***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:** Clifton **Circuit:** York

**1.** **What is the present membership?** 44

**2.**  **What is the number on the community roll?** 23

**3.** **What is the average adult attendance at worship?** 25

**4.**  **What other activities take place on the premises?** Uniformed organisations, lessons from St Peter’s School, occasional hall hire

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

Last financial statement attached.

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

Members are invited to transfer their membership to another local Methodist church or Anglican church.

The congregation are looking for a local hall/area to hire for midweek worship and fellowship on a monthly basis, with the agreement of the circuit to provide ministers/preachers.

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

A local place of worship will be lost to the residents, including the opportunity for baptisms and weddings. The church is on the main road into York, with many people passing stopping to look at the garden or rest on the church bench.

The uniformed organisations will have to find another venue to meet, and were given the church hall subsidised as par t of the church’s mission.

A community venue will have been 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?**

The nearest Methodist churches would be Central, Poppleton, Heworth and Lidgett, which are within a 5-6 mile radius of Clifton. There is also an LEP at Clifton Moor.

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

Running Pebbles (a parent and toddler group) weekly and with regular Saturday events.

Offering Warm Space during winter months.

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

The congregation do see their mission in the present building as complete. There has been a Methodist presence on that site for … years, worshipping and serving the community. Over the last few years the responsibility for running the church, maintaining the building and filling the church offices has fallen on a smaller number of people, who are beginning to feel tired. The size of the building is not sustainable for a small congregation, and the income of the church in relation to assessment and maintenance costs mean that the church is no longer financially viable.

The congregation are exploring maintaining worship fellowship together while at the same time become integrated in the life of another local church.

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

Worship and pastoral care will continue to be offered to the congregation by the current minister, who also has pastoral charge of Poppleton, and will be involved in leading any midweek worship arrangements made. The minister of other churches members may transfer to will also offer pastoral care and welcome.

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

The current and other circuit ministers will be available for pastoral care in the community.

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

An initial conversation has been held with the vicar of Clifton Parish Church regarding the closure of the Methodist Church and the possible transferring of local members who do not have transport. An invitation to the members has also been made to consider the LEP at Clifton Moor as a spiritual home.

A conversation will also be set up with St Lukes, another local Anglican Church, which already has some links with the Methodist church through foodbank and prayer walks.

**14.** **Has the church council made and recorded decisions with regard to the transfer of its assets (including TMCP funds, other funds held locally, and buildings)?**

At present, the church council has recorded its decision to cease to worship and close the building. This decision is now to be taken to the Circuit Council for approval.

**15.** **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 intention is for the building to be sold with the preferred buyer being St Peter’s School, who are the neighbouring property, so that the premises may benefit the community. It is hoped that some of the proceeds can go towards hiring a hall for the current congregation to continue worship and fellowship together, and to circuit work and witness in the city centre area.

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

The circuit archivist has been informed and offered help in this area.