

# BARNSELEY METHODIST CIRCUIT

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## THE METHODIST CHURCH BARNSELEY NORTH EAST REQUEST TO CLOSE NEW HOPE CHAPEL

The members and adherents of New Hope held a Chapel Meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Those present discussed the challenges facing the church, particularly the small congregation which relied heavily on one or two people to meet. Whilst it was a difficult decision, they felt that they were unable to continue as a worshipping congregation at New Hope chapel.

Therefore, the proposal to close was put to the meeting and the vote taken, with a unanimous result of 4 in favour. Those present at the meeting expressed a desire to explore other sites within the North East to worship and are exploring how to still meet as a fellowship group in. They will continue to discern this in the coming months alongside conversations about where members will transfer their membership.

The members of New Hope requested to:

- Close and sell the building,
- Support the members and adherents as they find new worshipping communities to join
- Explore new ways in which Christ's presence can be supported in the communities they serve, particularly Athersley North Primary School, with whom they have extensive links

This request to close was reported to the North East Church Council on 8<sup>th</sup> June 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 support the members and adherents as they find new worshipping communities to join and their ongoing work with Athersley North Primary School

The North East Church Council expressed concerns over the many areas where we still wish to continue to share the Good News, recognising that this covered Athersley, Cudworth, Shafton, Grimethorpe, South Hiendley, Royston and Carlton (all where there had previously been chapels). After much discussion it was decided to explore the idea of one or two community outreach workers to support our work in these areas and develop new ways to reach our local communities.

The NE church council therefore ask the circuit to consider that the funds of the sales of Cudworth and New Hope chapels could be used to employ these worker(s) and to help fund some of the community initiatives (such as the café church in Shafton) and to enable us to find places to do outreach work in other areas (such as hiring venues for 'pop-up' initiatives and resources to assist these in growing). Work is ongoing to develop these plans further.

Subject to approval by the Circuit Meeting and the District Leading Team the Final Service at New Hope will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022 at 3pm.

Claire Rawlinson (Chair)  
Heather Hague (Treasurer)  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Note from the Circuit

- The Circuit Meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July
- The building is set on a large plot of land but is not in a good state of repair. There is no interest locally in other organisations making use of the building and much of the community activity has now moved to other venues in the area. This will be a prime development site and the Circuit will be taking advice about how best to present it to the market for a good sale.