

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: Eastington Circuit: Goole and Selby (29/36)

- 1. What is the present membership? 8**
- 2. What is the number on the community roll? 18 (including members)**
- 3. What is the average adult attendance at worship? 7**
- 4. What other activities take place on the premises? None at present**
- 5. Provide a financial overview – e.g. income vs expenditure.**

Current balance as per statement 21/07/22 £5138.17

Church income to 14/08/22: £2693.98 Collections, donations & gift aid

Charity donations to 14/08/22: £505.20 £80 given by church to Connexional funds.
£425.20 raised/donated for other charities.

Total Income to date: £3119.18 - £505.20 charity donations = £2693.98

This doesn't include the 2 final August collections

Expenditure to 16/08/22 £5266.75 This doesn't include outgoings for August Assessment & Electricity bill

- 6. If a new building is not to be provided, what provision will be made for the present congregation and other activities?** There are Methodist churches at both Howden and Gilberdyke (only about 3 miles away) to which members could transfer. We have good links with the Anglican church which could be further explored.
- 7. What impact will the closure have on the local community?** Over the last couple of years significant steps have been taken to further links with the local community but to little or no avail. The link with the school can be maintained even if the church building is closed.
- 8. What other Methodist Churches and Sunday Schools are there in the neighbourhood and what are their distance from the property to be sold?** See 6 above.
- 9. What initiatives have the membership tried, if any, to encourage the residents of the community to become part of the worshipping family?** There were regular outdoor coffee and cake afternoons all through last summer which attracted good numbers and a few came to the Harvest Festival but there has been no interest since. A monthly 'Worship on Wednesday' was also tried but only attracted our own members plus a couple of people from neighbouring Methodist churches.

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

The fact that new initiatives as shown above have not been fruitful has caused the membership to feel that their mission is complete. The building is in need of repair and finances are not healthy. The office holders are tired and are not feeling able to continue.

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

There is a parish church in Eastington and we recently developed a pattern of a quarterly shared service between the two churches. The incumbent is very open to working ecumenically. The members will be cared for pastorally whether they join the parish church or a neighbouring Methodist church.

12. What arrangements have been made for on-going pastoral care in the community? See 11 above.

13. Have discussions taken place with other denominations in order to maintain a Christian presence in the locality and what was the outcome? As already stated, there are good links with the Anglican church and further conversations will undoubtedly take place.

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 building will be sold. It is unlikely that it will be purchased for community use. There have been no discussions as yet about how the proceeds of the sale might be used to promote an effective presence in the community the Church once served

15. Has the District Archivist been consulted regarding records and artefacts and records that might need to be conserved? Not as yet.

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