

Request to close Cudworth chapel

The members and adherents of Cudworth held a Chapel Meeting on Wednesday 9th February 2022. At previous Chapel Meetings for the last eighteen months, as well as at chapel stewards' meetings, the financial position had been discussed at some length as was the difficulty in finding volunteers to fulfil different roles and keeping the chapel running. Initially the chapel decided to try to keep the building going as a community resource, yet despite increasing lettings and restarting services, this is no longer financially viable.

It was clear in the financial information provided to the meeting in February that the anticipated improvement had not been achieved and that there was now a deficit which seemed set to grow larger over coming months.

The members present discussed the financial challenges facing the church and the issues around an ageing and small congregation, and whilst it was a difficult decision, they felt that they were unable to continue as a worshipping congregation at Cudworth chapel.

Therefore, the proposal to close was put to the meeting and the vote taken, with a result of 11 in favour and 5 against. Those present at the meeting expressed a desire to explore other sites within the North East to worship and several had already begun to attend Monk Bretton chapel. They will continue to discern this in the coming months alongside conversations about where members will transfer their membership.

This request to close was reported to the North East Church Council on 30th March 2022. The North East Church Council received the request with great sadness, which was expressed by all. They voted unanimously:

- To support the request to close and sell the building,
- To request the Circuit Meeting to arrange for the deficit in the accounts in this year to be covered from the proceeds of the sale.
- To support the members and adherents as they find new worshipping communities to join

Subject to approval by the Circuit Meeting the Final Service at Cudworth will be held on Sunday 3rd July 2022 at 3pm

Claire Rawlinson 30th March 2022

The Barnsley Circuit Meeting held on 6th April 2022 unanimously agreed to the following:

- To cease worship, close and sell Cudworth Methodist Chapel in The Methodist Church Barnsley North East.
- To agree that any deficit in the accounts for the year 2021-22 should be covered from the proceeds of sale
- To support the members and adherents as they seek to identify and join other worshipping communities