

*St Francis church has found to be no longer viable as a church. the congregation numbers have declined significantly in recent years and consequential funding has also declined. The church was in use prior to the pandemic to some degree but not to a viable financial level, and since the recovery from the pandemic groups who met there either or no longer in existence or have moved to other venues.*

*One of the aspects of this church is the lack of car parking facilities other than on road parking, and this does discourage community groups and others from using this building. In addition the lack of internal modern facilities does have an affect particularly when there are more suitable places nearby. The church is associated with Saint Thomas Church, Bradley, and St Hildas Church, Cowcliffe.*

*The decision to close the church is not taken lightly and understandably can be an emotive issue. Various avenues of community use have been investigated to determine if the building can be used viably not necessarily as a church but as a community facility still operated by the church. However this research has not provided a viable alternative and therefore it has been determined that the building needs to be disposed of by the PCC. It is therefore available for community groups to get together and purchase if there is found to be a need and it could be made operational, but from the research undertaken this is very doubtful and no groups or alternative has been found.*