Dear Friends,

I write the following statement in response to the recent government announcement that places of worship may be opened for private individual prayer from the 15th of June.

The Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit will not be reopening its buildings on that date and they will remain closed for the foreseeable future. The Circuit Leadership team and I want to ensure the ongoing care of those most vulnerable within our churches and community.

We will reopen our buildings when it is safe for all, but not yet. In the future, buildings may only be reopened once all the safety requirements have been met. This will be in keeping with advice and guidance received from The Methodist Church and The Government. More guidance information is expected to follow once The Methodist Conference has met at the end of June. There will be a great amount of care and work required to enable and facilitate the reopening of church buildings. The Circuit is here to support that when the time comes.

In the meantime, the provision of worship and prayer resources will continue as we journey on with God. Over the past months I have witnessed a loving church that is open to God and experiencing the Love of God in new ways. May we continue faithfully in worship, prayer, and service.

Yours in Christ,

Revd. Gareth Baron

Superintendent Minister

The Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit

11/06/2020