

North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit

New Quinquennial Inspection arrangements

What you need to provide before the inspection:

The inspection isn't some sort of SAT Test or Ofsted inspection which the Church will pass or fail. Rather, it's an excellent opportunity to take an expert's view on the things that need doing – or will need doing over the next few years – to inform the Church Council's budget setting and long-term planning. Thus, there's no point in pretending things have been done when they haven't or for trying to cover things up.

Everyone understands the multitude of pressures on those seeking to maintain the spiritual and physical lives of the North Bedfordshire Circuit's Churches: the Quinquennial Inspection process is a supportive activity rather than something for which huge revision or preparation is needed in advance.

To make the process work better you will need to provide:

- The last two Quinquennial inspection reports;
- The Church's Property Log and/or other relevant documents, guarantees, inspection reports etc.;
- The last couple of annual property checklists (- what we've long known as the Supplement to Schedule A, or 'Checking your Church'.) that are taken, along with any recommendations or proposals, to the autumn meeting of Church Council.

London Road's quinquennial inspection – the first under the new arrangements – took place on 12 July and is, to some extent, a dummy run for the new arrangements.

We'll review how it went so that we can refine our commissioning processes before we move into the 2016/17 Connexional Year's schedule of inspections.

What you will receive following the inspection:

The new arrangement with Cube means that as well as getting a full report in the Methodist format, you will also receive:

- A note of the approximate floor area of the rooms within the property (- this will help with the voluntary carbon footprint/energy usage data in the online annual property return);

- A site layout plan based on Ordnance Survey data;
- An approximate floor layout plan;
- A schedule of photos to assist understanding of some of any comments raised.

The latter is new, but reading the sample Quinquennial reports those bidding to become our new inspector sent me, the photos certainly add to understanding. We will also get the report both as hardcopy and in electronic format.