

## PERMISSIONS TO CEASE WORSHIP

Since the Representative Synod in April 2022, the District Leading Team has received requests for permission to cease worship from the churches listed below:

Church	Circuit	Background	Recommendation
Cudworth	Barnsley	The fragility of both finances and people, has led the congregation at Cudworth to recognise that they are no longer viable as a worshipping congregation. This decision was affirmed by the North East Church Council on March 30th and the Circuit Meeting on April 6th. Funds from the sale of Cudworth Chapel will be used to fund community workers based in those parts of the Circuit where chapels have closed.	Permission be given to cease worship.
New Hope	Barnsley	Due to the very small numbers and the heavy reliance on one or two people to enable their meeting, the chapel has concluded that they are no longer able to sustain a worshipping congregation. This decision was affirmed by the North East Church Council on June 8th and the Circuit Meeting on July 11th. Funds from the sale of New Hope Chapel will be used to fund community workers based in those parts of the Circuit where chapels have closed.	Permission be given to cease worship.
Sprotbrough Road	Doncaster	The congregation of Sprotbrough Road Methodist Church, who meet in rented premises, voted in favour of leaving the Methodist Connexion following the decisions of the Conference in relation to the God In Love Unites Us report. They will continue to function as an independent church in the same rented building.	Permission be given to cease worship as a Methodist Church.
The Kings Cross Church, Hexthorpe	Doncaster	The congregation of The Kings Cross Church, Hexthorpe, voted in favour of leaving the Methodist Connexion following the decisions of the Conference in relation to the God In Love Unites Us report. They continue to work with the Circuit in relation to their possible ongoing use of the building.	Permission be given to cease worship as a Methodist Church.

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Tinsley	Sheffield	Tinsley Methodist Church has a membership of 9 and an average congregation of 4-6. It has been struggling with decline for many years and despite working positively in partnership with the Freedom Community project prior to the pandemic, the current membership recognise that it is time to close. The Circuit Meeting held on June 20th affirmed the request to cease worship and agreed to sell the building.	Permission be given to cease worship.
Wheatley	Trinity	Wheatley Methodist Church is part of a Local Ecumenical Partnership with the Anglican Church. Upon formation in 1992, the partnership agreed to retain both buildings. However, the recent pandemic, coupled with some issues with the Methodist building prompted the LEP trustees to consider how best to utilise their resources. This has resulted in the decision to close the Methodist building. The Circuit Meeting held on July 4th affirmed the request to cease worship and the CLT will now work with the local trustees to ensure that the Methodist identity is not lost within the LEP and to explore an appropriate future for the Methodist building.	Permission be given to cease worship.

#### **Resolution:**

- The District Synod grants permission to the chapels listed above to cease worship.
- The District Synod gives thanks for the faithful witness of the members of these congregations over many years and commits to praying for those who will now look for new places of worship or new ways of continuing to worship and witness in their communities.