# Permission to Cease Worship

**Hull Central Hall – Hull Centre & West Circuit *(29/37)***

**1. What is the present membership?**

31

This is a gathered community with which only 2 live within 2 ½ miles of the church. Most travel significant distances and pass a number of other local churches.

**2. What is the number on the community roll?**

5

**3.  What is the average adult attendance at worship?**

18 - 20

**4. What other activities take place on the premises?**

We are a letting in an Anglican Church.

Hull Central Hall runs a Fellowship group which currently meets at Jubilee Church in Hull.

**5. Provide a financial overview – e.g. income vs expenditure.**

These figures are from 2017-2018 Since then our financial position has worsened with a reduction in income following the move to one service each week. We now predict a deficit of over £8,000 per annum.

In 2017-2018 the deficit was £7071

Income

Sunday Collection 6633

Anniversary 1891

Gift Aid 1669

Interest 859

Donations 147

Bank Interest 25

Dis District Grant\* 5000 (This is for the rent of the property and comes from the City Centre Fund)

Total Income £16,224

Expenditure

Circuit Assessment 15987

Friendship Club Rent 877

Printing 110

CCLI 257

Donations 200

Audit 125

Rent 5200

Insurance 539

Total Expenditure £23,295

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**Total - 7071**

**6. If a new building is not to be provided, what provision will be made for the present congregation and other activities?**

Hull Central Hall does not own its own building. For the past 5 years we have rented space at St Paul’s CofE Church in Hull.

As most members travel past a number of other Methodist Churches we will help them to foster new links.

**7.   What impact will the closure have on the local community?**

Negligible impact. The current church undertakes little local outreach and there will continue to be a church presence.

**8.     What other Methodist Churches and Sunday Schools are there in the neighbourhood and what are their distance from the property to be sold?**

In the Hull (Centre & West) Circuit, the nearest Methodist Church is Princes Avenue, 1.7 miles from St. Pauls’. In the South Holderness Circuit the nearest Methodist Church is Holderness Road at 1.8 miles. Because our congregation is spread across the city of Hull we know that people who live on the east side of the city will find a new home at Holderness Road, Portobello or Kingston Wesley Methodist Churches. Those who live on the west side of the city will find a new home at Tower Hill, Hessle, Willerby and Derringham Bank Methodist Churches.

**9.    What initiatives have the membership tried, if any, to encourage the residents of the community to become part of the worshipping family?**

Following the loss of their building in 2013 the members of Hull Central Hall have been a community in Exodus. They found a place to worship at St Paul’s but this very high Anglican building has never felt like home. The worshipping community has continued to faithfully meet for worship. Until early 2019 they held two services each Sunday (Morning and Evening). Though the evening service was better attended the Stewards asked the Church Council to close the Evening service as it was becoming increasingly difficult for them to travel in at night.

Over the past year we have considered our future. Is there potential to grow and do we have the resources to fulfil that potential. We have considered the possibility of renting a shop in the City Centre, as well as the possibility of entering into an LEP with the Anglican Community; merging into another local Methodist church; worshipping elsewhere. The people of Hull Central Hall are an ageing congregation and do not feel that they have the energy or internal resources to realise any of these potential options. Given the significant deficit which they do not feel able to reverse they have come to the conclusion that it is time for them to go their separate ways and become gifts to other worshipping communities. They have voiced that it is mission complete!

In asking permission to close in July 2020 the society will continue to worship weekly with a monthly celebration service. During these they will invite back people from their past, giving thanks for all that is past and celebrating that their mission is complete.

**10.   Does the membership consider that their mission is complete from this building and why?**

This church does not own the building. As a church community the congregation and Church Council believe that their mission is complete and they seek to celebrate this prior to closure.

**11. Who will offer Christian worship, mission and on-going pastoral care of the community?**

St Pauls CofE Church will continue to meet in the building and will provide Worship & Mission to the Local Community.

**12.  What arrangements have been made for on-going pastoral care in the community?**

In the months prior to their final act of worship (July 2020) we will walk alongside each member and active adherent in order that we can help them to find a place in a church which is local to them. Some of the members live on the Eastern side of the city and will join churches in the South Holderness Circuit. Other members live on the western side of the city and will join churches in the Hull (Centre & West) Circuit.

**13.Have discussions taken place with other denominations in order to maintain a Christian presence in the locality and what was the outcome?**

We have made the local CofE congregation aware of our situation.

**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?**

NA

**15.   Has the District Archivist been consulted regarding records and artefacts and records that might need to be conserved?**

The Circuit Archivists are in discussion with their District Colleagues to draw up an inventory of items

*Rev. Dr Iain Ballard (Circuit Minister)*

*5th August 2019*