***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: Thorngumbald Methodist Church - Circuit: South Holderness 29/32**

**1.** **What is the present membership? 8 members**

**2.**  **What is the number on the community roll? Under 5**

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

**Before the pandemic average attendance at worship was 8 people.**

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

**It is not possible for other activities to take place on the premises apart from worship and occasional church meetings. The building is a traditional preaching house with pews, pulpit and a small sanctuary area.**

**5.** **Provide a financial overview – for example: income vs expenditure.**

**Income to end of year August 2021 was £4,017. Expenditure for same period was £3,918. Funds at end of year were £1,768. As of February 2022, following payments of two assessments and insurance premiums, the funds are very much depleted.**

**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 members are keen to transfer their membership to Hedon Methodist Church, where they have started to attend worship. One member is transferring to her local Anglican church in Ottringham. There is no need to provide for other activities.**

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

**Christian worship and mission will continue in the local community.**

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

**Hedon Methodist Church, the closest Methodist church, is 2.33 miles or 3.8 km away.**

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

**Over the years, occasional events have been arranged, united worship with St Mary’s CofE supported and members have helped with Messy Church in the Thorngumbald Institute next door to the Methodist Church, but this has not led to significant growth.**

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

**With deep sadness, and enormous gratitude for years of worship and fellowship, the members sense that their mission is complete from this building. No one can take on the roles and responsibilities required to continue. As one member, over 90 years of age, affirmed: “It is time to move on, and we want to belong somewhere.”**

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

**The congregation has expressed a deep desire to maintain a Methodist presence and influence in Christian worship in the village and ecumenical worship has been planned monthly since September 2021. The decision has also been made that these services be held at St Mary’s Church of England and, moving forward, they will offer regular Christian worship and on-going pastoral care of the community.**

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

**St Mary’s C. of E. will continue to maintain pastoral care in the Thorngumbald community, and the Methodist minister and resident members will support and care.**

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

**Ecumenical relationships have been fruitful over the years, and recent conversations regarding the on-going Christian presence in the locality between the Thorngumbald Methodist and St Mary’s members and leaders have been equally effective.**

**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?**

**If permission to cease worship is granted, plans will be implemented to sell the building. The proceeds of the sale will be used to for Circuit projects and ministry in the area.**

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

**The District Archivist will be contacted once records and artefacts are collated.**