

Guidance on Objects in Listed Buildings

In the event that the church building is a listed building, we recommend that the church contacts the Connexional Conservation Officer (Joanne Balmforth, balmforthj@methodistchurch.org.uk) to discuss the need for listed building approval, which is a consequence of statutory legislation and the Standing Orders. Approval may be required for the removal of particular features, whether internal or external, that would affect a building's special interest, whether or not the particular feature(s) concerned is specifically mentioned in the list description. List descriptions are for the purposes of identification and are not a comprehensive or exclusive record of all features.

Whether the removal of a feature actually requires listed building approval is a matter of fact and degree which must be determined in each case. Again, the Connexional Conservation Officer can assist with this. Please also note that the listing of a building confers protection not only on the building, but also on any object or structure fixed to the building, or within the curtilage of the building, which is ancillary to the building. This can include ancillary buildings, such as Sunday schools, halls and caretaker's cottages. Listed building approval may therefore also be required for the removal of features within these buildings. Again, the Connexional Conservation Officer can assist with identifying which elements form part of the listed building and whether consent would therefore be required for the removal of features from it.

In the event that the church building is no longer used for worship then listed building approval should be sought from the local planning authority for the removal of any features of interest or significance. If the church intend to remove any items from a listed building due to the sale of the church then they must seek confirmation from the Conservation Officer at the Local Planning Authority that listed building approval is not required. This should be sought before the item(s) is removed and is necessary because the Ecclesiastical Exemption no longer applies to churches no longer used as a place of worship