change on the Consents system, except that your projects should progress through a bit quicker.

Replacement projects

It will now be easier to indicate whether your project is a replacement project or not. There will be an extra section on the project summary page before the funding section called Replacement Projects. You will be asked if the current project is a replacement project and if so, what the related sale project ID is.

Document management system

Perhaps the most significant change we're making is the addition of a document management system. What this will mean is that you can now attach documents, images and plans to projects and properties.

Documents will be accessible through both the associated project page as well as the property details page.

Property details page

As part of these changes, the property details page will also be revamped. There will now be three tabs or four tabs.

- Property Details
- Associated Projects: This will be all the projects associated with this property, included abandoned and finished projects.
- Documents: Any documents associated with this property, such as quinquennial reports can be found here.
- Sharing Agreement: This tab will only appear if your property has a sharing agreement associated with it. If it does, you will see the basic details of that agreement here. Otherwise, no tab will appear.

There are also a number of other changes happening that will make the site easier to use and a bit more intuitive. We expect these updates to be live by 1 September.

PROPERTY & PLANNING: Broadband in churches

(This article was published by the Churches' Legislation Advisory Service (CLAS) and is reproduced with their kind permission)

Members may be interested in the following written answer on delivering superfast broadband. Heather Wheeler asked the [then] Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress he had made on delivering (a) broadband and (b) wi-fi to church halls. Edward Vaizey's reply was as follows:

On 9 February 2015 the Government announced that 2 million premises have been passed by its Superfast Broadband programme, meaning that superfast broadband is now available to almost 80% of UK premises, up from 45% in 2010. *Church halls which are included within this coverage will be able to gain access to superfast broadband services.*

Small and medium sized enterprises, *including places of worship which are registered as charities*, are eligible for a grant of up to £3,000 under the Government's Broadband Connection Vouchers scheme which runs in 22 UK cities. The Chancellor recently announced that £40 million will be made available to extend the scheme to more cities from April 2015. *[our emphasis]*

We suspect that some member Churches may be unaware of the Broadband Connection Vouchers Scheme: there is lots of stuff on the Internet from registered suppliers but the Government portal is [here: www.connectionvouchers.co.uk](http://www.connectionvouchers.co.uk)

[Source: HC Deb 20 February]

LEGAL MATTERS: Food information for consumers – new legislation

On 13 December 2014, EU regulations came into force which require all registered food businesses in the United Kingdom to provide allergy information when unpackaged food is being sold e.g. sandwiches made to order. The new legislation reflects the current requirements for food allergens to be displayed on pre-packaged food.



© Thinkstock

Helpful guidance can be found at www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/allergy-guide.

The requirements mean that a church with a cafe must inform people if any of their unpackaged food items contain one of the 14 major allergens. Churches that have not had to register as a food business, due to their handling and serving of food only being occasional, are exempt from the new requirements.

Louise Wilkins

Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice

wilkinsl@methodistchurch.org.uk

LEGAL MATTERS: Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015

The **Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015** (CDM 2015) came into force in April 2015. Under CDM 2015, virtually everyone involved in a construction project has legal duties. The various 'duty holders' are defined as follows:

Client - Anyone who has construction work carried out for them. The main duty for clients is to make sure their project is suitably managed, ensuring the health and safety of all who might be affected by the work, including members of the public. CDM 2015 recognises two types of client:

- **Commercial clients** have construction work carried out as part of their business. This could be an individual, partnership or company, and includes property developers and companies managing domestic properties. It would also include any person who is acting as a client on behalf of any Methodist trustees for any construction project defined as a 'Notifiable Project' (see below).
- **Domestic clients** have construction work carried out for them but **not** in connection with any business – usually work done on their own home or the home of a family member. CDM 2015 does not require domestic clients to carry out client duties as these normally pass to other duty holders.

Designer - An organisation or individual whose work involves preparing or modifying designs, drawings, specifications, bills of quantity or design calculations. Designers can be architects, consulting engineers and quantity surveyors, or anyone who specifies and alters designs as part of their work. They can also include tradespeople if they carry out design work. The designer's main duty is to eliminate, reduce or control foreseeable risks that may arise during construction work, or in the use and maintenance of the building once built. On projects with more than one contractor, designers work under the control of a principal designer.

Principal designer - A designer appointed by the client to control the pre-construction phase on projects with more than one contractor. The principal designer's main duty is to plan, manage, monitor and coordinate health and safety during this phase, when most design work is carried out.

Principal contractor - A contractor appointed by the client to manage the construction phase on projects with more than one contractor. The principal contractor's main duty is to plan, manage, monitor and coordinate health and safety during this phase, when all construction work takes place.

Contractor - An individual or business in charge of carrying out construction work (eg building, altering, maintaining or demolishing). Anyone who manages this work or directly employs or engages construction workers is a contractor. Their main duty is to plan, manage and monitor the work under their control in a way that ensures the health and safety of anyone it might affect (including members of the public). Contractors work under the control of the principal contractor on projects with more than one contractor.

Worker - An individual who actually carries out the work involved in building, altering, maintaining or demolishing buildings or structures. Workers include: plumbers, electricians, scaffolders, painters, decorators, steel erectors and labourers, as well as supervisors such as foremen and chargehands. Their duties include cooperating with their employer and other dutyholders, reporting anything they see that might endanger the health and safety of themselves or others. Workers must be consulted on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare.

Commercial clients: roles and responsibilities

CDM 2015 makes the distinction shown above between commercial and domestic clients. Client duties apply in full to commercial clients.

A commercial client is any individual or organisation that carries out a construction project as part of a business. Although we are not a business as such, church projects (and those of us organising them) will still fall into this category.

As commercial clients, we have a crucial influence over how our projects are run, including health and safety risk management. Whatever the project size, the commercial client has contractual control, appoints designers and contractors, and determines the money, time and other resources for the project.

For all projects, commercial clients must:

- make suitable arrangements for managing their project, enabling those carrying it out to manage health and safety risks in a proportionate way. These arrangements include:
 - appointing the contractors and designers to the project (including the principal designer and principal contractor on projects involving more than one contractor) while making sure they have the skills, knowledge, experience and organisational capability
 - allowing sufficient time and resources for each stage of the project
 - making sure that any principal designer and principal contractor appointed carry out their duties in managing the project
 - making sure suitable welfare facilities are provided for the duration of the construction work
- maintain and review the management arrangements for the duration of the project
- provide pre-construction information to every designer and contractor either bidding for the work or already appointed to the project
- ensure that the principal contractor or contractor (for single contractor projects) prepares a construction phase plan before that phase begins
- ensure that the principal designer prepares a health and safety file for the project and that it is revised as necessary and made available to anyone who needs it for subsequent work at the site.

Definitions

Notifiable project - where planned construction work will last longer than 30 working days and involves more than 20 workers at any one time; or where the work exceeds 500 individual worker days, a commercial client must:

- notify HSE in writing with details of the project (see below)
- ensure a copy of the notification is displayed in the construction site office.

Construction work - includes the construction, alteration, conversion, fitting out, commissioning, renovation, repair, upkeep, redecoration or other maintenance (including cleaning which involves the use of water or an abrasive at high pressure, or the use of corrosive or toxic substances), de-commissioning, demolition or dismantling of a structure. As a result a long period of maintenance such as the external cleaning of a church, or repairs to roofs, or even a full repainting may be included, depending on the number of working days or workers.

What information needs to be notified?

Details of what is required to be notified are included in Schedule 1 of the CDM regs:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/51/schedule/1/made.

Who needs to notify?

The commercial client for the construction work is required to send the notification to the HSE on the form F10 (there are exceptions but only for domestic clients).

How do we notify?

We strongly recommend using the online form, which has been developed to make notification as simple and convenient as possible. When you fill in and submit the form, it is sent to HSE automatically. You will receive an email providing you with a copy of your form and a serial number which you can use to access your form and provide updates. The four-page form can be found on the HSE website here: extranet.hse.gov.uk/lfservlet/external/f10.

If you can't access the online form or you do not have the facilities to use the online form then you may notify the HSE in writing, making sure you include all relevant information, and send it to F10 Scanning Centre

Health and Safety Executive, % Central Despatch
Redgrave Court, Merton Road
Bootle, Merseyside L20 7HS

Transitional Arrangements

CDM 2015 recognises that there will be construction projects that started before the Regulations come into force on 6 April 2015 and continue beyond that date. For these projects, the following transitional arrangements apply.

Where there is, or is expected to be, more than one contractor on a project:

- where the construction phase has not yet started and the client has not yet appointed a CDM co-ordinator, the client must appoint a principal designer as soon as practicable
- if the CDM co-ordinator has already been appointed and the construction phase has started, the client must appoint a principal designer to replace the CDM co-ordinator before 6 October 2015, unless the project comes to an end before then
- in the period it takes to appoint the principal designer, the appointed CDM co-ordinator should comply with the duties contained in Schedule 4 of CDM 2015. These reflect the duties placed on CDM co-ordinators under CDM 2007 rather than requiring CDM co-ordinators to act as principal designers, a role for which they may not be equipped.

Other transitional arrangements are:

- pre-construction information, construction phase plans or health and safety files provided under CDM 2007 are recognised as meeting the equivalent requirements in CDM 2015
- any project already notified under CDM 2007 is recognised as a notification under CDM 2015
- a principal contractor appointed under CDM 2007 will be considered to be a principal contractor under CDM 2015.

In all other circumstances, the requirements of CDM 2015 apply in full from 6 April 2015.

Relationship between CDM 2015 and Property Consents

When a project requires consent via the on-line system, it may also need notifying to the HSE. This will not happen automatically and a separate notification will need to be made using the F10 form if it is a notifiable project.

Structural changes to the property includes small projects such as installing a ramp or disabled toilet, or much larger extensions or refurbishments involving the reconfiguring of a building, or demolition of all or any part of a Methodist building. ALL structural changes to our buildings need prior consent. Any work to a listed building or a building in a conservation area must be reviewed by the Connexional Conservation Officer. If the construction work will last longer than 30 working days and involves more than 20 workers at any one time (or where the work exceeds 500 individual worker days), it will require notification on the form F10.

If certain monies are to be used to fund the cost of a property project, then a consent application will be created, but the cost of the project has no bearing on the need to register under CDM 2015, registration is based solely on the days or workers employed.

The following, although going through the Consents process, do not need notification to the HSE:

- acquisition of any new interest in property for the Methodist Church
- giving up an interest in any part of a Methodist property
- proposals to share a building with another denomination or any other partner.

CONSERVATION

***Attitudes to Church Buildings* – findings of an opinion poll by the National Churches Trust**



Those of you interested in statistics and the attitude towards church buildings may want to download *Attitudes to Church Buildings* from www.methodist.org.uk/mission/research/external-links, which outlines the findings of a recent opinion poll commissioned by the National Churches Trust (December 2014). This is a poll designed to measure attitudes to church buildings, and shows that four in five (79%) British people think that churches and chapels are an important part of the heritage and history. Three quarters of British people (74%) say that church buildings play an important role for society by providing a space for community activities, such as playgroups, cultural and social events and meetings. This view is held among British adults of all religions and none with more than three in five British adults of non-Christian religions (67%) and of no religion (64%) agreeing that church buildings play an important role for society by providing a space for community activities, such as playgroups, cultural and social events and meetings.

Historic Religious Buildings Alliance e-newsletter

You and your church may already be aware of the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance of which the Methodist Church is a member. Each month they produce an e-newsletter which contains some useful information and details of upcoming events. The May 2015 e-newsletter includes information on forthcoming training days and conferences, such as *Managing Major Buildings*

Projects training day (Sheffield, 25 June) as well as news on the Churches Conservation Trust's new initiative: 'Champing' – that's camping in churches to you and me! There's also information on the work of Methodist Heritage and on funding and the Heritage Angel Awards 2015. If you want to access or sign up to the newsletter free of charge then follow this link: www.hrballiance.org.uk

Submission of projects to the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee

Please put the following dates in your diary if you and your church are considering submitting a project that requires consideration by the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee (LBAC):

Deadline for circulation	Meeting date
8 June 2015	7 July 2015 (to be held at Westminster Central Hall)
22 September 2015	13 October 2015
5 January 2016	26 January 2016
5 April 2016	26 April 2016 (provisional)

The requirement for consultation is laid out in Section 98 of the Standing Orders. However, we would be pleased to discuss your project with you and give you advice at the earliest convenience. Please contact Joanne Balmforth or Jean Haynes on 0161 235 6739.

Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund

The Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund is a fund set up by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 2014 for urgent repairs to public places of worship across the UK. This is a government-sponsored fund set up to help make the UK's listed places of worship weathertight, safe and open for use. It is administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Approximately a quarter of all applications made by the Methodist Church in the last round were successful.

The £25m fund will reopen to new applications later this year. Unfortunately, unsuccessful applicants from the first round will have to reapply. However, managing trustees from churches who were successful in their applications are willing and able to assist with providing information to those churches who would like to apply. If you would like contact details then please speak to Joanne Balmforth or Jean Haynes who would be happy to pass on your details (Tel: 0161 235 6739 or e-mail conservation@methodistchurch.org.uk).

Further details of the Listed Places of Worship: Roof Repair Fund can be found here: www.lpowroof.org.uk/.

General enquiries

If you have any queries or would like to discuss any matters relating to a listed building or an unlisted building in a conservation area then please contact Joanne Balmforth on 0161 235 6739 or email conservation@methodistchurch.org.uk.

CONSERVATION & HERITAGE

In the next of our series of articles from around the Connexion's key heritage sites, Christian Dettlaff, Curator at The Museum of Methodism & John Wesley's House, describes the latest stage in the museum refurbishment.



The 'World Parish' display in the Museum of Methodism at Wesley's Chapel wins Heritage Lottery Fund support

At the beginning of May, the team at Wesley's Chapel and the Museum of Methodism heard the wonderful and welcome news that they were to receive a grant of up to £98,300 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for their exciting project to develop the 'World Parish' exhibition display case in The Museum of Methodism, City Road, London.

Using dozens of unique collection objects which will be restored, the project will curate an exhibition telling the story of the global spread of Methodism. The 18-month project represents the final piece of the accredited museum's recent redevelopment.

This has been under way since 2013 and has seen a complete refurbishment of the museum in the Chapel's crypt, including the production of an introductory film presented using the latest digital technology and multiple screens (which was funded by a Connexional grant).

The museum refurbishment project had been planned for many years. But due to a number of reasons (not least the downturn of the economy in 2008), it took much longer than anticipated for the refurbishment to get off the ground. The Museum of Methodism was refurbished in three phases, commencing in January 2013. Cultural consultancy Barker Langham have provided museum advice. Award winning architects John McAslan & Partners (who recently led the refurbishment of King's Cross station) worked on the refurbishment of the Chapel crypt. The financial support of Kwanglim Methodist Church in South Korea was invaluable in getting the project under way.

This HLF-funded stage of the work is very much about people first though, and not just buildings



and objects. Wesley's Chapel has a thriving and diverse congregation, with over 50 nationalities represented; and the concept of 'voice' plays a central role within Methodism, through its preaching and hymns. Fittingly, 25 oral histories will be collected from within the diverse Chapel community and uploaded on to new iPads in the museum.

Volunteers from the congregation and the museum's heritage stewards will conduct one-to-one interviews, to learn more about how congregation members from many places around the world found their faith and Methodism. This will allow visitors of many nationalities to engage with and explore the origins and development of their faith, and enable non-Methodist or those visitors with no faith affiliations to learn about the spread of Methodism abroad and overseas.



© Methodist Heritage

It will also provide an excellent way of 'hearing the voice' of the congregation – literally and metaphorically – in the museum displays. Key project outcomes will also include visitor and volunteer engagement activities such as 100 heritage steward-led tours of the new museum displays, guided school sessions and the development of online and school resources. The exact format of these is still to be decided, but will take account of the national curriculum. The museum team is excited to be offering more for their younger visitors soon!

Wesley's Chapel was built by John Wesley in 1778 and the site is home to nine individually-listed structures of historic significance, including the Grade I listed former home of John Wesley, the Chapel building itself and the Chapel crypt, the location of The Museum of Methodism. Commenting on the award, the Revd the Lord Leslie Griffiths, Superintendent Minister at Wesley's Chapel, said: "We have people worshipping and visiting us from every corner of the world. Now, at last, we'll be able to serve their needs, honour their histories and celebrate the diversity which they illustrate so well."

METHODIST INSURANCE: Sound advice for churches

Methodist Insurance is aware of a number of cases where noise has proved an issue for churches. Noise accounts for most of the complaints that local councils and the Environment Agency receive about environmental pollution, and is a major source of stress.

Determining what level of noise constitutes a nuisance can be quite subjective; the level of noise, its length and timing may be taken into consideration. Local authorities have a duty to deal with statutory nuisances under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. For noise to be a statutory nuisance, it must be “prejudicial to health or a nuisance”. An abatement notice can be served by the local authority if they are satisfied that the noise amounts to a statutory nuisance. The notice may require that the noise be stopped altogether or limited to certain times of day. The police could be called to deal with a complaint if the noise amounts to a breach of the peace, or where it is associated with threatening, violent or other anti-social behaviour.



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That’s why it is important, if you are planning an event at your church where you will be playing music or have a public address system, you consider the requirements for protecting those ‘at work’ from the potentially harmful effects of loud music, as well as the laws to help people affected by unwanted noise, for example your neighbours. The last thing you want is your event stopped or prevented from going ahead in future because it is too noisy!

We’ve got five top tips to follow, before and during the event, to help make sure everything goes smoothly:

Before the event

- Make one person responsible for dealing with noise for your event. They should contact your local Council’s Environmental Health Department in advance for advice and agreement on monitoring if necessary.
- Contact neighbours to tell them about the event and give a contact number in case of problems. People are more likely to tolerate noise when they are informed about it ahead of time and know, for example, how long the event will last for.

During the event

- Be respectful of noise-sensitive properties in the area and the impact of the event on them; act responsibly if you receive any complaints from local residents.
- Continue to monitor and control noise levels, paying particular attention to the bass component and PA systems.
- If possible, face your stages away from residential properties and use multiple smaller output speakers, spaced around the audience, as opposed to stacked speakers.

You can find more information about planning events in the functions guidance notes on the Methodist Insurance website: www.methodistinsurance.co.uk/resources

Will you be at the Conference in Southport?

Come and visit the Methodist Insurance stand to say hello. The stand will be packed with useful information to help with the smooth running of your church.



Warning following bogus 'missionary' fraud

Cleveland police are warning of a bogus missionary who is believed to be targeting churches and hoteliers.

Last month a man attended a United Reformed church in the Redcar area and spoke with the minister. The man told the minister that he was a missionary and that he was in ill health and his wife had passed away in Kenya. The man promised that his son was on his way over from Canada and would settle any bills and money he owed.

The minister gave the man money to pay for bills and food. The same man then stayed at a local bed and breakfast, ran up a bill having promised that the URC would pay, and left with the keys to the property.

Officers believe that the man has now left the Cleveland area and could be anywhere in the country and we would warn ministers and other church officers to be vigilant following the incident.

The suspect is described as a white south European male around 6ft tall, with dark brown hair which had grey patches and of medium build. He wore dark glasses and smart casual clothing, trousers and shirts rather than jeans. Anyone with information regarding the suspect is asked to contact Cleveland Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Alternatively, log on to www.crimestoppers-uk.org/.

We are all aware of other types of fraud which are perpetrated through emails, ranging from straight forward requests for funds for overseas work, through more complicated frauds on the death of a relative who has left large amounts of money for the Church, but it can only be released on the payment of bank/transaction/custom charges. Here at Methodist Church House anyone with an email address identifying their role within the Church is very familiar with these types of 'requests'.

Two things to note: firstly and obviously, do not send funds to unnamed people – either your own or church funds. Secondly, do not reply to this type of message as once they have your email address a fraudster will know it is 'live' and try all sorts of scams to try to extract money. Never give personal details, and remember: if it looks too good to be true, you can bet it is too good to be true!

Age UK produce a good leaflet on various ways in which people try to take money dishonestly. It is pertinent whatever your age! Find it here: www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/Information-guides/AgeUKIG05_Avoiding_scams_inf.pdf?dtrk=true.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

JPSG roadshows: www.jpsgroadshows.eventbrite.co.uk

- 20 June: Cambridge (Michaelhouse CofE)
- 4 July: Manchester (Hale MC)
- 18 July: Plymouth (The Church of St Peter's RC)
- 25 July: Surrey (Woking URC)



Events and conferences:

- 25 June – 2 July **Methodist Conference, Southport**
www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2015
- 16-18 July **Methodist Heritage Conference, Cliff College**
www.methodistheritage.org.uk/conference.htm

SUBSCRIBING TO *PROPERTY MATTERS*

Anyone is welcome to receive a copy of *Property Matters*. To subscribe and to access previous editions, please go to www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters. The newsletter is free to download and available in both a colour version to read online and as a printable black and white version. Please encourage the wider circulation and ensure that new church officers are made aware of it.

This document is being sent to the following roles within the Connexion who are registered on the connexional database:

- ✓ District chairs
- ✓ Superintendent ministers
- ✓ District property secretaries
- ✓ Circuit property secretaries
- ✓ Church property secretaries
- ✓ District treasurers
- ✓ Circuit treasurers
- ✓ Church treasurers

If you are aware of other people who may not have access to the Internet, email or a computer, could you please provide them with a copy of this document.

If you know of people who would like to subscribe to Property Matters email newsletter, please forward this copy and ask them to visit www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters

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