

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: Rainton.....

Circuit: Thursk and Northallerken.....

1. What is the present membership? 6
2. What is the number on the community roll? None
3. What is the average adult attendance at worship? 4
4. What other activities take place on the premises? None organised by the church.
5. Provide a financial overview - e.g. income vs expenditure.
Figures from Aug 2019. Funds at end of year - £9,349-56. Held in TMCP £15,000.
6. If a new building is not to be provided, what provision will be made for the present congregation and other activities? 3 to transfer as members to another circuit church - 1 to become an Associate member, 2 as yet undecided.
7. What impact will the closure have on the local community?
There will no longer be a Christian witness in the village and wider area.
8. What other Methodist Churches and Sunday Schools are there in the neighbourhood and what are their distance from the property to be sold?
There is no property to be sold.
9. What initiatives have the membership tried, if any, to encourage the residents of the community to become part of the worshipping family?
Invited local Anglican residents to join in services.
10. Does the membership consider that their mission is complete from this building and why? Yes. As they are only 4 in 'activity' and all in their 70s
11. Who will offer Christian worship, mission and on-going pastoral care of the community?
The Minister, Rev. Denise Williamson.
12. What arrangements have been made for on-going pastoral care in the community? None. At present there is an interregnum at the local parish church.
13. Have discussions taken place with other denominations in order to maintain a Christian presence in the locality and what was the outcome?
See above.
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?
N/A. re Sale. The Managing Trustees have requested that all funds be transferred/donated to the local Anglican church.

Once Circuit Meeting permission has been given, please send this form to Siân Henderson at the District Office. Permission will be considered at the next District Leadership Team (on behalf of the District Policy Committee), and from there a recommendation to the next Synod can be made.

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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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