**A message from Judith**

I have prepared this report from my own thinking. It seeks to continue the journey from where we got to at our church meeting in early December with two members of the Circuit Property Development Group. As agreed, the report draws on a conversation with the Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church Stannington. It has also been seen by the Superintendent Minister who is content with it.

However, this is a ***Draft*** report – I offer it to the Church Council for acceptance, rejection or amendment. Once agreed, it will then be sent on behalf of the Church Council to the Circuit Development Group. Then we’ll see what they have to say!

**STANWOOD METHODIST CHURCH**



**CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT**

**for**

**SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

**Who are we?**

* A church of 26 members and a typical Sunday worship attendance of 16-18
* A group of people with approx. 80% aged 75+
* A fellowship for Bible Study and prayer
* A community with a proud history of offering activities for children and young people
* A community offering monthly activities to the wider area, especially to older people *(we have sheltered housing around us)*
* A community offering space for the local foodbank
* A group of people resourced by a Circuit lay worker
* A 50+ year old building requiring a thorough overhaul and insufficient funds to cover major work

**Our Dreams?**

* To see the continuation of our Methodist congregation
* To see the continuation of Methodist worship within our building
* To see the continuation of community service and outreach from our building

**Possibilities?**

* We acknowledge that the current Methodist people are becoming depleted in what we can do and there are no “surplus” Methodists ready to join us from elsewhere
* We acknowledge that we cannot afford the necessary repairs and maintenance to the building
* We recognise that local Christian energies are with our ecumenical friends at Christ Church Stannington
* We understand that Christ Church Stannington would like to partner with the Methodist Church in offering mission and ministry at Stanwood

*(Their church building is at one end of the parish in a village; the Stanwood Methodist building is towards the other end of the parish in a suburban/social housing estate setting)*

**Our Suggestion**

* We enter an ***Interim Period*** of 18 months *(see below)* when Stanwood Methodists will hope to continue as now
* This is followed by a ***Transition Period*** of approx. 18 months *(see below)* towards the new-look life within and emanating from Stanwood Methodist Church premises.

**Interim Period *(March 2025 – August 2026)***

Stanwood Methodist people continue:

* to be Managing Trustees,
* to hold Methodist worship each Sunday morning,
* to engage in the usual community outreach activities
* to welcome involvement in existing activities by Christ Church and any new possibilities from them.

Meanwhile the Circuit Property Development Group works with Stanwood Methodist Church to research what is possible in terms of the mission (community use) of the premises, consulting especially with:

* Christ Church Stannington and Anglican authorities
* Stannington Foodbank *(independent charitable status)*
* any potential partners in relation to work with families and children/young people
* any potential partners in relation to work with older people.

The Circuit Property Development Group assesses the property requirements and seeks potential funding.

The Circuit Property Development Group explores issues of governance and trusteeship

**Transition Period *(Sept 2026 – February 2028)***

Managing Trusteeship transfers to Sheffield Circuit.

Financial stability is pursued, including lettings.

Building work takes place, including any internal remodelling.

New community service and mission outreach begins.

The relationship with Christ Church Stannington is formalised.

It is hoped that Methodist worship and possible fellowship events could continue for as long as they are viable.