***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: Finghall Methodist Circuit: Ripon and Lower Dales 29/24**

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

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

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

**4. What other activities take place on the premises?** Twice a year the local history group meet and twice a year the local parish council meet on the premises.

**5. Provide a financial overview – e.g. income vs expenditure.** £3850 vs £5374. Financially non-viable

**6. If a new building is not to be provided, what provision will be made for the present congregation and other activities?** The Christian fellowship will seek to meet together in the home for worship, as well as joining with Bedale and District Methodist Church of whom Finghall will become a Class of the Church. Further provision will be sought in continuing to join with our ecumenical friends at St Andrews Church, Finghall.

**7.   What impact will the closure have on the local community?** In terms of the building, the impact will be minimal with only the above mentioned uses affected. In terms of missional engagement with the local community, the church are viewing this move as stepping out and into the community, seeking to meet people in new ways.

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

**9.    What initiatives have the membership tried, if any, to encourage the residents of the community to become part of the worshipping family?** Starting with the most recent initiative ‘Try Praying’, others include Café Style services; Beer & Carols in the local pub; Church about the Dales open air worship services; Charity Coffee mornings; Open chapel prayer days. Some of these initiatives can continue without a fixed premises.

**10.   Does the membership consider that their mission is complete from this building and why?** The membership embarked on an exploration journey using ‘Our Future Story’ resource. This was in part because of the current stewards have reached a stage in their lives which requires them to put down the demanding responsibilities of maintaining the life of the church. The members spent much time in open conversation considering the future together and following two meetings came to the unanimous decision to seek permission to cease worship. It is felt that the current membership will be better served and in turn be in a better position to serve without what as become a burdensome church building and administration.

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

Oversight will be held with Bedale and District Methodist Church Council, with Finghall Class acting as a signpost to public acts of worship whilst welcoming members of the community to access worship in the homes and potentially in the local pub.

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

Pastoral care will remain as it previously as been provided but with further support from joining with Bedale and District Methodist Church.

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

Conversations have taken place between the clergy. St Andrews will continue to warmly welcome its Methodist friends and are open for coming together for shared initiatives.

**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 funds will go into the main circuit fund which will enable continued ministerial support.

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