Calne Partnership of Churches
Minutes for Quarterly Meeting
Tuesday 14th April 2026 7.30pm at Calne Methodist Church

MINUTES

Welcome & Opening Prayer (Elizabeth Hitchens)

Quarterly Meeting Business – Representatives		
Steven Colby	- Marden Vale Benefice	
Rose Addington	- St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church	- Apologies
Caspar Bush	- Marden Vale Benefice	
Jenny Colby	- Marden Vale Benefice	
Father Vincent Curtis	- St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church	- Apologies
Sarah Errington	- Marden Vale Benefice	- Apologies
Derek Gard	- Calne Methodist Church	- Apologies
Elizabeth Hitchens	- St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church	
Wayne Lawther	- Calne Baptist Church (Chairman)	
Craig Manley	- Calne Methodist Church	- Apologies
Rob Pickford	- St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church	
Carole West	- Dayspring	- Apologies
Jenny Woods	- Calne Baptist Church	
Stan Woods	- Calne Baptist Church	
Joanne Williams	- Calne Methodist Church	- Apologies
Julie Gibson	- Calne Methodist Church	
As only four of five member churches were represented the meeting was NOT Quorate.		
Guests		
Kim Vale	Eden Vale Festival	

Text in **RED** indicates Actions

Welcome (Wayne Lawther) opened the meeting in Prayer

As the meeting was not Quorate, any decisions made will be referred to DaySpring Church representation for agreement before ratification.

2. **Notification of Any Other Business**
   Elizabeth's Letter – Elizabeth sent in a letter of resignation. Stan said it had been a pleasure to have known Elizabeth and to have worked with her. Grateful thanks for all her work with the Partnership of Churches over the years was recorded.
   Elizabeth's Letter is attached.
   Lyn Cooper – has requested to be removed from the PoC listing (CMC) as she is now worshipping at St Mary's**. Stan to remove Lyn from the listing.**

3. **Minutes of meeting held on 8th January 2026 was agreed with one amendment**
   Item 9d. replace 'completed' with 'identified'

4. **Matters Arising**

a. Ministers Meetings - Report back – no meeting had taken place since the last report. Ministers present agreed to make an arrangement after the meeting.

b. Social Media Update - Partnership Facebook page
Wayne pointed out that the FB page he manages is Calne Family of Churches information, not specifically CPC, – and which aims to be inclusive of those not members of the partnership.

c. Joint Good Friday Service 2026 - at 10am Calne Methodist. Well attended. Refreshments – Walk of Witness followed – 50 sheets given out to those attending. Suggestions for Walk of Witness 2027 – Singing Easter hymns, Stations of the Cross: **Discuss at Jan 27 meeting.**

d. Zion Baptist Chapel
It will be sold. The Christian Book shop to take a unit in the Calne Central Conversion in June. Steve C now has control of the Christian Bookshop Website – SC to circulate the URL.

e. Fairtrade update (Fairtrade Fortnight 2026 Mon Sept 21st, to Sun October 4th)
Stan is standing down as Chairman at the May AGM. Stan will have a simple car float at the Calne 'Calneval' in June and give out chocolate to children along the route.

f. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 (Sun 18 Jan 2026 – Sun 25 Jan)
Dates Mon, 18 Jan 2027 – Mon, 25 Jan 2027
Agreed to discuss arrangements for the activity at October Meeting.

g. Lent Courses – Feedback
CMC ran the 'Difference' course in a face to face group which was quite challenging. Steve C ran one over zoom for their usual group with one extra. Foxham and Bremhill had local Face to face groups. CBC ran some prayer for lent groups at 8am and 10pm.

5. **Eden Bridge Festival 2026 (Kim Vale to speak)**

Kim spoke about the draft arrangement for the 2026 Festival. She mentioned that she had booked the A/V teams and food vendors. She asked for volunteers from churches. Particularly looking for a car parking team to setup and staff over the weekend. See the **Website for promo video and get in touch with Kim**. https://www.edenbridge.love/ Really important to have enough volunteers for the Festival to run smoothly!
Suggestions – St John Ambulance for First Aid cover – Costs? Wayne mentioned Chippenham Ministries for 18-30yr olds (Wayne).
Kim to send some printable materials for circulation.
Kim to send date for a team/volunteers meeting.

6. **Encounter - Calne Baptist Church - 4th Sunday**

Wayne explained about 'Encounter, a relatively new developing service of Worship at CBC. He was keen for it to be seen to be open to all denominations and of course all wanted to worship our Lord in Song and prayer.
After some discussion it was agreed to change the dates of Calne PoC Joint Sunday Services to the 3rd Sunday rather than the 4th Sunday from the July Meeting. This was to allow the CBC Encounter worship services on the 4th Sunday to be open to any and all to be seen as an ecumenical activity. **Stan to amend 2026 dates as follows:**
July meeting this is already the 3rd Sun 19th (no change)
October meeting changed from Sun 25th to Sun 18th

7. **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2027 (**Mon 18 Jan 2027 – Mon 25 Jan)
To be discussed at the October Meeting. Stan to add Agenda item.

8. **Church Updates (in alphabetical order)**

a. Calne Baptist Church – Progress on Rebuilding Project
Site has been cleared. While removing the slabs some vaults and graves were found. The Archaeologist has this in hand and is working with building contractor to ensure everything is dealt with appropriately. Soon the footings will be dug. We have a shortfall of £50K for phase one of the building, for which we are applying for grants and raising funds. Congregation continues to grow. We are now worshiping at the Calne Scouts Hall on Sundays, except 1st Sunday when we have a shortened **Traditional Service** followed by **Big Family Church** at Bremhill View football Club Hall.
See **https://www.calne-baptist.org.uk/rebuildprogress.html** for latest progress detail.

b. Calne Methodist Church and Messy Church Joint Venture
There are lots of things going on at CMC – **please see Craig's excellent report attached.** See also **https://calnemethodist.ddns.net/**

c. DaySpring – Not present
See also **https://www.dayspring.org.uk/**

d. Marden Vale Benefice
St Mary's - There is much to be thankful to God for in the life of the Anglican churches of the town with good congregations and a baptism by immersion at St Mary's Church on Easter Day itself, and other well-received services during Holy Week. The development plans for St Mary's Church progresses steadily. Revd Sarah Errington is now back from sick leave. Revd Carly Taylor has left us to continue her curacy elsewhere.
See also **https://www.mardenvale.org.uk/**
Holy Trinity Family Services - The Family Service at Holy Trinity Church throughout the year has had fluctuating numbers. Those who come enjoy the informal worship and the fellowship over tea, coffee and biscuits after the service. We are grateful to the Rudge family for providing the music each service, even when they are away by providing us with videos of them singing. The teaching is based on the church festivals and there is usually an activity related to the theme.

e. St. Edmunds RC Church
Similar to previous report. Prayer Group on Tuesdays. Vincent has oversight of Calne and Melksham. Family attendance growing.
See also **https://www.saintedmundscalne.org.uk/**

9. **Any Other Business**
Stan spoke about the fact that Craig would be retiring later this year and it was expected that this would be his last official attendance at our meetings. He said that personally it had been a great pleasure to have known Craig and wished him a pleasant retirement with Elizabeth and family. A card for all to sign was passed around and presented to Craig.

Derek Gard has agreed to stand as chair in 2027/28 so long as he has a secretary to support him. Stan agreed to stand for an additional year.

Afternotes – not part of the minutes

Note1: Financial update had been omitted from the agenda. Secretarial error! Please see Derek's report attached.

Note2: Could I request that at future meetings each church provides the Secretary with a brief written status report. This will ensure that important details are captured.