

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:.....Maunby.....Circuit:Thirsk and Northallerton 29/23

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1. What is the present membership? 3 in a 'Class'.
2. What is the number on the community roll? 5
3. What is the average adult attendance at worship? 6
4. What other activities take place on the premises? Sing - a-longs with supper 3 x a year. Attendance approx 25 -30 people. Summer Salad meals 1 yearly. Attendance 50 -70+ persons on a timed basis.
5. Provide a financial overview - e.g. income vs expenditure.
Maunby members are a 'Class' of Romanby Methodist Church. All accounts are held as one with Romanby which settles financial outgoings due to Maunby from the one account.
6. If a new building is not to be provided, what provision will be made for the present congregation and other activities?
Members and currently hold their membership at Romanby however they live approx 15 miles from the chapel. Other attendees live at Ripon and Helmsley and other villages some miles away.
7. What impact will the closure have on the local community? Maunby is a small village with few amenities. The recent closure of the village pub has meant that clubs/groups in the village no longer have a place to meet. Interest has been shown by a local councillor in using the chapel as a meeting place for the village and this is currently under consideration by the Circuit leadership Team.
8. What other Methodist Churches and Sunday Schools are there in the neighbourhood and what are their distance from the property to be sold?
Romanby MC is 5.5 miles and Thornton-le-Beans MC is 5.4 miles
9. What initiatives have the membership tried, if any, to encourage the residents of the community to become part of the worshipping family? Although none of the members now live locally they have maintained relationships within the village. They have sent Christmas cards to everyone in the community, invited villagers to attend carol services etc and advertised events on church

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noticeboards. They have held regular events to attract the community but none have attended.

10. Does the membership consider that their mission is complete from this building and why? Yes. The membership - now down to 3 persons all over the age of 70, feel they can no longer support the work of God at Maundy. They have all suffered various long term health conditions and all live some distance from the building. They are finding the worry of the care and maintenance of the building to be a burden. The lockdown due to Covid have made them consider that it is now time for them to cease to worship at Maunby.
11. Who will offer Christian worship, mission and on-going pastoral care of the community? The members are already a class of Romanby and will be looked after by their current minister.
12. What arrangements have been made for on-going pastoral care in the community? An Anglican Church, St Michael and All Angels, part of the Leeds Diocese also has a very small church in the village to which approx 5 people attend. Contact via email has been made with the current Vicar but is far no conversation has taken place.
13. Have discussions taken place with other denominations in order to maintain a Christian presence in the locality and what was the outcome? Discussions are 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? The interest of the community in using the building is a thread that we hope will be fruitfull. Sale or leasing the building are possibilities. See (7) above.
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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