Calne Partnership of Churches
Quarterly Meeting MINUTES Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7.30 pm
Venue: Methodist Church Calne.

Representatives in Attendance	Member
Steven Colby	Marden Vale Benefice
Jenny Colby	Marden Vale Benefice
Rose Addington	St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church
Caspar Bush	Marden Vale Benefice
Vincent Curtis	St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church
Lyn Cooper	Calne Methodist Church
Derek Gard	Calne Methodist Church
Craig Manley	Calne Methodist Church
Carole West	Dayspring Church
Jenny Woods	Calne Baptist Church
Stan Woods (Secretary)	Calne Baptist Church
Apologies	
Elizabeth Hitchens (Chair)	St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church
Wayne Lawther (Vice Chair)	Calne Baptist Church
Sarah Errington	Marden Vale Benefice
Andy Miller (Treasurer)	Marden Vale Benefice

At the beginning of the meeting the Secretary invited Steven Colby to Chair the meeting in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair. The proposal was put to the meeting by the Secretary – agreed unanimously. As everyone knows Elizabeth unable to be with us at the meeting, as she is with Rex each day while he is very unwell in Great Western Hospital – Please pray for Rex and Elizabeth and all the family.

Welcome & Opening Prayer (Steven Colby)

Quarterly Meeting Business

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Notice of Any Other Business (two items were put forward see AOB)

3. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 9th January 2025 to be agreed and signed as a true record.

Amendments:
Item 3 seems to be an item from the previous meetings minutes.
Stan and Jenny **Wood** should read **Woods**
Spelling - 'Kabera' should have been 'Kaberia'
Subject to the amendments above the minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

4.1. Matters Arising

a. Changes to Distribution List
Since the AGM the following had requested to be removed from the Representatives distribution listing: Terry Mills, Dave Halls and John Michaux.
The secretary had made these changes upon receipt of the requests.

b. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – report back
There were good numbers in attendance. Thanks to Holy Trinity for hosting the service.

c. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 – St Mary's Sun 25th Jan
(This was noted)

d. Zion Baptist Chapel – update

Steve Explained the following: The business case put forward by the Christian bookshop was unacceptable to the Grace Baptist Trust Corporation. They would require a Full Repairing Lease, which would involve any new owner taking full responsibility for the upkeep of the building. The Bookshop did not feel they had the resources to meet this requirement. Thus there is still uncertainly as to the future of the Chapel.

e. Bookings for Calne Town Events – update

A list of Calne Town events for 2025 was reviewed as to participation by the CPC.

It was agreed that the CPC would plan and participate with a **stall at the Christmas Lantern Parade**. **Action: Stan** will check booking arrangements for the Stall.

Individual churches will have some involvement in other events, e.g. local church hospitality to bikers at the Calne Bike Meet, 12noon service at St Mary's with the Christian Bikers Association.

Eat festivals – **See afternote 1 below**

f. Treasurer/Finance

Andy Miller reported through the Secretary that the current balance was £427.41.
His report included £200.00 of Member subscriptions being those from the Calne Baptist and Calne Methodist (neither point mentioned in the meeting – new Secretary's omission).

2024 Lantern Parade Stall: The secretary passed on thanks from Calne Baptist for the CPC responses to the £75 contributions to last Christmas Lantern Parade Stall give away books. Steve C had contacted St. Mary's treasurer re arranging their contribution.

CPC Annual Subscriptions (£100): The Secretary reminded members that it would be helpful to pay their subscriptions promptly.

Treasurer: The Secretary reminded all present that we had an obligation to find a replacement Treasurer for Andy Miller who had given notice of his wish to stand down some while ago. Stan pointed out that the task was not an onerous one with a small number of transactions per year. **Action: All** agreed to go back to their churches to find someone as Treasurer. **Action: Stan** committed to follow up with everyone in two weeks (23rd April)!

Bank: Derek reminded the meeting that Andy had previously mentioned that Lloyds will start charging for our account. In fact they will change our account from a 'Treasurers' account to a 'Community' account in May and charge a monthly fee of £4.25 (£51 per year)! **Action: Stan** to check out alternative Banks. (**See afternote 2 below**)

g. Social Media update
Wayne's being absence – **Action: Stan** said he would follow up with Wayne.

h. Ministers Meeting - Update

Caspar will be organising the next meeting – date yet to be set.

i. Christmas Leaflets – Member contributions
Covered under f. above

4.2. Matters Arising (AGM)

a. Wiltshire Churches Together (Outcome)

There is no formal Ecumenical Officer arrangement in Wilts now – according to Phil Bromiley *'essentially the money ran out, all denominations withdrew their support, so no admin or County ecumenical officer'.* Phil is acting only using a Facebook account. Contact Phil philbromiley@googlemail.com Facebook – 'Wiltshire Churches' is a private group – join to participate.

b. Walk of Witness Good Friday – Caspar organising (Update)

As already known Caspar is organising – meet at Zion Baptist 12noon Good Friday – walk to library.

5. Town Events: Bike Meet, Summer Carnival, Lantern Parade (Christmas Leaflet 2025)

Covered under Matters Arising 4.1e

6. Fairtrade Update

Stan reported some work going on with Bowood. A 'zoom' meeting with Bowood's General Manager about Fairtrade products at Bowood – ongoing discussion. Also looking into customised FT Chocolate bars from the 'Meaningful Chocolate Company' with FT Corsham. Already being used by Felixstowe. Hopefully more at next meeting.

Stan has booked a Fairtrade Float (car) at the Summer *'Calneval'* (not a spelling mistake)

7. Reminder Next Joint Service: Methodist Church Sunday 27th April @ 6pm

Noted.

NB: misnumbering there was no item 8.

9. Church Updates: CBC, CMC, Dayspring, St Edmund's, St Mary's, Messy Church

CBC: Jenny W reported – spiritual side blooming, now have two toddler groups running (Thu/Fri). Big Family Church once a month (60+ attendances), Boys Brigade/Girls Association starting up in May, Home Groups 'Freedom in Christ Course' starting, several Baptisms.

Stan reported – New build funding short fall still being worked on with various funding applications, some encouraging signs. Continue to review every 3 months.

We will have a Community Lunch in June again this year.

CMC: Derek G reported – Calne Samba Group have found a home at CMC, Current Lent Group is to continue as a Home Group, Work on new floor in foyer to eliminate damp, looking forward to 150th

Anniversary in 2026, improvement in attendance, Safe space initiative for Women to meet and talk about women's issues – starting 24 April. **Action: Derek** to provide Secretary with more info.
Craig reported - United Area of

Methodist Churches are having challenging times Area Treasurer died, reorganising church responsibilities – will mean Craig has 5 churches. Craig announced that he will be retiring in August 2026.

Dayspring: Carole reported – The current Lent group will continue as a Home Group. Expecting to start Alpha Course in September – open to all. More activity with Open Blue Bus, 'Floaty Boat' approached Open Blue to get involved with Canal boat children. Open Blue has just started a new project working with the Army in Corsham.

St Edmunds: Vincent reported the following - He had a significant number of funerals recently. An adult baptism and another adult being accepted into Communion. Their first communion programme for 7+ is going well. The church hall floor is being upgraded.

St Edmunds are involved in opposing the Assisted Dying Bill. We understand that Sarah Gibson may support the Bill whereas Brian Mathew appears to want to consult constituents before deciding. **See Afternote 3 below**.

St Mary's: Caspar Reported the following - There is a Toddler Group which runs on Tuesday's at Church House 10-11.30am. He has been distracted by a building project which may amount overall for about £1M and will be undertaken in twelve stages. Main doorway enhancements, the addition of toilets and a kitchen are included in the plans.

Caspar is waiting to appoint a new Choral Director who will be tasked to develop younger choristers. A new deacon (Carly) is to be ordained at Salisbury Cathedral on 29th June. We hope to be able to welcome her at our next meeting.

Messy Church at CMC: Derek reported that this has been challenging of late, with Michele (Derek's wife who led on MC) has been diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma and is undergoing Chemotherapy. Steve and Jenny Colby have been standing in for here. Numbers have been rather lower than 5-6 years ago, but there has been a good rapport and conversations with parents and children who have been present.

Open The Book (OTB):Three schools and about 300 children per week experience the stories from the OTB team. However, the team is rather thin. **Action: Steve C** will write a profile of a OTB team member to circulate with a view to recruiting new members.

10. Any Other Business (to be notified at start of the meeting)

Care for creation and climate justice – A World Council of Churches initiative – The information on this is attached for members to read and discuss in their respective churches.

Christian Festival – A lady moved from London to Calne and has taken over the Maud Heath Vineyard. She is proposing to run a Christian Festival for Adults and Children between 11am on Sat 23rd-Sat 24th August. Steve has agreed to join the planning group for this.

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Date of next meeting Thursday 10 July 2025 7:30 at St Edmunds Church

Afternote 1 Eat Festivals - More info - suggest you look up www.eatfestivals.org this is right across the West Country. Probably not suitable for a CPC stand – might be interesting to go to if true to their advertising (West country local food).

Afternote 2 Ref Item f. Bank Account Charges
Stan has checked out all banks. Only one taking unincorporated orgs free of charge now with no conditions is METRO Bank. Apply at branch – Nearest Swindon.

We need to take action on this soon to avoid charges! Action: Stan & Andy

Afternote 3 Re Assisted Dying Bill – I have attached to the email sending these minutes, an email reply from Sarah to my enquiry regarding her approach to the assisted Dying Bill in Dec 2024.