

DECLARATION OF INTENT

THE ANGLICAN AND METHODIST CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW, RASTRICK LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the world has been reconciled to God, and in Jesus Christ unity has been offered to all people. Through him we are called into a new relationship with God and with one another as the children of God. It is a relationship inaugurated by God in Christ through the Holy Spirit, appropriated by faith and baptism, nurtured and deepened through the ministry of word and sacrament, and expressed in a confession of one faith and a common life of loving service.

“We understand the mission of the Church to be (i) to proclaim the good news of the kingdom; (ii) to teach, baptise and nurture new believers; (iii) to respond to human need by loving service; (iv) to seek to transform unjust structures of society; (v) to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth”. (Lambeth Conference 1988, Anglican Consultative Council 1990 and CTE Forum 1997).

In response to God’s call to unity, and accepting the challenge to be pilgrims together, committed to God and to each other, we the Anglican Parish of St Matthew, Rastrick, and St Matthew’s Methodist Church, Rastrick, hereby publish our intent to confirm a Local Ecumenical Partnership, as understood by our denominations and interpreted in our Constitution. This Declaration and Constitution supersedes that dated 21 January 1991.

We commit ourselves to sharing together in the ministry of Christ to the world by joining in worship, evangelism, mission and service.

We commit ourselves to assessing the resources of church and community in terms of people, money and buildings, and to deploying them in the best way in relation to the aspirations and needs of local people.

We commit ourselves to maintaining and developing relationships with our parent bodies and with the West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council (WYEC) or its successors.

We pledge ourselves to this agreement for an initial period of seven years from the date of designation.

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CONSTITUTION

**THE ANGLICAN AND METHODIST CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW, RASTRICK
LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP**

NAME

The Local Ecumenical Partnership (the Partnership) shall be known as The Anglican and Methodist Church of St Matthew, Rastrick.

The Partnership is a Church of England Parish in the Brighouse and Elland Deanery of the Diocese of Wakefield and a Methodist Church in the Brighouse Circuit of the West Yorkshire District.

AREA

The Partnership primarily serves the community in the Parish of St Matthew, Rastrick, and the Brighouse Methodist Circuit, and those who associate with it and benefit from its ministry.

SPONSORING BODY

The Partnership looks for support and oversight to the West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council (WYEC) or its successors as its Sponsoring Body and will be accountable to the partner Churches through the Sponsoring Body.

The Sponsoring Body shall indicate the membership and terms of reference of a local advisory group/support group through whom regular two-way contact shall be maintained. Oversight will therefore be experienced as both communal and personal.

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

Baptism shall be administered according to the rite and/or practice of the constituent denominations and shall be set, in normal circumstances, within an act of congregational worship.

A common register of baptisms shall be kept.

Preparation for adult baptism and for confirmation and admission to the full responsibilities and privileges of membership shall be undertaken jointly and shall include specific denominational teaching and instruction.

Membership implies certain responsibilities and duties:- regular attendance at worship including eucharistic worship, active sharing in the life of the church including attendance at meetings of the church and congregation, regular sacrificial giving, witness to God's love in the world by word and deed.

A service of Confirmation and Reception into Church Membership shall normally be administered as a joint act of worship, according to a rite authorised by the Sponsoring Body.

Those received into membership through such an act of Confirmation at a joint service are thereby members of both the Anglican and Methodist Church as well as multiple members of the Partnership.

There shall be a Common Roll, including those on denominational rolls and multiple members by virtue of joint confirmation, and a separate list of members shall also be kept for each denomination, multiple members being included on each list.

For the purposes of financial denominational assessment, the membership shall be divided into its constituent denominational parts according to the denominational lists. Multiple members shall be apportioned in the ratio 3 Anglican: 1 Methodist for purposes of financial assessment, this ratio to be reviewed as and when necessary.

Membership discipline shall continue to be a matter for each denomination, following its own procedures.

WORSHIP AND THE EUCHARIST

The Partnership shall respect the faith and practice of its member denominations.

Worship shall safeguard and present the doctrines, practices, traditions and developing traditions of each participating denomination and be conducted using orders drawn from rites authorised by the constituent denominations.

A balanced and varied pattern of worship shall be aimed for in order to maximise the riches of each tradition and to enable the congregation to explore and express its ecumenical life and aspiration, while at the same time ensuring that worship is accessible and sustaining for all its members.

Ordained priests, ministers or other duly authorised persons shall preside at the Eucharist as permitted by denominational legislation or dispensation therefrom.

There shall normally on any Sunday be at least one eucharistic service at which an ordained priest or minister presides. Where the main Sunday service is non-eucharistic, a separate eucharistic service shall be held.

All those recognised as communicants by the participating denominations may receive the sacrament.

Lay/Local Preachers, Readers, and others authorised as leaders of worship or as preachers shall normally participate in the conducting of worship.

ECUMENICAL MINISTRY TEAM

The Ecumenical Ministry Team shall consist of the Anglican Vicar and the Methodist Minister responsible for the Anglican and Methodist Church of St Matthew, Rastrick and of any other people duly appointed by the participating denominations, after reference to the Sponsoring Body. The Ecumenical Ministry Team will share leadership and pastoral care with the Ecumenical Church Council.

Denominational procedures shall be followed in the appointment of ministers. Recognising, however, the importance of continuity, the Partnership expects that those responsible for the appointment of Ministers shall select persons who shall develop the Partnership ecumenically.

The ministers shall be subject to the normal discipline of the denomination to which each belongs. Anglican ministers serving the Partnership shall be expected to seek Recognised and Regarded or Authorised Status from the Methodist Conference.

Newly appointed ministers shall be inducted/welcome at a service at which they, other members of the Ecumenical Team, the Partnership congregation and representatives of the Sponsoring Body shall affirm the Declaration of Intent.

JOINT DECISION MAKING

Decision making for the Partnership shall be by means of an Ecumenical Church Council, which shall comprise the following ex-officio and elected members:-

the duly appointed ministers and other members of the Ecumenical Ministry Team;

two Anglican Churchwardens;

two Methodist Stewards;

one Methodist Circuit Steward;

representatives to the Anglican Deanery Synod;

representatives to the Methodist Circuit Meeting; and

up to twelve members elected by and from those on the Common Roll.

A quorum shall be one-third of eligible members.

A chairperson, an honorary treasurer and an honorary secretary shall be elected by the Ecumenical Church Council from its membership.

The Ecumenical Church Council shall set up such committees as it may from time to time consider necessary.

Anglican and Methodist Church Councils shall be constituted annually from appropriate membership of the Ecumenical Church Council and meet as frequently as required for purposes determined by the respective denomination.

The Sharing Agreements dated 1970 and 1971 under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969, shall apply.

The Joint Council as set up by the Sharing Agreement must meet when new capital money is to be raised or proposals to buy or sell land or property are being taken. The Joint Council may delegate its day to day management functions to the Ecumenical Church Council by a formal decision.

There shall be an Annual Meeting of Parishioners, normally in March or April, for the purposes of electing two Anglican Churchwardens, and an Annual General Meeting to elect two Methodist Stewards, Anglican Deanery Synod members when necessary, representatives to the Methodist Circuit Meeting, and members of the Ecumenical Church Council. Only those on the Common Roll shall be entitled to vote and/or to elect Methodist Stewards, Anglican Deanery Synod members, representatives to the Methodist Circuit Meeting and members of the Ecumenical Church Council. The independently examined accounts for the previous financial year shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting for adoption and an independent examiner shall be appointed for the current year.

A diagram of the current structure is appended to this constitution but does not form part of it.

Where a Special General Meeting is called, those eligible to vote shall be those qualified to vote at Annual General Meetings or those on the Common Roll.

The Partnership shall maintain a proper relationship to the appropriate local and regional denominational bodies, fulfilling necessary constitutional requirements. These bodies are the Anglican Deanery of Brighouse and Elland, and the Wakefield Diocese; the Brighouse Methodist Circuit, the West Yorkshire Methodist District and the Methodist Connexion.

PREMISES

The premises comprise St Matthew's Anglican and Methodist Church, Rastrick and St Matthew's Anglican and Methodist Church Parish Centre. They shall be subject to inspection in accordance with the current Regulations of the Anglican denomination.

FINANCE

There shall be a common purse. The honorary treasurer shall receive and account for all monies donated to the Partnership through collections, gifts etc. to the Ecumenical Church Council and the Annual General Meeting. Copies of the independently examined accounts as adopted shall be submitted to the Ecumenical Church Council, the Wakefield Diocesan Board of Finance and the Brighouse Methodist Circuit Meeting.

Out of the common income there shall be discharged:-

the expenses of ministry and of the administrative costs of the Partnership, as agreed with the Sponsoring Body and with the appropriate bodies of the participating denominations;

financial obligations to the central and other funds of the participating denominations, as agreed with the Sponsoring Body and with the respective denominational authorities; and

gifts to other societies and charities, as determined by the Ecumenical Church Council.

WIDER PARTICIPATION

Other churches within the Parish of St Matthew, Rastrick may negotiate for participation in the Partnership at any time, subject to the agreement of the appropriate denominational authorities and the Sponsoring Body.

REVIEW

The Sponsoring Body shall ensure that every seven years or sooner, the Partnership shall be evaluated with reference to its objectives as set out in the Declaration of Intent and the Constitution.

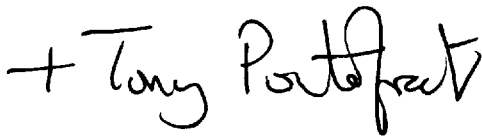
CONTINUITY

The Partnership shall only be terminated with the approval of the appropriate denominational authorities and the Sponsoring Body.

AMENDMENTS

Any amendments to this Constitution shall be made by the Ecumenical Church Council or by a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. In either case, amendments shall be made only with the approval of the appropriate denominational authorities and the Sponsoring Body.

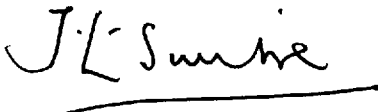
Signed the day of 2005



The Bishop of Pontefract



*The Chair of West Yorkshire
Methodist District*



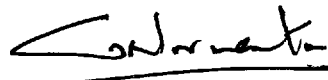
Vicar



Methodist Minister



Churchwarden



Methodist Church Steward

