WEST FELTON METHODIST CHAPEL

REPORT TO THE WEST FELTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

From reading the village magazine, you will know that West Felton Methodist Chapel held its last service on Sunday, 7th April 2024 after 115 years of worship in that Chapel. We still had 2 members who, for all their adult lives, had been members of West Felton Chapel

As I said in the April edition of the magazine, to us members it was more than just a building – it was our place of worship, and we will now all find new places to continue to worship. When we took the decision last November, closure just after Easter seemed a long way away. But like most things planned for months in advance, it seemed to come round very quickly.

Over recent years numbers had dwindled to a point where just keeping the building in good order was becoming a problem, and by the end of this year finances too would have been a concern, and may have forced our closure. As members we are comforted by the fact that we took the decision to close, rather than it be forced upon us by the Methodist Church, and we were able to plan our last coffee mornings, fish ‘n chip suppers, and our final service, where we were joined by many who had attended the chapel over the years. It was good to see a full chapel for this closing service, and strange as it may sound, I think all those present would agree it was a very uplifting service. Although the chapel may have ended, our faith has not.

As members we were conscious that the regular coffee mornings we have held since 2011 provide an occasion when friends from the village – or connected to the village in some way – can meet together, and we were determined that they should continue. But we could not do that on our own. However, we are all delighted that a total of 22 people from this village – several who have moved into West Felton from various locations – have volunteered to begin new coffee mornings in the village hall. The advert has been in the magazine, and I am sure these mornings will be well supported – please come along and make some new friends! Come the winter we may also hold fish ‘n chip suppers – but this is for the future.

Christine Curtis

Secretary

West Felton Methodist Chapel

16.4.2024