

Who we are and how we can help you

“The charity sector is at the heart of our business. We relish the opportunity to work with the Church to achieve your integration agenda over the next few years, delivering the benefits of a coordinated legal panel to local churches, Circuits, Districts and the TMCP.”



Neil Burton

Client Partner
Charity and commercial specialist



Nick Finlayson-Brown

Deputy Client Partner
Real estate specialist

Quick facts about Mills & Reeve

- ✓ **1000** people, including **500** lawyers in **6** offices across England.
- ✓ **15** years in the Sunday Times Best Companies
- ✓ **Top tier** ranked for charity sector expertise.
- ✓ **Our values** are key to our distinctive culture: openness and integrity, working together, respect for each other and strong client relationships.
- ✓ **95%** of our staff would recommend Mills & Reeve as a good place to work.
- ✓ **Award-winning for innovation**, for example in alternative billing practices (Legal Week), work environment (The Lawyer) and others.

Some recent work highlights

Property sales for Methodist Church

Working with the Church to deliver property sales, This involves taking instructions from church stewards, drafting sale documents in accordance with TMCP standard practice, dealing with legal enquiries and facilitating completion whilst liaising with TMCP Legal.

Development of church sites

Acting for a charity client to develop of a number of church and mission hall sites. The emphasis has been on structuring projects to ensure that the underlying land interest is retained by the church with new church and associated facilities being constructed on site together with social housing. We have supported on designing the structures, tenure, managing the planning process, construction contracts (including managing disputes) and the ongoing use and protection of underlying assets.

Modernising church governance

We supported an independent church charity on reviewing and updating its governance structures and documents to reflect modern day practices, allow for faster decision-making and implementation of technology.

Property and construction

Supports a number of charitable and religious bodies across the UK in connection with the development of their property holdings. This includes everything from large and small building contracts and appointing consultants through to warranties and guarantees. Where disputes arise or things go wrong, our construction specialists help reach solutions swiftly and cost-effectively.

Who else relies on our support? A snapshot of our client base

250+ leading charities including Methodist Circuit, Save the Children, Church Commissioners, Christian Blind Mission, Walden School and Livability. **Over 100 universities and colleges** including Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, and **major corporates** such as Tate & Lyle, AstraZeneca and Jaguar Land Rover.

Methodist Church: How can we help you?

Safeguarding and furthering the Methodist mission in your Church is at the heart of our role. We will support a collaborative and consistent relationship between the managing trustees, Circuit, District and TMCP to ensure shared common goals are met and we achieve the best for your church and its congregation.

Six areas where Mills & Reeve can support the Methodist Church

1. Getting best value from your assets, and protecting your interest in them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Understanding the assets you hold✓ Options for maximising value✓ Delivering transactions and projects that achieve your objectives✓ Portfolio management and strategy✓ Complexities with difficult sites and historical issues
2. Supporting trustees to excel in their role and not expose themselves to risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Training and workshops on duties and obligations✓ Periodic updates✓ One-to-one support
3. Structuring projects to achieve their long-term goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Using expertise in commercial and charity markets to provide options for innovative structures.✓ Ways to protect trustee and long term charitable interests.✓ Contracts and procurement
4. Fulfilling your tax obligations without creating unnecessary liabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Creating a tax strategy that fits the Church's culture✓ Advising on charity reliefs available✓ Choosing the appropriate route for a transaction/project and advising on the tax implications
5. Managing conflicts of interest and ensuring good governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Designing robust policies and processes✓ Identifying potential conflicts of interest early✓ Advice on avoiding, managing or retrospectively dealing with conflict situations
6. Maintaining the Church's strong ethical foundation and protecting its reputation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 'Due diligence' research on potential commercial partners to ensure they are not inconsistent with the Church's mission✓ Advice on policies around high risk/sensitivity areas – eg HR, people management and safeguarding, tax, remuneration and income sources.

Full list of our services

Charity law and the Charity Commission

Compliance and risk management

Contracts and trading

Employment law, HR and pensions

Information governance

Legacies and fundraising

Litigation and dispute resolution

Real estate investment and portfolio

management

Safeguarding and child law

Schools and academies

Tax, charity reliefs and VAT