

## **PARKWOOD IS NOT CLOSING.....**

**Contrary to what appears to be the rumour, Parkwood is only moving from the old, expensive (but very well loved) building to somewhere else that we hope will be more suitable for today's congregation and calling.**

**For more than 4 years we have been discussing what our future looks like. We have prayed much about it. We have taken the thoughts and concerns of our congregation into consideration at all times. We have included all the organisations who use the building in discussions.**

**Over a year ago the Church membership decided that we should keep our congregation together and move somewhere new. Somewhere where we are needed; somewhere we can make a difference. The progress made since then has been much slower than we hoped. None of us were aware of the number of hoops we needed to jump.**

- In order to sell the building we have had many Methodist processes to undertake. The final hurdle on this part of the process now is when we have a buyer lined up.**
- To put the building up for sale we have had to engage with solicitors, estate agents and planning architects. They have had to work to the Methodist timescales too, but we have all the blocks in place now, although, having been informed that we will get a better price for the sale if we include outline planning permission, we may have to wait until November for that to be complete. The lack of outline planning permission will not delay us from putting the building up for sale.**
- You will be aware that we have had to formally close the graveyard. In the terms of the sale the graveyards will continue to have access for people who have relatives buried there.**

**We have engaged with the Aspire Trust who run several schools in Huddersfield (and particularly Beech School in Golcar). They have taken ownership of the Sure Start centre that is located in the grounds of Beech School and it is this building that we are now hoping to move into. We have had many meetings with Aspire, and all the signs are positive for a move in the very near future. Again though, the wheels of progress have been slow. The Aspire Trust is still feeling its feet; they are not sure what to do with the Sure Start centre long term, and of course for the last 6 weeks they have been on holiday!! Discussions will be starting again before the end of September.**

**It is planned that we will initially take only some of our services to Sure Start, and alternate – so we can get the feel of the building, and know what we need to take with us when we go permanently.**

**Due to the projected dates for the completion of the outline planning permission, we are not likely to be moving out finally before mid-November. We have re-arranged the Craft Fayre to be on 4th November – and this will be held at Parkwood.**

**Once we have clarity on our moving date we will be arranging a final service – and maybe other events too.**

**If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please see Rev Jo or one of the Church stewards who will be happy to give you more information.**

**The Leadership Team**