# Permission to Cease Worship

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**Riccall Methodist Church– Goole and Selby Circuit *(29/36)***

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

Present membership is 23.

However, 5 of these people never attend. The church has not resumed services since the first lockdown and during that time 2 members have moved, one has become a Lay Worker and will move her membership and 4 others have become frail and are unlikely to attend church again.

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

Community roll. Only 2 people are on our Pastoral List. (Apart from members and their families.) Maurice Staton has been filling the role of Pastoral Visitor but can no longer sustain that.

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

Average attendance pre lockdown was 12.

6 people now regularly attend at Barlby and 2 at the Parish Church.

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

Other activities on premises;

Weekly Coffee morning run by Different local organisations. (Chapel once a month.)

Community Choir, weekly corresponding to school terms.

Monthly meeting of Carnival Committee.

Lent lunches, 5 Wednesdays in Lent

Saturday lunches,; used to be once a month but had declined pre-lockdown due to lack of help and Olive and Joan's health.

Quarterly meetings of Lands Charity.

Monthly meeting of Riccall Historical Association.

Occasional lettings for funerals etc

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

Financial overview. The finances should last for a number of years.

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

Most of the present membership would transfer to Barlby and Osgodby Methodist Church. One person has indicated she will go to Portholme. One might attend the Parish Church. Once the pandemic is over it would be possible for everyone who wishes to attend Barlby to do so with help from members with cars.

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

The impact will be minimal given there are 2 other buildings, well equipped with good facilities which organisations could use; the Institute and the Regen Centre.

**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 chapel is Barlby; we also have links with Hemingbrough. Barlby is just over 6 minutes (2.7 miles.) away. Hemingbrough is 11 minutes (6.4 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 only initiatives tried have been the Coffee morning and Saturday lunches; we missed an opportunity to have some kind of Christian input and invitation into these.

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

Prior to lockdown there was no plan to close. However, during the time we have been unable to worship the personal circumstances of many office holders have changed with the result that we needed to fill the following roles…Treasurer, 2 stewards, property secretary and bookings officer, pastoral secretary and visitor. In addition, the people who put together the Local Arrangements for worship were also unable to commit to doing this in future. Whilst some of these roles have been filled people feel exhausted and are aware that there is no new generation to continue the work.

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

The existing members will, I'm sure, continue to support each other in a pastoral sense; St Mary's will continue to offer local Christian worship. By uniting with Barlby which has a small congregation but stronger community outreach we hope that we may be able to strengthen and support work from that building.

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

Members will continue to support each other and the present ministers will have a continuing role.

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

No. Whilst brief consideration was made about approaching the C of E it was felt that it was unrealistic to hope for a joint church in the village. Some joint services may continue. However, the Methodist members who do not live in Riccall are unlikely to travel into the village to unite with another denomination and joint working has not been well supported in the past from either side.

**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?**

We recognise that this is a circuit decision. However, the suggestion has been made that if the building was sold the circuit might invest the proceeds in a worker with older people; visiting , taking little services, perhaps working in care homes, maybe a kind of chaplaincy for the older members of society. (Not just in Riccall but circuit- wide. This suggestion was made the last time a tranche of money was available,)

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

No. Richard Moody would have already have done this when he handed the secretary's role over to the present Church Council secretary in 2007/8. All I have is the previous hand-written minute book and Olive has the architects plans for the alteration of the building.