

Barnsley Circuit

Superintendent Minister: Rev Lyn Gregg

E-mail: circuitoffice@btconnect.com

Dear Residents of Silkstone Common,

We are writing to you about the future of Silkstone Common Methodist Church.

While we would love to see the building continue to serve the community, we recognise that we cannot do this alone. To make this work, we need your input and support.

We know that the future of the building will not look like a traditional Sunday morning church, but we do believe it has the potential to be a valuable space for the village. Our hope is to facilitate a place where the community can gather, and something new can take shape—perhaps a welcoming community café where people can meet and socialise, or a wellbeing hub offering fitness classes, or even a small gym. It could become a space for local groups, from parent and toddler sessions to youth activities, social clubs, or even a co-working hub for those who work remotely. The church could also be used for creative activities such as art workshops, music groups, and performances, or as a community pantry or food project, supporting those in need while reducing food waste.

These are just a few possibilities, but we are open to ideas—what would you like to see in Silkstone Common? What does the village need?

This is not just our decision to make—we want this to be an open and honest conversation, a kind of village square where all voices can be heard. Your thoughts, opinions, and ideas are essential in shaping what happens next. We also recognise that those with children or other commitments may find it difficult to attend in person, so we will be sharing a Zoom invitation for those who want to listen in. While we won't be able to facilitate direct discussion via Zoom, we will share what is said in the chat so that all voices are included.

If we cannot find a viable way forward together, then the building will likely need to be sold, in line with charity law, ensuring the best value is achieved. However, we truly hope that with the right vision and involvement, we can find a way to keep it as a space that serves the community.

To discuss this further, we invite you to a meeting at the church on 19th May 2025 at 7.30pm, where we can explore possibilities together. Your thoughts and support are essential in shaping the future of this space.

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to create something meaningful for Silkstone Common.

Yours sincerely,

LPGregg

Rev Lyn Gregg