



Historic Chapels Trust, St. George's German Lutheran Church,
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30 January 2023

Dear Derek

I am writing with regard to the future of Salem Chapel, to ask if the East Budleigh Parish Council have any suggestions as to potential suitable owners for the chapel.

The background to this was set out in the statement I circulated late last year. Despite all the energy expended in fundraising and the hard work that has gone in to saving and restoring Salem Chapel (and nineteen other properties around England), the Historic Chapels Trust has found that it does need to wind itself up as a charity and find suitable new owners for its collection of redundant non-conformist places of worship.

This situation has come about because the Trust's main funder indicated it could no longer assist in supporting running costs. HCT Trustees, despite their best endeavours, have been unable to find replacement funding.

We have been given a fixed sum of funds, to undertake major restoration work that are outstanding on a few of the properties – and then within a limited time frame – we need to find new owners. Preferably organisations – or individuals, who are sympathetic to safeguarding the buildings as they are and can demonstrate suitable experience and resources. As a last resort, any not 're-homed' would have to be placed on the open market.

Kathy Moyle, who I understand is a parish councillor, has written to express concern about the future of the chapel. The Historic Chapels Trust is in the process of engaging advisors to assist with finding new owners for the collection. Kathy's contact has encouraged me to write and ask whether the Parish Council would either like to take on the ownership and responsibility for the building, or might know of any other suitable local organisations.

I look forward to hearing from you. All the best

Chris Smith
Chairman

Historic Chapels Trust takes into care important chapels, churches and meeting houses no longer in use by their congregations

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