

Permission to Cease Worship

943 Closure of Chapels. (1) Public services may not be discontinued in any chapel or preaching-place, nor any preaching-place removed from the circuit plan, until permission has been given by the Synod on the recommendation of the managing trustees, the Circuit Meeting and the district Policy Committee. The Circuit Meeting shall submit any such recommendation to the district committee before any steps are taken to carry the intention into effect.

Church:.....Borrowby..... Circuit: Thirsk and Northallerton 29/23

1. What is the present membership? 5. The membership has declined over the years due to deaths. Of the remaining 5 members, 3 have dementia and are no longer able to attend worship.
2. What is the number on the community roll? 3
3. What is the average adult attendance at worship? 5
4. What other activities take place on the premises? None
5. Provide a financial overview - e.g. income vs expenditure.

For year ended 31-8-20. Income: £9,100 Expenditure £ 6,222.12 Balance £2,878.52

The Chapel holds a significant balance with CFB gained over many years from the letting of an adjacent cottage.

6. If a new building is not to be provided, what provision will be made for the present congregation and other activities?
Members will transfer their membership -where desired to Thornton-Le-Beans MC
7. What impact will the closure have on the local community?
The community - a Village will lose an established place of worship. The Anglican Church holds occasional cafe style services at the Village Hall at Borrowby or Knayton (an adjoining village).
8. What other Methodist Churches and Sunday Schools are there in the neighbourhood and what are their distance from the property to be sold?
The nearest Methodist Church is in the village of Thornton-le-Beans, 3.2 miles away.
9. What initiatives have the membership tried, if any, to encourage the residents of the community to become part of the worshipping family?
The members have leafletted the Village to invite to harvest and Christmas Services. They have put attractive posters on the church nice board and advertised services in the Parish magazine.

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10. Does the membership consider that their mission is complete from this building and why? Yes. Of the final two able members, one has carried the burden of all the offices of the church for some time and the lockdown has given her time to reflect on the work of God in the community and feel that it is better realised by closing the chapel as its mission is now complete.

11. Who will offer Christian worship, mission and on-going pastoral care of the community?
Members will be transferred to Thornton-le -Beans MC and will be looked after by the same Minister, Revd Denise Williamson.

12. What arrangements have been made for on-going pastoral care in the community?
This will be provided by the Priest-in-charge of the Osmotherley and Hillside Parishes in the Deanery of Mowbray, Rev. Diane Gamble who resides in the adjoining village of Knayton,.

13. Have discussions taken place with other denominations in order to maintain a Christian presence in the locality and what was the outcome? Yes. See above details of the Anglican priest -in-charge. A good ecumenical relationship exists between the Parish and the Circuit through Churches Together in Thirsk and District. If there are ways in which the Methodist Church can support Christian mission in the community we will be able to participate. At the present time there are no projects planned.

14. What is to happen to the building? If it is to be sold, how will the proceeds of the sale be used to promote an effective presence in the community the Church once served?
Circuit is investigating the future of the Church building and adjacent rented cottage, whether the site can be split and part sold and part kept - all options being investigated. Proceeds from any sale will be used to promote the mission of God in the local community by supporting the work of mission at Thornton-le-Beans Methodist Church and across the whole Circuit.

15. Has the District Archivist been consulted regarding records and artefacts and records that might need to be conserved? Not yet.

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