

Property Matters

Please pass to your property representative

**A Property Newsletter from
Thames North Synod of the United Reformed Church
St Paul's URC, Newton Road, London, W2 5LS**

Gutter Maintenance

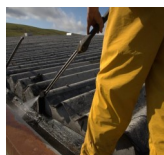
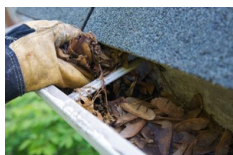
Following on from the gutter maintenance programme which commenced in 2016, Resources Committee have agreed to extend the programme through 2017 with contractors, Hall & Randall, based in Borehamwood. This year Synod have agreed to continue payment of the one off access survey at a cost of £124.50 including VAT, and in addition have increased the grant for the gutter clean from £250, up to £500 including VAT.

The total cost of the gutter cleaning for a church building is £492.48 including VAT, but it is worth remembering that the contractor will carry out gutter cleaning of Church and Hall buildings, plus the manse at a cost of just £525.30 including VAT if carried out on the same day.

For full details of the programme and to sign up to the programme see the Resources section of the Synod website at:

urcthamesnorth.org.uk/gutters/

For further details contact David Skipp. See contact details on back page.



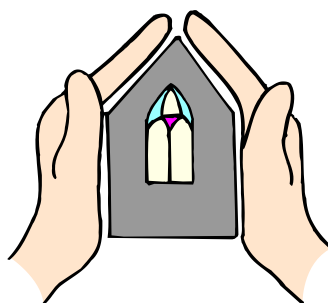
Property Guidance

The Synod property guidance notes have recently been updated and are now available on the Synod website:

urcthamesnorth.org.uk/resources/

The guidance notes cover the following areas:

- Building grants, loans and re-release of funds
- Annual inspection of church properties
- Quinquennial Inspection
- Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015
- The Equality Act 2010 - How it affects our buildings
- Gas Servicing Guidelines
- Electrical Safety
- Church Licencing Requirements
- Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005



Hard copies of the guidance notes can be printed directly from the Synod website.

Please make sure that all trustees are aware of the guidance notes.

April 2017

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Home Fire Safety Visit for manses?

The London Fire Brigade have recently commenced a new service where they will visit homes to assess the risk of fire within your home. The visit will take up to 90 minutes, and during that time the fire crews will give advice to minimise the risk of a blaze. In certain circumstances they may even fit free smoke alarms within the property.

Sign up for this service by using the link included within the useful website section on the back page

Health & Safety Guidance

All local church trustees should ensure that they have a written Health and Safety policy that outlines the safety measures and responsibilities within their Church. A written policy is a legal requirement in many situations, and is in any case, a recommendation for good practice.

There is no set format for a Health and Safety Policy, but it should aim to provide a written commitment about how Health and Safety is being managed for the long term within your organisation.

The Synod Resources Committee have appointed Health & Safety Consultants, Safety Security & Training (SST) Ltd, to provide a generic Health & Safety Policy and Risk Assessment templates for use by local churches, that are accessible via the Synod website. The purpose of these documents is to enable local churches to comply with the requirements of the various areas of Health and Safety, but it must not be assumed that you become compliant by merely completing the proformas.

Those appointed as responsible for Health and Safety within each local congregation will undoubtedly require additional information, for which SST would be happy to provide a quotation. See contact details.

We would ask that Local churches respect the Copyright notice provided by SST.

For more information see the details included on the Synod Website.

<http://urcthamesnorth.org.uk/health-safety/>

Contact details:
Safety Security and Training
Spice Farm
124 School Road
West Walton
Norfolk
PE14 7HA

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Website: www.safetysecurityandtraining.com
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Upper Clapton URC

After many years and much work by the local church, Architect, Developer, Synod and Trust, the work of building the new church at Upper Clapton is just about to commence.

Watch this space for more details of the completed project in about 18 months time.



This quote by David Allan Coe could be applied to the Christian life as much as to the buildings we build for our worship!

"It is not the beauty of a building you should look at; it's the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time"

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Large print copies of this newsletter are available from Synod Office.

Useful websites:

<http://urcbuildingsforum.myfreesites.net/>

<http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/HomeFireSafetyVisit.asp>