

### **Request to cease worship, close and sell Pogmoor Methodist Chapel within the Methodist Church Barnsley North West**

The community at Pogmoor has been faithfully served by the Methodist Church for many years appearing on the 1831 plan, with the land for the current chapel being purchased in 1875 and opening the building in 1877. In recent years however membership has continued to decline and there have been significant changes in the local community which have affected the possibility for development and growth.

The current membership has been committed to maintaining a worshipping presence in this community, but have struggled with an ageing building, limited numbers of external lets, and being positioned on a small side street with no car parking. When the membership looked at reopening following Covid-19 it became clear that no-one was willing and/or able to undertake the strict cleaning regime required. This led to a decision to meet once a month in the Tommy Treddlehoyle pub across the road, where their staff would conduct the necessary cleaning.

This has continued and with most members continuing to struggle with their physical health, and an unclear future for this group of people, the members voted in favour of closing the building.

This has yet to be presented to the North West Church Council as they are not due to meet until 4<sup>th</sup> October, but in order to prevent undue delay we ask the circuit meeting to approve this request providing that the church council also agree on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Conversations regarding the future of the members participation continue but it has been decided that monthly meetings in the Tommy Treddlehoyle will continue and that members may well frequent other chapels according to the worship times/days displayed in the circuit plan. In preparation for finishing well we are planning a final coffee morning on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, at which the local school choir will sing for those in attendance and a final service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 3pm.

#### **Resolution**

The Circuit Meeting supports the proposal to cease worship, close and sell Pogmoor Methodist Church and also to support the members as they seek to maintain their fellowship and Christian commitment in that community.

Agreed with a unanimous vote at the Circuit Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021