***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:** Stamford Bridge  **Circuit:** York **(29/33)**

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

 **11** (Last year numbers fell to 11 prompting a local who had not renewed her membership to do so, but since then one of the then 12 members has died).

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

In addition to the membership there are 11 people on the Community Roll, with 7 other family members.

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

 **9**

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

 Fellowship evenings, one a monthly (in October-March) and coffee mornings. The local council use the school room (hall) for meetings.

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

Last year (2020/21) income was £11,312 (which included a £5,000 legacy) with expenditure of £15,184 (expenditure on essential building maintenance was over £6,000 – A DEFICIT of £3,872. This year (Sept-Feb) receipts were £3,652 with £ 5,044 outgoings (with no expenditure on the building). The Assessment due in Feb& May will total £3,210.

Financial holdings at the end of the year were £20,510, but property expenditure alone for 2021/22 was budgeted at £7,390 for required building upkeep this year 2021/22.

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

 The age of the current congregation means they are unlikely to attend any other Methodist churches locally, but links with the parish church means a number are likely to attend there.

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

 Coffee mornings are well attended. These will be missed.

While Stamford Bridge community has expanded (to over 3,500 - an increase of in excess of 200 since 2001) with new housing in recent years, there has been no increased engagement with the community over the last 20 years.

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

Of the Churches in the neighbouring Circuit of Pocklington & Market Weighton only **Pocklington** (8.0 miles away) has a sizable congregation. Other near chapels are small and rural in nature: Newton upon Derwent (4.4 miles), Bolton with Fangfoss (5.0 miles), Barmby Moor (6.5 miles). The nearest Methodist Church in the Circuit is Heslington 6.5 miles away. (This has a very small Sunday School, typically only 2-3 children when they are present, with variable attendance).

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

 Coffee mornings, teas on the rear lawned area. Joining in with celebrations in the town, including a well-attended Christmas Carols service, and local radio. Attempts at leafletting the new housing estate has not produced any additional attendance. The parish magazine ‘Link’ is shared enterprise between the local Methodist, Anglican and Catholic churches.

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

Reluctantly, with the demands of a building (which required substantial work) exceeding the financial resources of the congregation the membership does feel their mission here has to come to an end.

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

The local Parish Church.

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

Members will be encouraged to transfer their membership to other Methodist churches, or actively engage with 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?**

Not as yet.

**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?**

A significant amount of work is required on the building. This has been roughly estimated to require at least £25,000 (probably a significant underestimate) over and above the routine upkeep (budgeted at £7,390 for this year alone).

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

 Not as yet.