

End of an era for valley Methodists



Midgley and Luddenden Methodist Church interior

MORE than two centuries of Methodist worship will cease in the Luddenden Valley on Sunday.

Midgley and Luddenden Valley Methodist Church will close its door for the final time after the Sunday morning service at 10.15 am conducted by Rev Tony Buglass.

Church secretary Mr Rodney Collinge said: "Anyone previously attached to the Church, or with some interest will be very welcome at the service, which will be the annual Methodist Covenant service. In this, members renew their promises to God. It will also be attended by the congregations of St Mary's Parish Church, Luddenden and Luddenden Foot United Reformed Church."

Mr Collinge said the main cause of the closure decision made last year was the decrease in the

number of people attending, and the high cost of upkeep of the building including three outbreaks of dry rot.

Its closure means that there will no longer be a hall in the village large enough to accommodate groups such as the guides and brownies, or children's parties.

Mr Collinge said: "Organisations meeting there have had to re-locate, either to Luddenden Foot Community Centre in the case of guides and brownies, or to a smaller room at St Mary's Church"

The building is owned by the Calderdale Methodist Circuit and Mr Collinge said it was hoped that the contents could be disposed of by the end of March

"After that time, it is expected the church building will then be placed on the market," added Mr Collinge.

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