Calne Partnership of Churches
Quarterly Meeting and Annual General Meeting
Thursday 8 January 2026 7.30pm at Church House Church Street Calne

MINUTES

Welcome & Opening Prayer (Elizabeth Hitchens)

Quarterly Meeting Business - Representatives		
Steven Colby	- Marden Vale Benefice	
Rose Addington	- St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church	
Caspar Bush	- Marden Vale Benefice	
Jenny Colby	- Marden Vale Benefice	
Lyn Cooper	- Calne Methodist Church	- Apologies
Father Vincent Curtis	- St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church	
Sarah Errington	- Marden Vale Benefice	- Apologies
Derek Gard	- Calne Methodist Church	
Elizabeth Hitchens	- St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church	
Wayne Lawther	- Calne Baptist Church	
Craig Manley	- Calne Methodist Church	- Apologies
John Michaux	- Marden Vale Benefice	
Rob Pickford	- St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church	
Carole West	- Dayspring	
Jenny Woods	- Calne Baptist Church	
Stan Woods	- Calne Baptist Church	
Joanne Williams	- Calne Methodist Church	- Apologies
The meeting was Quorate		
Guests		
Kim Vale	Eden Vale Festival	

Text in **RED** indicates Actions

Elizabeth Hitchens welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer.

1. Elizabeth Hitchens welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. **Notification of Any Other Business including for the AGM**

3. **Minutes of meeting** held on Wednesday 8th October 2025 were agreed.

4. **Matters Arising**
   a. **Eden Bridge Festival 2026 (Kim Vale to speak)**
   This item taken early in place of Item 5 below.
   Kim spoke about the Festival for 2026 with great enthusiasm following on from the 2025 Festival. Plan to improve information dissemination for this year with a modest cap on numbers attending to 500. Kim provided Stan with detailed information about the plans for this year, which he had distributed by email. The documents are **attached** with these minutes.
   Key points: First planning meeting to be early February. Call for volunteers to attend planning and for the actual event, Prayer. Kim will keep us informed.

   b. **Ministers Meetings - Report back**
   Last meeting was in Jun/July – Ministers promised to plan another soon.

c. Social Media Update - Facebook page – update
This is not strictly a Partnership page. "Calne Family of Churches". Wayne puts on info as he has it from all Calne Churches. Reaching out!

d. Joint Service - Report on the Joint service on 26 October at 6pm at CBC
The service was well attended by the partnership and members of CBC.
Took the form of an hour of worship without a sermon – this 4th Sunday in the month has be named "Encounter". All all welcome to attend.

e. Christmas Leaflet report back
As Used at the CPC Nativity stall at the Lantern Parade. Agreed to order a similar amount (1000) for next Christmas. Perhaps more effort in distributing them including door to door.

f. Zion Baptist Chapel – Further update as to use-if any
The last day of sales at the bookshop was 20th Dec and not 21st as stated in the Annual Report. No further news on ownership of Zion Chapel.

g. Lantern Parade - report back
Suggestions to see if we can get out stall further up the hill from the library next to CMC stall, better location, less windy more open sides to the gazebo– Secretary will approach CTC re this.

h. Fairtrade update (Fairtrade Fortnight 2026 Mon Sept 21st, to Sun October 4th)
Thanks to Stan for all his work on Fairtrade, as he is standing down as Chairman this year. Looking for a new Chairperson – one or two people in mind. Stan will provide a FT float at the Summer Festival. Next Meeting in April – see Calne FT Website.

5. Eden Bridge Festival 2026 (Kim Vale to speak) See item 4a

6. Suggestion of a Lent Course - 'Difference' (Casper to speak) Brief info was circulated
Difference is a course that explores following Jesus in a complex and divided world, seeing transformation through everyday encounters.
https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/priorities/reconciliation/difference-course
Caspar provided an A5 flyer for this course (**attached** with these minutes). Suggested as a Lent course
CMC offered an afternoon Session Thursdays at 2.30pm. Caspar will setup as Zoom session plus existing home groups. Can all churches let the Secretary know what they are planning so he can collate the information and distribute to all.

7. Jesus 'The Evidence' – Previously circulated schedule
Information **attached** with these minutes. Required a minimum venue (~200) size to book a performance. There are two scheduled nearby at Amesbury Baptist 18 Feb, Swindon CMV "The Gathering" 26-28 Jun – perhaps one or two could go and see what it is like – See **website for full schedule to date https://jesustheevidence.com/attend-a-presentation/**

8. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 (Sun 18 Jan 2026 – Sun 25 Jan)
Moved forward to the 18th January at St Mary's.
Caspar will approach CPC members to take part.
Next CBC 'Encounter' Worship service Sunday 25th Jan at 6pm – We pray and encourage these meeting to be ecumenical.

9. Church Updates (in alphabetical order)
a. Calne Baptist Church – Update on Rebuilding Project

Meeting informed that CBC will go ahead with building.
Requested to hold information confidential until after Monday.
It is like that we will start beginning of March (TBC next week)

b. Calne Methodist Church and Messy Church Joint Venture
William Fletcher has been accepted as the new Superintendent minister for the newly enlarged circuit of 13 churched. However, he will be responsible for 5 of them. William is a keen Tuba player and very involved in Fairtrade previously. Begins in September. **A farewell event for Craig will be on Sunday 26 July at 5pm at CMC.** Event dates for CMC's 150 anniversary will be coming from Derek in due course.

c. DaySpring
Carole reported that a change in leadership is in process at Dayspring. More later.

d. Calne and Blackland
Project 2026 – News that CTC willing to maintain uneven paths in the church year. New sewer route has been completed. St Mary's and Holy Trinity churches had encouraging numbers at Christmas services. The new youth choir Young Voices is continuing to develop, and the fundraising appeal and design process for Project 2026 building improvements are in full swing. From 1st December St Mary's Church is now left unlocked from about 9 till 4 each day, for members of the public to enjoy the space. Revd Sarah Errington is on long term sick leave - your prayers appreciated.

e. St. Edmunds RC Church
Christmas event went very well – numbers are up – new prayer group starting up.

10. Dates of next meetings

Business Meetings (7.30pm)
Tue 14 April CMC
Thu 8th July St Edmunds
Tue Oct 6th CBC (Venue TBA)
Joint Services (6pm)
Sun 26 Apr CMC
Sun 19 July St Edmunds
Sun Oct 25 CBC (venue TBA)

11. Any Other Business
None

The AGM Meeting Minutes follows overleaf…

Annual General Meeting – MINUTES

1. **Annual Ratification of Foundation Statement -** to be ratified and read by all

The following was read together by all:

We,
The Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund, Calne
The Parish of Calne and Blackland
Dayspring Church
Calne Methodist Church
Calne Baptist Church
commit ourselves to seeking that unity for which our Lord prayed.

We recognise and value the diversity and gifts of the Christian Community in this town.
This commitment and our common faith leads us to state the following "Aims" of the Calne Partnership of Churches:

To proclaim the Kingdom of God in this town.
To nurture a relationship of love and understanding between Christian churches in this town.
To celebrate our common faith in worship.

To pursue these three aims, we undertake to:
Pray for the Unity of Christians in Calne, continuing to seek God's will.
Fulfil our obligations under the Constitution of the Calne Partnership of Churches.
Support the work of the Calne Partnership of Churches as it pursues its three aims of proclamation, nurture and worship.

2. **Chairman's Report this had been circulated prior to the meeting.**
   The Chair's report had been circulated and was accepted. **Attached** with these minutes.

3. **Treasurer's Report and agreement on subscriptions for the coming year**
   The treasurer's report had been circulated. Derek presented the accounts which were accepted unanimously. **Attached** to these minutes.
   Derek suggested that the Partnership membership subscription should remain at £100 for 2026. All agreed. **Derek requested that the Sub be paid by the end of February**
   Derek pointed out that he had not received an invoice for the Lantern Parade Stall booklets purchased on behalf of the Partnership by Calne Baptist Church. The Secretary would request an invoice from Terry Mills for payment.

4. Election/Confirmation of Officers

a. Chair – Wayne is willing to stand
Unanimously Agreed
b. Vice Chair – needs a nominee – agreed to hold off until September when new minister starts at CMC.
c. Secretary – Stan is willing to stand for 1 more year
Unanimously Agreed
d. Treasurer – Derek Gard has agreed to stand again
Unanimously Agreed

5. Date of next AGM
The Date for the AGM 2027 will be Thu 7th January 2027

6. **Any Other (AGM) Business**
   Easter Walk of Witness – Good Friday
   Caspar is organizing - meet outside at Zion Chapel at 12 Noon – walk finishes at the Library with singing.

7. **Closing Prayer (Wayne Lawther)**