

Churches Together in Wetherby, Collingham and Spofforth
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 24 January 2017
Venue: St Joseph's Church Wetherby

Church Represented	Attended	Apologies
Wetherby St James'	Val Lumsden, Nic Shepphard	Rev'd Brendan Giblin, Very Rev'd Derek Taylor
Wetherby St Joseph's	Canon John Nunan, Neil McLaughlin, Barbara Rowland, Freddie Wilkinson, Mary Wilkinson	Andrew Mead
Wetherby & Collingham Methodist	Rev'd Steve Barlow, Norma Harrington, Jeanie Kennedy, Heather Shipman	
Salvation Army	Major Kelston Stanford, Eric Ovenden	Major Cindy Stanford
Wetherby Baptist	Chris Bishop (Chairman), Pat Bishop, Les Tyler, Jean Tyler	
Collingham St Oswald's	Rev'd Sylvia Earle, Win Brown	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chairman Chris Bishop welcomed everyone. Apologies received as above.

2. Minutes of previous AGM (26 January 2016)

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting were approved as being a correct record of the meeting.

3. Annual Report

The report was given by Chris Bishop. (Please see attachment). (The report and the minutes will be available on the CTiW website and Facebook page.)

On behalf of CTiW, Rev'd Steve Barlow thanked Chris for his excellent report and for his inspirational leadership during the year.

4. Financial Report

Treasurer Val Lumsden gave the financial report. (Please see attachment).

5. Churches' suggested financial contribution

It was proposed that each church should be asked for a contribution of £50. This should cover the general costs of maintaining the work of the CTiW. If any further expenditure is deemed appropriate, or charitable donations are requested, CTiW will contact churches individually.

Proposed by Val Lumsden, seconded by Heather Shipman; agreed.

6. Confirmation of Church Representatives

It is understood that church ministers are de facto representatives of the Executive Committee. Each church may confirm two further representatives from their congregation. Current representatives were confirmed as follows:

St James'	Derek Taylor
St Joseph's	Andrew Mead, Barbara Rowland
St Oswald's	Win Brown
Salvation Army	None as yet
Wetherby Methodists	Jeanie Kennedy, Heather Shipman
Wetherby Baptists	Chris Bishop, Les Tyler
Collingham Methodists	Heather Shipman

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7. Election of officers

7.1 Secretary

Mary Wilkinson agreed to serve for another year. There were no other nominations.

7.2 Treasurer

Val Lumsden agreed to serve for another year. There were no other nominations.

7.3 Chairman

Chris Bishop agreed to serve for another year. There were no other nominations.

All were unanimously re-elected.

8. AOB

Eric Ovenden (from the local radio Tempo FM team) reminded the meeting that Tempo FM are always willing to broadcast any events or communications relating to Churches Together. He particularly mentioned the "Tour de Yorkshire" cycling event at the end of April.

The Mayor of Wetherby, Norma Harrington, endorsed the above comments. "Welcome to Wetherby" will be organising events around the tour on Saturday 29 April, and this might present CTiW with a good opportunity of witnessing to a wider audience.

9. Dates of next AGM and 2017 Executive meetings

Date	Venue	Devotions
7 March 2017 (Tues)	Salvation Army (tbc)	St James'
3 May 2017 (Wed)	Wetherby Baptists (Margins)	St Joseph's
6 July 2017 (Thurs)	St James'	Baptists
11 September 2017 (Mon)	Wetherby Methodist	Salvation Army
7 November 2017 (Tues)	St Joseph's	Methodists
10 January 2018 (Wed)	Salvation Army (tbc)	St Oswald's
25 January 2018 (Thurs) AGM	Wetherby Methodist	

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and the meeting closed at ??????

Signed as a true record of the meeting -----Date -----

Churches Together in Wetherby, Linton & Collingham

Annual Report 2016-17

Once again, 2016 saw a wide variety of activities organised under the auspices of Churches Together.

These included:

- Women's World Day of Prayer
- Three Lent talks
- Good Friday Walk of Witness
- Monthly Community Prayer meetings
- EU Referendum hustings (in partnership with U3A)
- Civic service
- Distribution of 'Servant Queen' booklets to all Year 5 and 6 pupils in the area
- Christian Aid Week collections
- Facebook page
- Festival Walk around Wetherby Churches (organised and led by Michael Hare)
- Samara's Appeal (Clothing and shoes collection for Syria and Iraq)
- 'Love Learning in Wetherby' Showcase
- Church security briefing from Police
- Financial aid for Christmas to In2Out for Christmas Bags for boys in YO1
- Christmas Card distribution throughout the town
- Carol singing and mince pies in Horsefair Centre
- Christmas Day meal
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (still in progress), including Men's Breakfast and Pulpit Exchange

Other matters we considered, but which have yet to come to fruition, included Ecumenical Lent Groups, Racecourse Chaplaincy, Christians Against Poverty, a united Pentecost celebration, and support for Leeds Faith in Schools.

Reviewing that quite impressive list, it might be easy to think that 'Churches Together' is, somehow, an organisation in its own right, but that would be a serious misunderstanding. All the activities listed – or most of them - were organised by individuals, sent and supported by their churches, working together to make them happen – and all for the glory of God.

It's worth remembering that the role of the Executive is not to organise events and activities, but to encourage and facilitate this fruitful interaction. Individual churches can do a lot, but together we can achieve much more for God's Kingdom.

There were five meetings of the Executive during the year, and we had just one change of representative, with Win Brown taking over from Paul Arundel at St Oswald's in Collingham.

I offer my sincere thanks to all members of the Executive and to everyone who helped to 'make things happen'. Particular thanks go to Mary Wilkinson for taking up the mantle of Secretary so efficiently and keeping me in order, and to Val Lumsden for keeping our delegated finances in good order.

2017 offers many opportunities for our churches working together – and many challenges, too. We will need to review our activities to ensure they remain 'fit for purpose', and to improve our communications to try to make the best use of the talents and energies across all our people, not just those who happen to be ecumenically-minded.

May God bless us in our efforts to reveal the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ to everyone in our town.

Chris Bishop

Chairman

24th January, 2017

