

150
YEARS 1872-2022METHODIST
INSURANCE
MAKING IT COUNT

dialogue

The twice-yearly newsletter from the
Methodist Insurance Company

News

Church

Insurance

Our team

Funding

Our birthday winners make it count

This year, we celebrate 150 years of service as insurers to
the Methodist community.

It's been an amazing century-and-a-half – but it's not merely about the years, it's about how we strive every day to make them count.

We wanted to mark our anniversary in a special way, so we decided to give away 15 awards of £1,500 – one for every decade since our foundation – to church and community ventures that are really making a difference to those around them.

The sad truth is that people are struggling now more than they have for many years.

Hot on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the devastation the lockdowns wrought in the economy, to children's education, and to our working, social, and spiritual lives, the country is now gripped by the highest inflation in generations.

Soaring supermarket prices mean that many Britons may go short of food, something that was long unthinkable.

And the rising cost of gas, electricity, and even firewood could see millions of people reluctant or even unable to heat their homes.

It's a grim picture, but the worst of times bring out the best in people.

And the hundreds of entries we received demonstrate clearly that the Methodist Church is right in the vanguard of responding to this crisis.

Our judges had a hard time whittling down all your amazing entries to the final 15 winners (and if you didn't make the final list, please keep on doing what you're doing!).

Let's find out who the 15 deserving winners are on page 2...

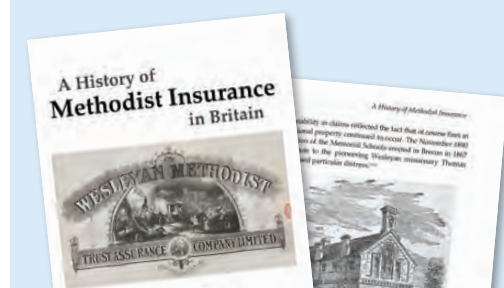
Your church.
Your initiative.

New book marks our 150th

A fascinating new history of the Methodist Insurance Company – commissioned to celebrate our 150th anniversary of the organisation – tells a tale of perseverance against the odds, and spans two world wars, and vast social and economic change.

It's the culmination of nearly 18 months of research and writing by Dr Clive Norris at the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, with assistance from his colleague Dr Daniel Reed.

Find out more on page 3



Methodist Insurance Timeline

1872

Why not take a look back across 150 years with our Methodist Insurance Timeline, showing a high-level overview of how we have made the time count:

methodistinsurance.co.uk/150

The 15 deserving winners of the 150th Celebratory Awards

All over the UK, Methodists are making up and delivering food parcels, preparing lunches and dinners for families and elderly people, teaching their neighbours how to grow vegetables, and showing care leavers and young mums how to cook delicious and nutritious meals for themselves and their children.

Others are offering coffee and biscuits and a warm place to meet and chat – which could be vital as the mercury drops later in the year.



Bridgeway Methodist Church



Bearwood Methodist Church

▶ **Bridgeway Hall Methodist Church, Nottingham**

A 'skills café' in an under-used space in the church, to share cooking, gardening, and repair skills.

▶ **Broad Street Methodist Church, Spalding, Lincoln**

'Cup of Kindness' opening the church to offer a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit in a welcoming, warm environment.

▶ **Kirkbymoorside Methodist Church, Ryedale, North Yorkshire**

Building on the community fridge and food bank, the church is now starting a weekly Thursday Community Luncheon Club.

▶ **Louth Methodist Church, Louth, Lincolnshire**

Extra equipment for the Litehouse Project offering food, cooking lessons and activities to the community.

But there are other innovative and interesting schemes – many of them focusing on combating the loneliness, mental health and isolation which plagues so many in the modern world.

▶ **Bearwood Methodist Church, Leominster, Herefordshire**

A mobile 'bacon butty' service to bring company and a cheerful face to farmers.

▶ **Hazlebury Bryan Methodist Church, Sturminster Newton, Dorset**

Mental health activity packs for the local school and for struggling families, and for those who can't afford home computers, access to mental health resources online.

▶ **Allen Valley Methodist Church, Catton, Northumberland**

Regular transport to allow the church to bring diners in from very rural locations for community lunches.

▶ **Radyr Methodist Church, Cardiff, Wales**

Using art as a way to offer carers and other isolated people an opportunity to get together.

▶ **Emmanuel Methodist Church, Ormskirk, Lancashire**

Creation of a Phab Club, to help disabled, non-disabled children and young people to break down community barriers, reducing social isolation, and enjoy the same activities and challenges side-by-side.

▶ **Bude Methodist Church, Bude, Cornwall**

A Lego café that sees youngsters come along with mums and dads to play with the famous plastic bricks and learn about themselves and each other.

Your church.
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**METHODIST
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▶ Peasedown St John Methodist Church, Bath, Somerset

Support the funding of a children's and family worker to offer support and parenting courses to families.

▶ High Street Methodist Church Lurgan, Co Armagh, Northern Ireland

Re-establish a Youth Club, providing volunteer training, source new games, resources, and sports equipment.

▶ St Ives Methodist Church, St Ives, East Anglia

Bringing parents and their children together over televised sports that would otherwise be too expensive for them to afford.



Fleetwood Methodist Church

▶ Fleetwood Methodist Church, Blackpool, Lancashire

Improve the outside space, to be used for Muddy Church, Forest Church and a community growing space to help support people's mental health.

▶ East Molesey Methodist Church, Surrey

Reduce their carbon emissions and their power bills by installing a series of photovoltaic panels.

It's a humbling and impressive picture, and the common thread – as with all of the entries – is Methodists sacrificing their own time to help the less fortunate. There's no more fitting way for us to mark our 150th anniversary – so thank you for making every day count.

Visit methodistinsurance.co.uk/150awards to read their full stories.

A tale of perseverance

Based on months of trawling through dusty archives, old local newspaper libraries, and personal correspondence, *A History of Methodist Insurance in Britain* book tells the story of the company's early founding.

An interview with Dr Clive Norris at the Oxford Centre for Methodism, the creator of our new book.



'Methodist Insurance took a long time to come to fruition,' said Clive. 'And the archives show that it was a surprisingly courageous decision.

The first serious attempt to form a Methodist insurance company, in 1818, hit various obstacles.

'Most chapels were not actually insured – some early Methodists looked at insurance as a theological question, because it raised the question of reliance on God's providence – and the concept didn't really take hold until much later, following a series of fires.

'Company law was also against them – the legal concept of limited liability didn't exist then, and so people were reluctant to underwrite the company, and risk their financial futures. And there was always this question of whether they really needed their own specific insurer – wasn't this something that the existing market could deal with?

'But in time they gathered enough wealthy and serious people prepared to stake their reputations and their finances on the endeavour, so that insurance companies were set up.

'It was not all plain sailing. In 1895, the Wesleyan company suffered an underwriting loss – they had a lot of fires that year, and claims paid out exceeded premiums. They were fortunate that they had friends in the press who supported them, and they were able to weather that storm.

'There was a second moment, in 1935, when Sir Josiah Stamp was appointed Connexional finance minister as they were uniting the three strands of Methodism and their insurers. Stamp decided that there was no need for an insurance company – the Church would set up a fund and self-insure itself, collecting premiums and paying out claims as required. The insurance

company argued that almost all of the money went back into the Church anyway, so why change? It was a tricky moment, but they won the day.'

The book – illustrated with a wonderful range of images located by Dr Reed – makes clear that the company had a special identity right from the start.

'It has always had a high degree of trust,' said Dr Norris. 'The level of fraudulent claims in the company's history has probably been tiny compared with the insurance market average, because of the nature of the staff and of the customers. When a minister signed off a claim it was rightly assumed that it was an accurate representation of what had happened.

'No-one was in it for the money – they were in it to maintain the fabric of the Church and to support the core mission of promoting the faith. You ended up with a company with the sorts of values that now seem surprisingly modern – a dedicated and committed workforce, laser-focused on customer service, paying claims very quickly, and operating very efficiently.

Professor William Gibson, director of the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History (OCMCH) at Oxford Brookes University, who oversaw the project, said, 'It really is a fascinating read and Clive and Daniel have done an outstanding job on the research and writing. It was made possible by grants from the Methodist Insurance Company, so of course we're very grateful for their help.'



Get hold of a copy

Go to Amazon and type: A History of Methodist Insurance in Britain

Special Service of Thanksgiving

As the oldest church insurance company in the United Kingdom, Methodist Insurance has been supporting and protecting the Methodist community since 1872.

In June this year, we marked our 150th anniversary with a special Service of Thanksgiving at Methodist Central Hall in Manchester. It was a truly wonderful celebration, attended by people from all over the country – and a fitting venue, too, since this magnificent building was seriously damaged during the Manchester Blitz in World War II.

Back then, we were official government insurers, and we went on to settle more than 3,000 claims for bomb damage between 1939 and 1945.

Thankfully, things are rather more sedate now than they were back then, but the Service of Thanksgiving still began with a bang – a rousing performance of hymns and other tunes played by the National Methodist Youth Brass Band which was greatly appreciated by the assembled guests.

Methodist Insurance has a close link to the band – we are their sponsors, and that sponsorship has helped to fund smart new uniforms and training for two new minibus drivers to help transport the band around the country, as they appear at church services and other events.

A beautiful flower wall had been created as a photographic backdrop, with '150' picked out in red blooms – the wall was taken down and the flowers given away at the end of the evening, avoiding waste – and guests enjoyed reading a timeline display which picked out the key events in our history, from 1872 to the current day.

It is a history which – as you will have read in the last edition of *Dialogue* – has seen us survive two Queens, five Kings, twenty-nine Prime Ministers, and those two terrible World Wars.



Food was provided, and anything left over was given away to a charity which was using the Central Hall the following day for a function.

The service welcome was given by Rev Ian Rutherford, City Centre Minister in Manchester, and a specially commissioned 150th Anniversary Hymn – written by Andrew Pratt of Stainer and Bell, and sung to the tune of St Oswald – was sung along with other hymns ancient and modern.

There was a prayer written to mark the 150th anniversary, readings from Psalm 121, 1 Corinthians 3:4-10, and speeches given by Barbara Easton, Vice-President designate at the Methodist Church, and Paul Davis, Chair of Methodist Insurance.

'The event was a fantastic way for us to mark this significant milestone in the life of the oldest church insurance company in the UK,' said Paul afterward. 'For 150 years, through peacetime, two World Wars, and more recently through the pandemic, we have been giving grants to the Methodist Church to support their mission. I'm proud of the work we do and of our relationship with the Methodist Church as we strive to make a difference to the communities we work in.'

Michael Angell, Chief Executive of Methodist Insurance, said, 'What a wonderful evening we had celebrating both our legacy as an insurer, but also the work of the Methodist Church. As the lyrics from the hymn especially written to mark this historic chapter say, "So we celebrate this moment, recollecting all that's past, set upon a firm foundation predecessors built to last.'

"We are here for the good times and the bad – for the last 150 years, and for many more to come."

We've also been celebrating our 150 years with friends at other sponsored events, such as the Superintendents Conferences in Oxford and Blackpool, the Irish Conference in Belfast, Conference UK and the Church's 3Generate Children and Youth Assembly in Birmingham.

See our 150th Anniversary Timeline
methodistinsurane.co.uk/150





Faith, fellowship and fun – 3GENERATE is back!

Also known as the Children and Youth Assembly, 3Generate is the premier youth event of the Methodist Church – an annual, eagerly anticipated get-together that unites youngsters from all over the UK in a jamboree of faith, conversation, fellowship, fun – and, most importantly, a chance to have their voices heard.



For the second year running, it was held at Birmingham's vast National Exhibition Centre complex – but this year's attendance doubled over that of 2021, as social distancing restrictions were relaxed from last year.

'It's always a really fabulous event,' said Gail Adcock, who is part of the 3Generate planning team, and is a member of the Children, Youth and Family ministry. 'This year, we had more than a thousand attendees, and it's no exaggeration to say that these young people are the future of the Methodist Church. 'They really look forward to attending, and it's lovely to see

how much they enjoy being with each other, and how much they take away from the few days they spend together.

'It's a really dynamic event – we set up what we call the "Town", and the "Village". The Village is where the young people pitch their tents and sleep, and the Town is composed of a number of different spaces for them to enjoy... there's a town hall, a theatre, an inflatable chapel, a park, and lots of games, sports, and creativity happening all around.' Youngsters take part in everything from discos to arts and crafts, to 'stretching prayer', to discussions, to playing computer games and simply socialising, in a supportive and listening atmosphere.

This year's theme was 'Tune In' – how young people tune into God, the world, and each other. 'It's an opportunity for them to explore and discuss some of those big issues that are out there in the world and to have their voices heard,' said Gail.

'That's a really key element of this – it's hugely important that they have a forum to speak about what matters to them, and that they have their voices heard across the Connexional church. 'They might be considering the really big global issues – climate change, for instance, is something they are very passionate about. Or it might be questions around mental health, and how we deal with that, both in the church and in the broader social context.

'It's also about how we gather as church, how we pray, and how we find our identity as followers of Jesus – in terms of gender, of sexuality, race, you name it. It's about all the things that any young person today might be thinking and worrying about, against the backdrop of faith, and what faith can offer. 'It all helps them to develop and cement new friendships and a sense of belonging.'

One major highlight at the event was the '3Generate's Got Talent'. 'It's all about children and young people using their amazing gifts and talents to entertain everyone,' said Gail. '3Generate's Got Talent has no judges – it's just about performing and being mutually supported by their peers, and this year, for the first time, it was on the main stage.'

Methodist Insurance is a proud sponsor of 3Generate – we've provided hoodies that were worn by all the members of the delivery team, many of whom are themselves former attendees and we also exhibited at the event.

'It's really great to get that sponsorship from Methodist Insurance,' said Gail. 'It means that other 3Generate funding can be freed up and used in other areas.'

Take a look at the highlights from the event methodist.org.uk/3gen22lookback

Stay safe this winter

We hope you find the handy risk calendar included with this newsletter useful as you go through the seasons and manage your church building and the people who use it. It has tips on what to look out for month by month. Why not pin it up as a visual reminder to add to your church maintenance schedule?



As the seasons change and the shorter days draw near, now is the time to put a plan in place to reduce risks and hazards. These are some of the things to look out for this winter.

Slips and trips

Slips and trips are the most common causes of injury in and outside churches. Most slips occur in wet or contaminated conditions, frequently due to weather conditions or spillages. Commonly, trips are caused by worn paths, steps or floor coverings (e.g. carpets, rugs) and where electricity cables trail across the floor.

You are probably already taking precautions to protect those who use your church from slips and trips. In many instances, straightforward precautions can make a real difference. For example, making sure

spillages are cleaned up promptly or there are no trailing electrical cables across floors.

You can start to check the adequacy of your precautions by downloading our guide or using our top tips at methodistinsurance.co.uk/slips

Carrying out activities alone

Those who work or volunteer for a church are often required to complete tasks alone. This can present additional hazards; for example, using access equipment (such as a portable ladder) or lifting heavy objects could be too much for one person on their own. Here, it is important to check that the tasks can be done safely.

Depending on your circumstances, another important consideration is the risk of assault and/or aggression. While these incidents are



thankfully rare, physical or verbal attacks can have serious physical and traumatic effects for those involved where they do occur.

With evenings drawing in, it is a good idea to check the arrangements you have in place.

You can find out more at methodistinsurance.co.uk/personalsafety

Reducing flood damage

What does the flood risk look like in your area? This is a good place to start to understand the long-term level of flood risk at your church, which can help in determining the actions that the church needs to take to reduce any potential damage that flooding could cause. From new fittings to having a contingency plan in place – there is plenty you can do.

You can also be confident in your cover with Methodist Insurance which includes flood cover as standard. We also have a host of resources on our website to help with flood risk assessments, actions you can take to limit flood damage as well as what to do when a flood is imminent.

Visit methodistinsurance.co.uk/floodadvice to find out more.



Do you have a question about risk management?

Get in touch with our risk experts and surveyors on our Risk Management Advice Line; 9am–5pm Monday to Friday (except bank holidays).

Call us on **0345 600 7531** or email risk.advice@micmail.com

Helping customers meet their mission

There was a time when Methodist Insurance Principal Risk Management Surveyor, Kevin Thomas, harboured dreams of playing football for Leicester City, alongside his teenaged junior team colleague – one Gary Lineker.



‘I’ve spent most of my working life visiting churches and charities,’ said Kevin, a married father and grandfather, who’s based in Dorset. ‘It’s a privilege I never take for granted.’

He’s part of our risk management technical team, a dedicated group – all expert professionals in specialist areas such as valuation, health and safety, security and fire protection – who are available to advise customers as and when required.

‘Our advice line is managed by our risk management surveyor teams,’ said Kevin. ‘They have personal relationships with key groups and people in areas like law enforcement, fire prevention, and health and safety which helps us to best identify the emerging trends and how best to help our customers.’

But it wasn’t to be, and as Gary moved on in the sporting world, Kevin took a different road.

It’s a move he has never regretted: in 37 years with us, Kevin is proud to have visited many iconic heritage buildings to provide risk management advice, valuations, and guidance to help protect them.

‘Additionally, our website provides a wealth of advice and information. For us, the crucial thing is that we support our customers so that they can focus on their mission.’

For more information on risk management, please see methodistinsurance.co.uk/risk-management



John Wesley's New Room – Bristol

What do increasing building costs mean for your church?

An increased demand for building materials during the pandemic, combined with the lengthy delays associated with production of materials, including from overseas, has led to demand outstripping supplies and a subsequent increase in costs.

Now, more than ever, it is important to set and maintain sums insured at the correct level if you are to avoid the risk of underinsurance.

Read more on this at methodistinsurance.co.uk/inflation





Helping those who help others

Methodist Insurance is best known for 150 years of insuring churches and Connexional property – but we also have a long history of providing specialist, highly personalised cover for charities, community groups, and other not-for-profit organisations.

Among our many customers in these areas are the Queen Victoria Seaman's Rest (QVSR) and the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society (MMHS).

Each manages a property estate running into many millions of pounds, each carries out a unique mission, and each has similarly unique insurance requirements in a complex and changing world. It's a task which Methodist Insurance is perfectly placed to fulfil, according to Alex Campbell OBE, CEO of the QVSR and chair of MMHS.

'Both charities need an expert insurer able to provide detailed, bespoke cover,' said Alex. 'It's not something we could buy off-the-shelf, and MIC are the perfect fit.'

'In the underwriting process, the attention to detail is excellent. They provide up-to-the-minute guidance on risk mitigation, and when we need to make a claim they're extremely responsive. It's not a case of pressing numbers until you get through to a call centre – we speak to our underwriters and claims managers directly, and we know them personally to the point where they've become friends... you know about their families, which football teams they support, and so on. 'That means that the company is amazingly quick and efficient when it comes to paying out on claims.'

The QVSR was set up in 1843 to provide short-term accommodation and support for sailors in what was then the bustling, chaotic East India Docks in east London.

At the time, 100,000 sailors a year from all over the world would pass by the mission, often after many months at sea – and many needed help as they struggled to adapt to life on shore.

These days, the mass shipping that once forged upriver almost to the heart of the capital stops at Tilbury, 20 miles east near the mouth of the Thames. But the issues that seamen faced back then haven't gone away, so the QVSR is still out there, helping them with a bed for the night – or longer – and somewhere to find their feet and lose their sealegs.

'As shipping has changed, so have we,' said Alex. 'We now have centres in Bristol, Felixstowe and Immingham on Humberside, as well as London, and alongside sailors we now also accommodate service veterans and homeless men. There are obvious



issues you face with hundreds of people under your roofs – from kitchen sink floods to the possibility of fire, and everything in between – and it's absolutely vital to us that we get our insurance right.

'It is tremendously rewarding – we've had men who've been at sea for nine months see their child for the first time via Zoom. Recently, we had two Indonesian brothers who were on different ships and who hadn't seen each other for seven years reunited when they both arrived in the UK at the same time.'



With a nationwide network of hundreds of retirement properties, the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society meets the housing and housing-related needs of retiring Methodist ministers of limited means, and their widowed spouses and partners. It also looks after the families of those who have died in service. But the principle is the same.

'These are people who have cared for others,' said Alex. 'Now we care for them, both in terms of housing and in mobility and independence. The charity is very keen to offer high standards of care and professionalism, in a Christian context, and it's important that our insurers match that vision – which they certainly do.'

To find out more about how Methodist Insurance could work with your charity or not-for-profit, please visit methodistinsurance.co.uk/charity-insurance

Making home insurance count

As well as protecting your church, Methodist Insurance offers comprehensive protection for your home and personal possessions.

With generous automatic sum insured limits on both your buildings and contents cover, our home insurance is simple and straightforward. What's more, if you take out a new buildings and contents policy with Methodist Insurance, before 31 December 2022; we'll make it count by giving 20% of your first year's premium¹ as a donation to a church or charity of your choice.

Complete peace of mind

For your peace of mind, our home insurance includes many useful extras such as legal expenses, lost keys and home emergency as standard. So when you take out a policy with us you can sit back and relax knowing we have you covered.

Building Insurance

- Up to £750,000 cover including your home, garages, sheds, greenhouses, accidental damage to windows, underground pipes and cables, bathroom and sanitary fittings.
- £5,000 of cover for the cost of locating the source of a leak of oil or water at your home.
- £1,000 for loss or theft of keys or accidental damage to door or window locks.
- £2,000,000 against your legal liability as a property owner.

Contents Insurance

- Up to £75,000 cover.
- Automatic 20% increase in contents sum insured for celebrations such as weddings and Christmas.
- Up to £3,500 for accidental loss or damage to valuables and personal belongings that you take away from your home.
- Up to £5,000 cover extended to include possessions of children temporarily living in student accommodation in any one period of insurance.
- Loss or damage to possessions of your immediate family who are living in a nursing or care home. Up to £1,000 for any one claim and £5,000 in total for all claims in any one period of insurance.

Home Emergency Cover

Included at no extra cost, our Home Emergency Cover is designed to protect your home in the event of an emergency, such as a leaking pipe in the middle of the night. You get access to a rapid response team of fully qualified and approved contractors, and as an added bonus, there is no excess to pay if you use it.

For more information on our home insurance or for a quote, please call the team on 0345 606 1331 or visit methodistinsurance.co.uk/home

¹ Terms and conditions apply, full details available on our website: methodistinsurance.co.uk/charitydonation



20%
donation¹



Congratulations to our new Underwriting Manager

As Paul Hickman's time, working for Methodist Insurance as Underwriting Manager for 8 years, comes to a close with his retirement, he leaves the team in very good hands. We are pleased to announce after 21 years of making it count for Methodist Insurance, Becky Oliver steps up to Underwriting Manager.



"Working at Methodist Insurance for over 21 years, I am privileged to take the position of Team Underwriting Manager. I have spent many years developing my underwriting skills in many different roles (starting in 2001 as Trainer Underwriter and ending my previous role as Technical Underwriter) and so I have lots of experience and knowledge in understanding all the roles within the Church & Commercial Underwriting Team and how each role plays an integral part in providing excellent customer service. Our wonderful customer base have always inspired me to do my utmost and whilst my role has changed, it will long remain a core focus to deliver excellent service which I endeavour to do by supporting and managing the team," says Becky.

I am very proud of the Church & Commercial Team and it has been fantastic to see internal progression and other recent changes in roles with Phil Rawson being promoted to Technical Underwriter and Emma Tabert progressing to Senior Underwriter. I know both will do a great job in their new roles."

Paul leaves us with many fond memories of working as part of the Methodist Insurance team.

"Perhaps my fondest memory is from when we attended Conference at Central Hall, Westminster. A lady approached the stand and identified herself as the minister of a church which had recently suffered serious flood damage. She wanted to tell about the expertise and care that we had shown in understanding the needs of the church and the local community and repairing the damage swiftly to get the church and the community centre functioning again. She said that nothing had been too much trouble and she was so glad that she was insured with us. The joy and gratitude radiating from her face as she told me her story has remained strong in my memory and I'm proud and grateful to have worked for a company that cares about its customers and is there for them when they really need us," says Paul.

Paul now intends to spend his time with his family (including the growing number of grandchildren), travelling, gardening and volunteering for a local charity.

As Paul begins his retirement, the team would like to thank him for all his support and encouragement over the last eight years.

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Take out a new buildings and contents Home Insurance policy with Methodist Insurance and we'll **make it count** by **giving 20% of your first year's premium¹** as a donation to a church or charity of your choice.

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methodistinsurance.co.uk/home

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¹ Terms and conditions apply. Full details available on our website: methodistinsurance.co.uk/charitydonation



Grove Street Methodist Church

Grants to Methodist churches at the heart of community life

Over £200,000 from the Methodist Grants Programme has been awarded to projects across the UK and Ireland in the most recent wave of grants.

The Methodist Grants Programme helps Methodist churches to run significant building and development projects with a focus on church growth, community engagement and improved accessibility. In a recent update to the programme, Methodist Grants are also available for repair and maintenance projects that are essential for the ongoing mission and ministry of a Methodist organisation.

The grants programme is funded mainly by donations from Methodist Insurance, with an overall view to enhance the mission and ministry of the Methodist Church in the UK and Ireland.

Here are some of the inspiring projects to receive a welcome funding boost.

Layton Methodist Church, Lancashire

Layton Methodist is situated in one of the most disadvantaged areas in the UK for education, employment, income, health and loneliness. Sadly, one in three children live in poverty and the number is similar for the over 70s too. The church has always been active within the community, but is aware it could do even more to support local people with some adaptations to the building. The local area has no community space to

call its own and Layton Methodist is ideally situated on the main high street to offer just that. £46,000 from the Methodist Grants Programme will enable the church to make adaptations, which include:

- making space to run a number of daily groups
- a new education and IT suite with support for older people
- improving accessibility to the first floor
- providing more toilet facilities
- installing a bigger kitchen to provide refreshments and cooking classes for local people.

The improved space will also be a base for other groups and organisations, to provide vital support services around mental health, debt, employment and training – key issues in the area that desperately need to be addressed.

Nafferton Methodist Church, Nafferton, North Humberside

A £100,000 Methodist Grant will support the redevelopment of Nafferton Methodist to make the church a more flexible and modern community space. The church is surrounded by a community that is enthusiastic about

the church and the activities it offers, and Nafferton Methodist wants to create more space to accommodate its sports clubs, café, crafts group and much more. The redevelopment will include:

- replacing the pews with flexible seating
- levelling the floor to provide a more usable space
- installing a platform lift to allow step-free access to the church
- creating a more welcoming entrance, including glass doors
- fitting a coffee bar close to the entrance for easy access to refreshments.

Grove Street Methodist Church, Nottinghamshire

Grove Street Methodist is a historic, Grade II listed church with many beautiful, original features including an oval gallery, curved pews and ornately headed columns. The church has undergone a recent renovation, including urgent repairs to the roof, to make it safe again for the community. The congregation were then consulted about the ways they wanted to see the new and improved building used, and the overriding response was that they wanted a space for schools and community organisations to feel a part of the church. A £60,000 Methodist Grant will help Grove Street to achieve this goal, and become a hub for joint activities, by:

- installing an efficient, eco-friendly heating and lighting system
- improving access to the building
- completing the decoration and refurbishment of the sanctuary
- fitting AV equipment throughout the building.



Nafferton Methodist Church



If you're interested in finding out more about the Methodist Grants Programme, visit

methodistinsurance.co.uk/grants

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain's Ukraine Emergency Appeal: Making a critical difference

In late February, All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain launched the Ukraine Emergency Appeal, to respond to the urgent needs of Ukrainians following Russia's invasion.



The appeal elicited an overwhelmingly generous response, and Methodist Insurance was a vital part of that – blessing the appeal with critical funds through Benefact Trust's Methodist Grants.

Since the conflict began, 13 million Ukrainians have been forced from their homes – either relocating to temporary accommodation elsewhere in Ukraine, or fleeing to neighbouring countries like Poland, Moldova, or Romania. Meeting the most urgent needs of those forced from their homes has been a top priority for humanitarian agencies.

Through All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain's emergency appeal, together we are helping support the work of trusted humanitarian aid partners in several key areas. Within Ukraine, this has included the provision of emergency items such as hygiene kits and essential items like towels and bed linen. In addition, trauma-sensitive mental healthcare, delivered by psychologists and mental health professionals has been provided.

In neighbouring Poland, vulnerable Ukrainian refugees have been reached through similar means – providing emergency supplies including shelter kits, cleaning supplies and

toiletries, as well as psychosocial support. The outpouring of support from across Europe when the conflict began meant that many emergency items had already been sent to Poland – and so our partner worked hard to fill any gaps, and ensure people had what was most critically needed. More than 8,000 refugees and internally displaced people are being reached through these two parts of the response.

The efforts of Methodist Churches have also been vital in meeting the needs of Ukrainian refugees. Through the Ukraine Emergency Appeal, the United Methodist Church in Ukraine, and the UMC in other countries in the region, are responding to the vast number of people fleeing from the war. These efforts will focus on finding accommodation for refugees as well as giving food, hygiene products, medicine, and helping with expenses such as rent, travel, and communication.

At the Warsaw offices of the United Methodist Church in Ukraine, accommodation has been made suitable for families. This situation has been repeated at numerous United Methodist Churches across Poland. The Superintendent Andrzej Malicki says: "It's a huge challenge for

our churches, which are quite small. But we have opened our homes and churches where we can. We don't call them refugees; we call them our guests. We try to help in all ways possible but no one knows how long this will last."

Funds from the appeal are also being used to help meet the longer-term needs of refugees and those who have fled their homes, through cash payments. These payments mean recipients can use the money for exactly what they need – helping restore vital agency and dignity to those who have recently become refugees.

In addition to all of the above work, child-friendly safe spaces are being established in locations across Poland. These spaces will provide vital opportunities for children to seek respite, play, and interact with other children during an incredibly challenging period.

You can find ways to support Ukrainian refugees and respond to the ongoing crisis by exploring the toolkit put together by the Methodist Church in Britain. The toolkit can be accessed by visiting methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/ukraine.

We are deeply grateful to Methodist Insurance, and everyone who has contributed to the appeal; your kindness is helping meet needs and provide dignified support. As the war in Ukraine continues to rage on, All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain remain committed to standing alongside those impacted by the violence and devastation.



Methodist relief and development

