

Reasoned statement for the request to 'Cease to meet' from Gleadless Valley Methodist Church

Gleadless Valley Methodist Church Council met on June 7th 2024 on zoom. Our membership numbers are well below 12, with all the responsibilities falling on one person, which is unfair and unsustainable.

Traditional church has been declining for many years, and Covid brought us to a place where we had to either stop or change.

After the Covid19 pandemic we have been working hard to provide café church services twice a month for a new community gathered through the work of the food bank. However, due to the circumstances of the people coming to the services, we were constantly operating at a loss – providing a hot meal each time but with no money coming in. we managed to meet our assessment but only with the help of the rent coming in from the food bank.

After the change of circumstances with the food bank, where they are no longer meeting on the premises, all activities have had to cease in the building.

Our hope would be that in ceasing to meet and handing the church back into circuit trusteeship, the way would be open for new partnerships to be formed with other groups working in the community and a new way of working together for Gleadless Valley could be explored.

The vote at the church council for ceasing to meet was unanimous.

This has been a sad and painful decision, with much regret. However, we gave thanks for the life of the church over the last 60+ years and recognised all the work and mission and faith surrounding Gleadless valley Methodist Church. Many people in the Sheffield Circuit have called Gleadless Valley home over the years, moving on to new places and joining other churches, becoming local preachers and worship leaders.

The vision of a phoenix rising from the ashes has not gone away, but we recognise that things need to die before they can rise again, and our prayer for Gleadless Valley is that with a new way forward, with a new partnership, God will enable new hope to rise.

The Sheffield Circuit Meeting on 24th June agreed to the cessation of Gleadless Valley Methodist Church and recommends to the District Leading Team that permission be given by the Synod.

The Circuit Meeting also agreed to the transfer of the buildings and assets into Circuit trusteeship, and to consider alternative use of the building so that other work of God might be allowed to flourish in that place.